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

March 29, 2023

University of Rhode Island
Paul M. DePace, Director
60 Tootell Road, Sherman Building
South Kingstown, RI 02881

Re: Wetlands Application No. 22-0308 & RIPDES No. RIR102405 in reference to the property and proposed project located:

At 105 Upper College Road, approximately 360 feet northeast from the intersection of Upper College Road and Bills Road, Assessor's Plat 23-2, Lot 37, South Kingstown, RI.

Dear Mr. DePace:

Kindly be advised that the Department of Environmental Management's ("DEM") Freshwater Wetlands Program, ("Program") has completed its review of your proposed redevelopment of the Fine Arts building on the URI campus with selective demolition of existing structures, reconstruction and addition of a new structure, termination of existing utilities and installation of new utilities including water, sewer, and stormwater drainage, new stormwater management areas, grading, landscaping, temporary erosion controls and associated site work as illustrated and detailed on site plans submitted with your application. The site plans referenced by this letter and on file with this Program were received on January 13, 2023.

Our inspection reveals that freshwater wetlands regulated by the DEM are present on or in close proximity to the subject property. Review of your proposed project, however, reveals that this project does not represent an alteration to these freshwater wetlands. It is our determination therefore that a permit for this project pursuant to the Freshwater Wetland Act (R.I. Gen. Laws § 2-1-18 et seq.) or the Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act, 250-RICR-150-15-1, is not required. This Determination **is specific to the proposed site alterations illustrated and detailed on site plans on file with this Program and is further predicated on the following:**

1. Adequate measures are employed during and after site alterations to control soil erosion and to prevent any sediment from such erosion being deposited in any freshwater wetlands. You should consult the Rhode Island Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook for appropriate methods to control erosion and prevent sediment from leaving your project site.

2. This determination does not authorize you to modify your project in such a way as to result in the following:

    a. An increase in the rate and/or volume of surface water runoff flowing into, or draining or diverting from these wetlands; or

    b. A diversion of groundwater into or away from these wetlands; or

c. A modification to the quality of water reaching these wetlands, which could change their natural character.

3. 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. Operation and maintenance shall be as described in the plan entitled, "Long-term operation and maintenance plan for the proposed construction of: URI Fine Arts Center building project", dated June 2022, revised January 2023, as prepared by GRA, a division of GM2.

Please note that this Determination is specific to this proposed project as illustrated on the reviewed site plans, is valid for four (4) years from the date of this letter and does not remove your obligation to obtain any local, state, or federal approvals or permits required by ordinance or law.

Kindly be advised that this determination is not equivalent to a determination of the type or extent of freshwater wetlands on the subject property. Should you wish to obtain such verification, you may submit an application in accordance with 250-RICR-150-15-1.

The Program has also reviewed this project in accordance with the standards of the 2020 RIPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharge Associated with Construction Activity ("CGP"). **This determination includes your final authorization to discharge stormwater associated with construction activity under the CGP. For future references and inquiry, your permit authorization number is RIPDES No. RIR102405.**

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.

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 are available at: http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/ripdes/pdfs/cgp092620.pdf.

Please be aware that the DEM's Rules and Regulations Governing the Establishment of Various Fees, 250-RICR-30-00-1, require that RIPDES CGP permit holders pay an Annual Fee of $100.00. An invoice will be sent to the owner on record in May/June of each year if the construction was still active as of December 31st of the previous year. The owner will be responsible for the Annual Fee until the construction activity has been completed, the site has been properly stabilized, and a completed Notice of Termination (NOT) has been received by the RIPDES Program. A copy of the NOT can be found attached to the CGP on the web page referenced above.

You are responsible for the proper installation, operation, maintenance and stability of any mitigative features, facilities, and systems of treatment and control which are installed or used in compliance with this permit to prevent harm to adjacent wetlands until such time that you document that this responsibility has been assumed by another person or organization. You are also responsible for ensuring that your project complies at all times with the RIPDES CGP.

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

Any modification to your project that would result in an alteration to freshwater wetlands or allowing your project to result in an alteration to freshwater wetlands, requires a permit from this Program. Unauthorized alterations to freshwater wetlands are subject to enforcement action.

Enclosed please find one (1) copy of your site plans stamped REVIEWED by this Program. Please contact Sophie Clode of this Office (telephone: 401-222-6820, ext. 2777419) should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Nancy L. Freeman

Nancy L. Freeman, Principal Environmental Scientist
Freshwater Wetlands Program
Office of Water Resources

NLF/SC/sc

Enclosure: Reviewed Site Plan

c: Joseph Camara, Environmental Engineer II, DEM Stormwater Program
Neal Personeus, DEM Stormwater Program
Todd Ravenelle, P.E., Senior Vice President, GRA, a division of GM2
Brett D. Neilan, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer, GRA, a division of GM2