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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Public Works Employees

**FROM:** Steve Thigpen, P.E. Director of Public Works *ST*

**SUBJECT:** Special Protection Area Policy #2

**DATE:** March 22, 2021

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The Charleston County Stormwater Program Permitting Standards and Procedures Manual (Manual) states in section 3.8: "In an effort to address some of the most critical water resource problems that exist in the County, Special Protection Areas may be established. These areas may be established by County Council, or by written direction by the Public Works Director, or by the establishment of specific local, state, or federal requirements (TMDL, State Anti-Degradation, etc.)"

Unincorporated Charleston County parcels within West Ashley, James Island, and Johns Island areas are subject to the Charleston County Manual as well as the additional design criteria set forth below.

The following are additional criteria for development and redevelopment applications with the purpose to prevent an area of known flooding from increasing in flooding depth or duration.

1. Single Family Residential (SFR) and Non-SFR grading plans with cuts or fills must protect adjacent properties against erosion, sedimentation, slippage, settlement, subsidence, and other damage by providing adequate buffers as set forth below. The finished cut and fill slopes to be vegetated within a development shall not be steeper than 3H:1V.
  - 3H:1V slopes 1 foot in height or more above adjoining property lines shall maintain a 5 foot wide vegetated buffer area for every additional 1 foot of height. (e.g., a 4 foot embankment would equate to a 15 foot buffer).
  - 4H:1V slopes 1 foot in height or more above the adjoining property lines shall maintain a 3 foot wide vegetated buffer area for every additional 1 foot of height. (e.g., a 4 foot embankment would equate to a 9 foot buffer).
  - 5H:1V slopes 1 foot in height or more above the adjoining property lines shall maintain a 1 foot wide vegetated buffer area for every additional 1 foot of height. (e.g., a 4 foot embankment would equate to a 3 foot buffer).


2. Non-SFR application disturbing less than 0.5 acres with an increase of 500 square feet of impervious area or more, offset the increase in runoff through implementation of runoff reduction practices as prescribed in Table 1 below.

Table 1

Reduction Practice	Requirement
Install Rain Barrel	500 sf of impervious area per 50 gallon rain barrel installed
Install Rain Garden	500 sf of impervious area allowed per 50 sf of rain garden installed
Install Infiltration Trench	1' deep x 2' wide trench filled with clean sand along each side of surface features such as driveways or patios with no more than 15 feet of linear unit area flowing to the feature.

3. All non-SFR applications disturbing more than 0.5 acres are considered Type II or III and have the following criteria set in addition to the SW Manual.
- The post-development, peak discharge rates are restricted to one-half the pre-development rates for the 2 year and 10 year, 24 hour duration storm events; and
  - The post-development runoff volumes for the 2 year, 10 year, and 25 year, 24-hour duration storm events above the pre-development level shall be stored for 24 hours before release. The runoff volume excess between pre-development and post-development must be released steadily over a period of 48 hours after the initial 24 hours of storage.

The Charleston County Director of Public Works hereby adopts the policy above on the effective date stated above. Stormwater applications accepted after this date must comply with these requirements in addition to the Charleston County Stormwater Program Permitting Standards and Procedures Manual.

  
 Steve Thigpen, P.E.  
 Director of Public Works