



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

July 5, 2012

Mr. James Ridgeway, P.E.
Executive Director
Alliance of Rouge Communities c/o ECT
719 Griswold, Suite 820
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Dear Mr. Ridgeway:

Subject: Rouge River Watershed Management Plan Approval

Thank you for submitting the Rouge River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) to the Department of Environmental Quality for review with respect to meeting criteria for: (1) the state Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program, and (2) the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Section 319 program of the federal Clean Water Act. The efforts and support of the Alliance of Rouge Communities and your partners to preserve and protect Michigan's surface water resources are appreciated.

As you may know, the CMI program criteria are specified in Administrative Rules promulgated pursuant to Part 88, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended, effective October 27, 1999. Beginning in 2004, the EPA required that all implementation projects funded under Section 319 be supplemented by a watershed management plan that meets nine required elements as described in the EPA's document titled, "*Nonpoint Source Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories (October 23, 2003)*." Our review of the Rouge River WMP, received on June 25, 2012, indicates that the WMP meets both the CMI criteria and the EPA criteria, and is hereby approved for the purposes of the CMI Nonpoint Source Pollution Control program and the federal Section 319 program.

Please note that DEQ WMP approvals are only good for the effective life of the plan. The Rouge River WMP includes an implementation strategy consisting of short term and long term timelines, which extend to 2015 and 2035, respectively. An updated plan may need to be submitted to the DEQ for review and approval prior to 2035 to maintain eligibility for both CMI and 319 funds. For information regarding funds that may be available in the DEQ's Nonpoint Source Grant Program, please monitor our web site at www.michigan.gov/deqnonpointsourcepollution.

Thank you for your efforts in the development of this watershed management plan. The DEQ looks forward to assisting your organization with future efforts to implement this plan. Please feel free to contact Tracy Kecskemeti at 586-753-3777 or kecskemetit@michigan or me if you have questions about the plan approval.

Sincerely,



Ms. Hae-Jin Yoon
District Supervisor
Southeast Michigan District Office
Water Resources Division
586-753-3750

cc: Mr. Gary Mekjian, City of Farmington Hills
Mr. Robert Day, WRD
Mr. Peter Vincent, WRD
Ms. Tracy Kecskemeti, WRD