



NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COALITION

508 Main St. Boonton, NJ 07005 • 973-588-7190 • www.njhighlandscoalition.org

Kenneth M. Komar
Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Water Supply
P.O. Box 426
Trenton, New Jersey 08625
(by hard copy and email)

Re: Application No. 2572P to divert water from a tributary to Hakihokake Oak Hill Golf Club Creek and a wet well in the Township of Holland, Hunterdon County

Dear Mr. Komar:

On behalf of the New Jersey Highlands Coalition and our 42 member organizations, I am writing in response to the Department's notice in the December 29, 2009 edition of the Hunterdon Democrat advising of the above application. The notice also states that if the Department receives a written request for a public hearing on this matter one will be scheduled.

We are very concerned that the Department is considering a seven-fold increase in the applicant's water allocation for the purpose of irrigating turf at a private golf club, drawing water from two tributaries of the Hakihokake Creek, within a HUC-14 subwatershed mapped by the Highlands Council as having a deficit of between 100,000 and 999,000 gallons per day (HUC 02040105170020).

Additionally, we have concerns that the New Jersey Water Protection and Planning Council has not been consulted regarding this proposed activity, as this diversion is clearly within the Highlands Council's mandated jurisdiction and within the Planning Area of a municipality that is working with the Council towards full Conformance. Although the Department's Staff Report mentions that the original application was made prior to adoption of the Regional Master Plan, the Council, since its formation, has made recommendations to the Department on activities that have impacts on water availability and quality within the Highlands region.

Because of these and other concerns, we are making a formal request for a public hearing on the above application. For the convenience of Holland Township residents and the working public, we further request that a meeting be scheduled in Holland Township during evening hours.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott Ruga".

Elliott Ruga
Campaign Coordinator

Cc: Larry Baier, Director, NJDEP Division of Watershed Management (by email)
Julia Somers, Executive Director, NJ Highlands Coalition (by email)
Eileen Swan, Executive Director, NJ Highlands Council (by email)