



**RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**  
**OFFICE OF WATER RESOURCES**  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02908

March 2, 2022

Abatecola Realty Association, LLC  
c/o Arnold Abatecola  
300 Morgan Avenue  
Johnston, RI 02929

**Insignificant Alteration – Permit**

**Re:** Wetlands Application No. 21-0293 & RIPDES No. RIR102284 in reference to the property and proposed project located:

Approximately 350 feet north of Granite Street, Utility Pole 1-1, approximately 375 feet northeast of its intersection with Genoa Avenue, Assessor's Plat 5, Lot 338, Johnston, RI.

Dear Mr. Abatecola:

Kindly be advised that the Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Freshwater Wetlands Program ("Program") has completed its review of your **Request for Preliminary Determination** application. This review included a site inspection of the above referenced property ("subject property") and an evaluation of eight (8) lot subdivision along a new roadway (Pico Circle), the construction of eight (8) single-family residences with associated paved driveways, wells, sewer tie-ins, and an infiltration/detention basin, chain-link fence with clearing, grading and associated site work as illustrated and detailed on revised site plans submitted with your application. These revised site plans were received by the DEM on January 28, 2022.

Our observations of the subject property, review of the site plans and evaluation of the proposed project reveals that alterations of freshwater wetlands are proposed. However, pursuant to 250-RICR-150-15-1.9 of the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Fresh Water Wetlands Act, 250-RICR-150-15-1 (Rules), this project may be permitted as an **insignificant alteration** to freshwater wetlands under the following terms and conditions:

**Terms and Conditions for Wetlands Application No. 21-0293; RIPDES No. RIR102284:**

1. This letter is the DEM's permit for this project under the R.I. Fresh Water Wetlands Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 2-1-18 et seq.
2. This determination also includes your final authorization to discharge storm water associated with construction activity under the **2020 RIDPES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge During Construction Activity ("CGP")**. For future references and inquiry, your permit authorization number is RIPDES No. **RIR102284**.
3. This permit is specifically limited to the project, site alterations and limits of disturbance as detailed on the site plans submitted with your application and received by the DEM on January 28, 2022. A copy of the site plans stamped approved by the DEM is enclosed. Changes or revisions to the project that would alter freshwater wetlands are not authorized without a permit from the DEM.

4. Where the terms and conditions of the permit conflict with the approved site plans, these terms and conditions shall be deemed to supersede the site plans.
5. You must notify this Program in writing of the anticipated start date, and of your contractor's contact information, by submitting the Notice of Start of Construction Form prior to commencement of any permitted site alterations or construction activity. You must also notify this Program in writing upon completion of the project, including submittal of the Notice of Termination Form. The Start of Construction Form and the Notice of Termination can be found on the webpage: [dem.ri.gov/stormwaterconstruction](http://dem.ri.gov/stormwaterconstruction)
6. A copy of the stamped approved site plans and a copy of this permit must be kept at the site at all times during site preparation, construction, and final stabilization. Copies of this permit and the stamped approved plans must be made available for review by any DEM or Town representative upon request.
7. Within ten (10) days of the receipt of this permit, you must record this permit in the land evidence records of the Town of Johnston and supply this Program with written documentation obtained from the Town showing this permit was recorded.
8. The effective date of this permit is the date this letter was issued. This permit expires four (4) years from the date of this letter unless renewed pursuant to the Rules.
9. Any material utilized in this project must be clean and free of matter that could pollute any freshwater wetland.
10. Prior to commencement of site alterations, you shall erect or post a sign resistant to the weather and at least twelve (12) inches wide and eighteen (18) inches long, which boldly identifies the initials "DEM" and the application number of this permit. This sign must be maintained at the site in a conspicuous location until such time that the project is complete.
11. Both the owner and the contractor retained to undertake the construction activity are required to comply with all terms and conditions of the CGP. This includes maintaining the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control (SESC) Plan, performing the required inspections and maintenance of the selected Best Management Practices (BMPs), and retaining inspection records. Further information on the requirements of the CGP is available at:  
  
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/ripdes/pdfs/cgp092620.pdf>
12. Temporary erosion and sediment controls detailed or described on the approved site plans shall be properly installed at the site prior to or commensurate with site alterations. Such controls shall be properly maintained, replaced, supplemented, or modified as necessary throughout the life of this project to minimize soil erosion and to prevent sediment from being deposited in any wetlands not subject to disturbance under this permit.
13. Upon permanent stabilization of all disturbed soils, temporary erosion and/or sediment controls must be removed.
14. You are responsible for the proper installation, operation, maintenance and stability of any mitigative features, stormwater treatment facilities, and systems of treatment and control that are installed or used in compliance with this permit to prevent harm to adjacent wetlands until documentation is provided that this responsibility has been assigned to another entity. The long-

term operation and maintenance plan shall be strictly followed. The long-term O & M Plan shall be that entitled "Stormwater System Operations and Maintenance Plan For: "Cherry Blossom Estates" – "Pico Circle", off Granite Street – Johnston, RI 02919, AP 5, Lot 338" submitted initially in November 2021 and revised in January 2022 by RA Cataldo & Associates, Inc. located at 114 Smithfield Avenue in Pawtucket, RI 02860.

15. The proposed rain gardens must be constructed with a level bottom, along with a 2–4-inch layer of amended soil consisting of a 50/50 mixture of native soils and mature organic compost, topped with a 2–3-inch layer of non-dyed aged, shredded hardwood mulch. Each proposed rain garden must also be constructed with a crushed stone inlet, berm on the downhill side, and approved plantings that can be found listed in Appendix B of the Rhode Island Stormwater Design and Installation Standards Manual.
16. You are obligated to install, utilize and follow all best management practices detailed or described on the approved site plans in the construction of the project to minimize or prevent adverse impacts to any adjacent freshwater wetlands and the functions and values provided by such wetlands.
17. You must provide written certification from a registered land surveyor or registered professional engineer that the stormwater drainage system including any and all basins, piping systems, catch basins, culverts, swales and any other stormwater management control features have been constructed/installed in accordance with the site plans approved by this permit. This written certification must be submitted to this Program within twenty (20) days of its request or upon completion of the project.
18. This Program has made specific revisions to the approved site plans on Sheet C-9. These revisions are clearly marked in red on the approved plans. Specifically, the limit of disturbance (LOD) has been revised on proposed Lot 4 to provide for a more realistic construction envelope.
19. Also prior to commencement of any site alterations, permanent markers must be installed along the limit of disturbance at the locations indicated in red ink on the approved site plans on Sheet C-9, in order to provide permanent reference points on site that are clear to present and future property owners to indicate the presence of a regulated freshwater wetland. Acceptable permanent type markers include 4" x 4" pressure treated timber posts, galvanized fence posts with cap, or granite or concrete bounds. Markers must extend a minimum 24" above grade. A permanent-type tag or sign labeled "RIDEM Buffer Zone" must be placed on each marker. No alterations of any kind are permitted beyond these markers without first obtaining the necessary permit from this Program.

Pursuant to the provisions in 250-RICR-150-15-1.7(A)(9) and 250-RICR-150-15-1.11(D), as applicable, any properly recorded and valid permit is automatically transferred to the new owner upon sale of the property.

You are required to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit and to carry out this project in compliance with the Rules at all times. Failure to do so may result in an enforcement action by this Department.

In permitting the proposed alterations, the DEM assumes no responsibility for damages resulting from faulty design or construction.

Kindly be advised that this permit is not equivalent to a verification of the type or extent of freshwater wetlands on site. Should you wish to have the types and extent of freshwater wetlands verified, you may submit the appropriate application in accordance with 250-RICR-150-15-1.8(C).

This permit does not remove your obligation to obtain any local, state, or federal approvals or permits required by ordinance or law and does not relieve you from any duties owed to adjacent landowners with specific reference to any changes in drainage.

Please contact Rene Legault of this office (telephone: 401-222-4700, ext. 2777732) should you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

*Nancy L. Freeman*

Nancy L. Freeman, Principal Environmental Scientist  
Office of Water Resources  
Freshwater Wetlands Program  
NLF/RJL/rjl

Enclosure: Approved site plans

cc: Neal Personeus, DEM Stormwater Program  
Town of Johnston Building Official  
Ron Cataldo, PE, RA Cataldo & Associates, Inc.  
Richard Leddy, PLS, Leddy Land Surveying Co.  
Scott Rabideau, Natural Resource Services, Inc.