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April 6, 2006
S&EC Project #7185.w3

Kathy Smith
P.O. Box 5689
Cary, NC 27512

Re: Environmental Status Report for The Bluffs Project
Chatham County, North Carolina

Dear Ms. Smith:

The purpose of this report is to advise you on the status of environmental evaluations conducted for The Bluffs. The site is located east of Old Hwy 87 approximately 1 mile southeast of Terrells, NC and is adjacent to the Haw River. The site is approximately 597 acres in size.

Currently, the following environmental evaluations have been performed: 1) Preliminary wetland delineation, 2) Detailed wetland delineation, and 3) Natural Heritage Program and State Historic Preservation file searches. A field survey of plant community types and the potential for protected and listed terrestrial plant and animal species will be conducted within the next two months. The above listed evaluations are discussed briefly below.

Preliminary and Detailed Wetland Delineations

S&EC completed a preliminary wetland delineation of the central +/- 300-acre portion of the property in July of 2002. A detailed wetland delineation of the same property was completed in January of 2005. A detailed wetland delineation was completed on three additional adjacent parcels in December of 2005. During the detailed delineations, perennial streams, intermittent streams, and wetlands were identified and flagged. Jurisdictional waters on the property are classified as WS-IV; NSW in NC-DENR's "Classifications and Water Quality Standards Applicable to Surface Water And Wetlands Of North Carolina". Mr. Todd Tugwell of the USACE and Mr. Eric Kulz of the NC-DWQ have previously visited portions of the site to confirm stream determinations and wetland boundaries and are scheduled to return to the site to complete their field reviews.

NC State Historic Preservation Office File Search

The most recent records' check at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) conducted in March and April of 2006 revealed that there are no structures on the property that appear on the

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National Registry (NR), Determination of Eligibility (DOE), Study List (SL), or Locally Designated (LD) lists. One historical site, Rock Rest Multiple Structures (CH408) occurs on property and has been architecturally reviewed. A Natural Registry Property, Baldwin's Mill (CH 535), is located approximately 1.5 miles west of the site along Terrell's Branch. The Mitchum Site, an archeological dig site, occurs adjacent to the property in the floodplain of the Haw River.

NC Natural Heritage Program Office File Search

NC NHP records occurrences of rare plant and animal species, exemplary natural communities, and special animal habitats known to occur in North Carolina. A record check was performed in November 2004 and again in March 2006. The file reviews yielded no federally or state listed plant or animal species found within the project boundaries. The subject property is located on the Bynum USGS quadrangle. However, the Silk Hope quadrangle also was checked for possible nearby occurrences.

The Haw River borders the eastern portion of the property. An Identified Priority Area (IPA), as designated by the Natural Heritage Program (NHP), is documented +/- 500 feet downstream of the site. In addition, another locally designated IPA, Terrell's Creek Galax Bluffs, occurs along Terrell's Creek approximately one mile northwest of the site. Within the Haw River downstream near Bynum, North Carolina are known locations of the federally-listed and state-listed Endangered Cape Fear shiner (*Notropis mekistocholas*), state-listed Endangered yellow lampmussel (*Lampsilis cariosa*), and a state-listed Significantly Rare septima's clubtail (*Gomphus septima*), a dragonfly. An occurrence of *Phacelia ranunculata* is recorded approximately 0.6 miles northwest of the site along the floodplain of the Haw River.

If you have any questions or need additional services please call us.

Sincerely,



Aaron Cooper
Botanist/Wetland Scientist



Sean Clark
Environmental Scientist