

Executive Summary of Findings (Extracted from 10-page Detailed Report)

This DEIS must be re-written to address the true environmental impacts of the proposed project. The major problem is that the authors have followed the scoping document, but they have not studied and reported results to specifically address the potential impacts of items in the scoping document.

For instance, with respect to the scoping item of “Describe well test protocol per OCHD requirements;” the applicant lists 10 pages (verbatim) of protocol for pumping tests, but does not describe how the tests of water supply wells will be conducted with regard to specific site conditions. The applicant should list and define the actions that they will take or have taken to conduct pumping tests to measure safe yield in the unconfined sand and gravel aquifer. Step by step for all 10 pages, the applicant must describe each of the 16 requirements, explaining how the tests will be conducted.

Likewise, rather than devoting 13 pages to duplicating soil descriptions from the Orange County Soil Survey, the applicant should use the soil distribution and characteristics to make maps of (1) poorly-drained soils, (2) erosion-prone soils, (3) shallow bedrock & outcrops, (4) existing soil permeability (vertical recharge capacity), (5) post-construction vertical permeability (recharge capacity), (6) potential locations for subsurface disposal of sewage, and (7) soil characteristics as they relate to wetland function. Based on such maps, a site plan can be prepared to maximize compatibility with soils and minimize environmental impact.

In its current state, the DEIS does not provide sufficient information for the lead agency to identify and evaluate potential impacts with respect to soils, geology, hydrogeology, and groundwater. The DEIS must be prepared by competent experts in the specialties of environmental study.

The document does not demonstrate any understanding of the relationship between residential development and its impact on natural resources. An understanding of soils and water resources is critical because the entire construction effort (homes, roads, driveways, lawns, yards, basements, wastewater treatment, potable water supply, and stormwater management) will have numerous impacts on a huge area of disturbance with substantial reduction in recharge to groundwater and undefined damage to surface water and groundwater quality.

The following potential unavoidable impacts were not identified, nor described in the DEIS:

- ◆ Removal of Groundwater from the Aquifer.
- ◆ Return of Wastewater to the Basha Kill.
- ◆ Degradation of Water Quality in wastewater systems and in stormwater.
- ◆ Loss of permeable landscape (reported as 27% of project).
- ◆ Disturbance of Slopes over 15% Grade.
- ◆ Blasting and Removal of 35,000 cubic yards of bedrock.
- ◆ Potential Impacts to Groundwater Quality from Upgradient Landfill.
- ◆ Potential Damage to Karst Bedrock Aquifer below.