



☒ North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission ☒

Richard B. Hamilton, Executive Director

MEMORANDUM

Date: 15 November 2006

To: Chatham County Planning Department

From: Jacquelyn Presley, Urban Wildlife Biologist, NC WRC

Please accept my comments on the: *Request by Dan Sullivan for subdivision preliminary approval of "Pennington Subdivision, Phase I", consisting of five (5) lots located off SR-1716, Big Woods Road, New Hope Township.*

Because this property is located within a biologically important landscape, we would like to make the applicant aware of the following environmental issues associated with future development of this property.

- 1) We commend the applicant for protecting 100 foot buffers along the southernmost creek. This creek feeds into Jordan Lake, a water supply source for surrounding communities as well as a biologically important area for aquatic wildlife. We suggest the applicant ensure this buffer remains a **100-foot native, forested buffer** that does not become overrun with non-native plant species. After crossing the property, this creek runs onto NC WRC Gameland and the White Oak Slopes Nature Preserve. Any invasive species along this border can spread towards public land along Jordan Lake and degrade presently available wildlife habitat in these protected area.
- 2) This property has been identified as part of 1) Triangle Greenprint's "Big Woods Landscape," 2) The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Portfolio, 3) the Division of Forest Resources' Forest Legacy Area. The Triangle Greenprint and The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Portfolio are conservation planning efforts that have identified environmentally sensitive areas around the Triangle region of North Carolina. This parcel is part of a larger landscape that has historically provided important wildlife habitat. Extensive development within this biologically

important area will inevitably fragment existing wildlife habitat and reduce the viability of populations that live in this landscape. For these reasons, we recommend the applicant **minimize the amount of land clearing and tree cutting conducted prior to construction.**

- 3) This property is located approximately 600 meters (less than ½ a mile) from NC Wildlife Resources Commission Gameland. Hunting, prescribed burning, and timber harvesting occurs on Gamelands. **Conflicts could arise between future residents of this subdivision and hunters/resource managers.** The applicant should inform homebuyers of the possibility of encountering smoke from prescribed burning activities. To minimize conflicts, the applicant could also redesign the layout so that existing open space is concentrated on the eastern part of the property (closest to Gamelands), while homes are located on the western part of the property.