

From: Michael and Debbie Will

February 13, 2023



To: Mr. Alan Soukup
DEP Water Supply and Wastewater Unit
2425 Reddie Drive, 4th Floor
Wheaton, Maryland 20902

Subject: Opposition to Sewer Category Change Request WSCCR 22-TRV-01A

Dear Mr. Soukup,

We have become aware of sewer category request WSCCR 22-TRV-01A, although we did not receive any official notice about it. We oppose the request to change the sewer category for the property associated with 11415 Glen Road and the property identified as “11000 block of Wood Thrush Lane.” Our property is located at 11809 Wood Thrush Lane, several doors down and across the street from one of the two proposed sewer easement routes. Our property abuts a Forest Conservation Easement area that extends right to the edge of the property identified as “11000 block of Wood Thrush Lane.”

The conservation status of the lands surrounding our property is of great importance to us and a key contributor to the attractiveness and sustainability of this part of Montgomery County. We respect and cherish the conservation land behind our homes and would never want those sacred areas modified or infringed upon with access roads or a new sewer line. The potential development of these two parcels, including the construction of sewer lines through other properties that would be 20 or 30 feet wide, would disrupt the conservation areas and adversely affect the local watershed and drainage, which currently runs off the two subject properties, through Forest Conservation Easement areas and the Montgomery County Serpentine Barrens Conservation Park, into Greenbrier Branch, and from there to Sandy Branch and finally the Potomac River. In addition to the adverse effect on the local environment, such a disruption would further expose existing homes to flooding risk.

We are also very concerned about the effects on existing infrastructure of the proposed sewer lines, in particular the alternative to build an extension from the low-pressure line that we and others on Wood Thrush Lane rely upon. We note the following:

- As stated by the County Executive in response to this proposal, the two subject properties are excluded from the peripheral service policy under the 2002 Potomac Subregion Master Plan, and there seems to be no rationale under which an exception should be granted in this highly problematic case.
- We understand that the low-pressure sewage line serving Wood Thrush Lane is already virtually at capacity, and any added usage would have a high potential to cause serious backups and stability and reliability issues.
- Those of us who live within the Greenbriar Estates HOA – all residents of Wood Thrush Lane and a small number of other properties in the vicinity but not the owner of the property identified as “11000 block of Wood Thrush Lane” – have since approximately 2007 been paying substantial assessments to finance the construction and maintenance of the sewage infrastructure for our properties, notably the low-pressure sewage line into which the proposal seeks to tap. It is difficult to conceive that additional property owners can be allowed to simply tap into our existing line, without our consent, and benefit from the construction and maintenance for which we have all paid hundreds of thousands of dollars.

For these reasons we hereby request that you add 11809 Wood Thrush Lane, Potomac, MD to the formal opposition list and deny this request (WSCCR 22-TRV-01A) to change the sewer category from S-6 to S-3. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael and Debbie Will

[REDACTED]