



Environmental
Protection Agency

John R. Kasich, Governor
Mary Taylor, Lt. Governor
Scott J. Nally, Director

August 21, 2012

Tom Russell
Storm Water Program Manager
City of Columbus
Department of Public Works
Division of Sewage and Drainage
1250 Fairwood Avenue
Columbus, OH 43026

**Re: Evaluation of post construction measures on West Town Street on
August 9, 2012 Permit #4GC02249*AG**

Dear Mr. Russell:

This letter is written regarding our evaluation of the rain gardens utilized for post construction water quality treatment on West Town Street in Columbus, Ohio on August 9, 2012. The inspection was conducted by Mike Gallaway, Ohio EPA Division of Surface Water Manager, concurrent with a significant rain event.

During the inspection it was evident that the majority of the rain gardens were not receiving drainage from the associated rain event. It appears the grades associated with the installation of rain gardens were not properly established to perform as intended. The majority of all storm water noted on August 9, 2012 was bypassing the rain gardens. The agency is concerned the intended treatment for post construction storm water runoff is not addressed as a result.

It is our understanding the city of Columbus wishes to pursue the use of the rain gardens for post construction water quality treatment. In addition the City has expressed the use of green infrastructure as a mitigative measure to reduce potential impacts from combined sewer overflows.

At this time we are formally requesting corrective measures to ensure the rain gardens function as intended in order to provide treatment and run off reduction. Please note we have photographic evidence of our concerns. I have attached for your reference an exhibit of the rain gardens evaluated on August 9, 2012.

Please note the installation concerns are not limited to our observations on West Town Street but include installation of all rain gardens on Rich Street and Front Street. It is our intent to address improvement opportunities to ensure these issues do not reoccur and corrective actions are implemented to ensure the intended function.

Tom Russell
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City of Columbus
Page -2-

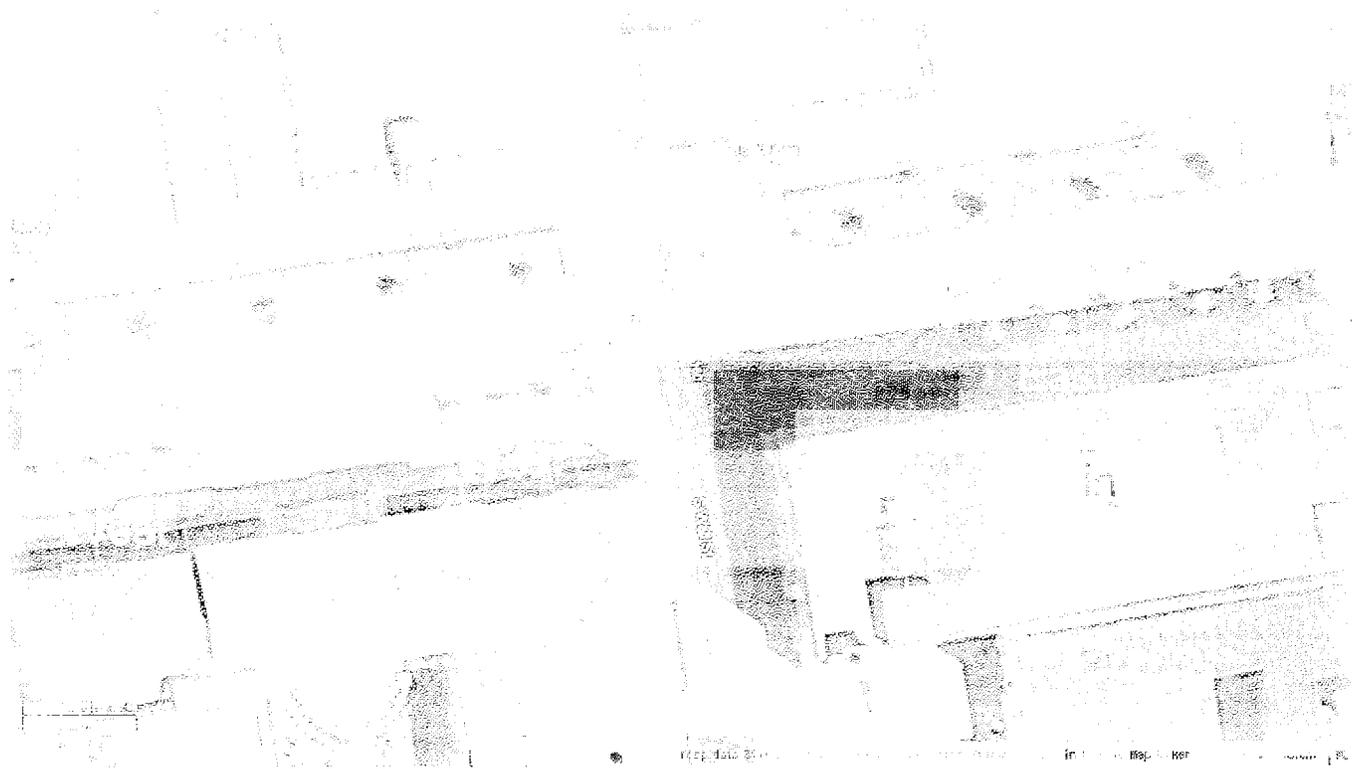
If you have any questions regarding this letter or the inspection, please do not hesitate to contact me at our Central District Office at (614) 728-3844. In addition, I am requesting a response to this letter within 14 days of receipt.

Sincerely,



Harry Kallipolitis
Storm Water Coordinator
Division of Surface Water
Central District Office

c: Mike Gallaway, Surface Water Manager, DSW/CDO



Basins Evaluated by Mike Gallaway on August 9, 2012