



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
LANSING



DAN WYANT
DIRECTOR

March 22, 2011

Mr. Gary Mekjian, P.E., Chair
Alliance of Rouge Communities
c/o ECT
719 Griswold, Suite 1040
Detroit, Michigan 48226

RECEIVED

MAR 31 2011

Initial: AW

Dear Mr. Mekjian:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2011, regarding a watershed storm water permit for the Alliance of Rouge Communities.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has begun a process towards permit reissuance of the current Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits. As part of this process, we need to consider all of the available information to develop a strategy for permit reissuance. We intend to use what we have learned over the past several years about what may or may not work in regards to storm water permits and address the various issues associated with the issues of wet weather discharges.

To assist us in this process and provide an avenue of communication, we have established a stakeholder group that encompasses a statewide perspective to guide our development of a permitting strategy, which will include evaluating the use of general, as well as, individual permits.

Mr. James Ridgeway, Executive Director, Alliance of Rouge Communities, will be participating in an MS4 stakeholder's process that the DEQ will use in developing a permitting strategy. The DEQ considers this statewide process to be more appropriate at this time than discussions with a single group.

If you have further questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. William Creal, Chief, Water Resources Division, at 517-335-4176; crealw@michigan.gov; or DEQ, P.O. Box 30458, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7958.

Sincerely,

Dan Wyant
Director
517-373-7917

cc: Mr. Bill Rustem, Governor's Office
Mr. James Ridgeway, P.E., Executive Director, Alliance of Rouge Communities
Mr. Jim Sygo, Deputy Director, DEQ
Mr. William Creal, DEQ
Mr. Mike Bray, DEQ