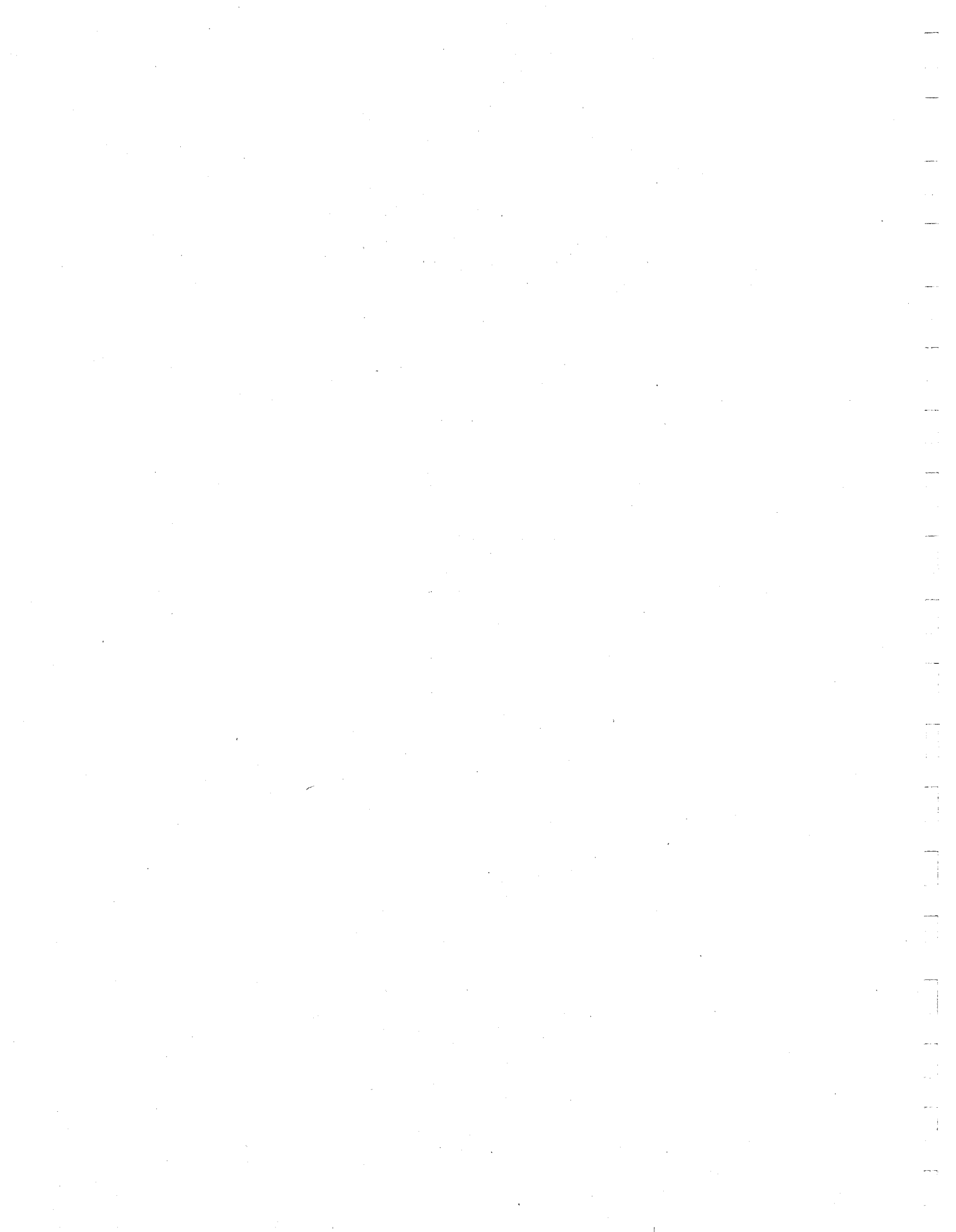

APPENDIX G





Hudson River Sloop CLEARWATER Inc.

112 Market Street, Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12601 Tel.: 914/454-7673 Fax: 914-454-7953

April 23, 1991

Mr. Spencer McLaughlin, Chair
Orange County Sewer Committee
Legislative Offices, 2nd Floor
County Government Center
Goshen, NY 10924

FOR DISTRIBUTION TO COUNTY SEWER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater is a not-for-profit environmental education and advocacy organization, with over 11,000 members, working for the protection and preservation of the Hudson River and its shorelines.

It is our understanding that the Orange County Sewer Committee is currently considering a range of options to increase sewage treatment capacity throughout the County. We commend the County for taking steps to protect water quality by ensuring that the County will have adequate capacity and that all municipal sewage treatment plants will be able to comply with state and federal water quality standards.

However, we are concerned to see that the County appears to be leaning towards a large, centralized system discharging in to the Hudson River. According to the County Comprehensive Sewerage Study, possible scenarios include discharges of 9.8 to 12.1 million gallons per day of secondary treated sewage being discharged in to the Hudson River in the New Windsor area. We are very concerned about the impacts of the resultant decrease in dissolved oxygen levels and increases in coliform and other bacteria, chlorine and chlorinated hydrocarbons, nutrients and industrial wastes (including metals and organic chemicals) caused by the increased discharges.

We would strongly urge the County, as part of this evaluation, to consider actions that would help to minimize amounts of, and impacts of, sewage wastes treated in the County. First and foremost we urge the County to consider aggressive water conservation measures to reduce the amount of waste water

To restore and protect the Hudson River, its shorelines and related waterways

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that is generated. Not only will this help to reduce the need for additional wastewater treatment capacity, conservation will also help to reduce water supply treatment and distribution costs as well. Steps to control intrusion and infiltration into County sewer lines should also be addressed.

We also encourage the County to evaluate the development of advanced, or tertiary, treatment levels and to consider opportunities to develop alternative sewage treatment methods, such as the use of artificial wetlands to further treat sewage effluent from small treatment plants. An additional advantage of smaller, localized plants that should be considered is that treated wastewater can be returned to local water bodies, thus minimizing negative impacts to water quality and habitat that can occur with water diversions.

We hope the County Sewer Committee will consider these comments. If we can provide further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Bridget Barclay
Bridget Barclay,
Environmental Director

For release, thursday, April 25

After much thought, I have decided as a member of the Orange County Sewer Committee, appointed by the County Executive, to vote against the proposals brought forward by the consultants, and instead to urge the County Executive and County Legislators to seek more innovative, cost effective, and ecologically sound ways of handling sewage treatment in our county.

I do not pretend to be a professional in these matters, nor do I criticize the quality of the consultants' work or their methodology. I surely understand the quandry faced by the elected representatives of the fast growing towns of Orange County and I can appreciate the fact that they need responsible solutions and soon.

My reasons for voting against the proposals are as follows;

a. I fear that, a decade from now, the 150 million dollar project proposed here will be an obsolete method of treating waste water and sewage and that different and more natural techniques will then be employed as a standard procedure. Also, I suspect that the major treatment plant proposed for the Hudson River at New Windsor will be opposed in the courts by a variety of environmental organizations.

b. The county master plan, like those elsewhere, calls for clustering our growth around existing communities and preserving the intervening open space. This proposal will simply lead to more urban sprawl.

County legislators might well consider proposals now being discussed by experts in land use planning of instituting sewer tie-in fees based on the distance of the applicants from existing systems. It would save county taxpayers millions of dollars.

c. I oppose the proposals for a third reason. I speak as a city resident, and I must draw attention to the plight of all older communities in Orange County. On the one hand, they must house the poor, the elderly, and the disadvantaged. On the otherhand, both in terms of the water loop and now the sewer study, these communities, which have bought and paid for their own systems, must now directly or indirectly help underwrite new systems to aid new residents who have made no prior investment in our county.

d. Finally, both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Conservation recognize the value of natural rather than chemical treatment of waste, and also the logic of protecting stream flow in its natural setting. In the long run, these agencies will be forced to do more than they

have to date to develop new natural systems of waste water and sewage treatment.

I feel sure that our legislators would prefer not to face these difficult decisions and choices, but in the long run they will be doing our county a great service if they weigh the alternatives with care.

James V. Mills
4/20/91

Museum of the Hudson Highlands

P.O. Box 181
The Boulevard, Cornwall-on-Hudson, New York 12520
(914) 534-7781

May 7, 1991

Honorable Mary McPhillips
Orange County Executive
255-275 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924

Dear Honorable McPhillips:

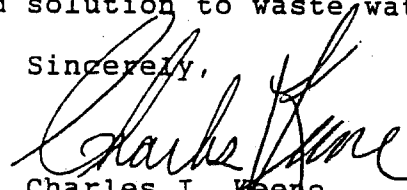
Our Museum has received several grants for field studies relating to the restoration or construction of wetlands for their use as biological filters. In the process of conducting these studies we have reviewed the use of specially designed and constructed wetlands for municipal waste water treatment.

There is no doubt that wetland creation is a cost effective and environmentally sound method for improving water quality and will be more widely used in the future. Because the use of wetlands for improving water quality is somewhat of a "new" science not many public officials fully understand the potential of this technology. As you develop Orange County's future plans for waste water treatment, I would urge you to consider the use of specially designed constructed wetlands to supplement the engineered systems. If wetlands such as these are installed at the regional treatment facilities, the water once treated and passed through the biological filter can be discharged back into its rightful or natural watershed where nature can purify the water even further.

Orange County is unique in that it has a vast acreage of lowlands and already protected wetlands that might be put to work for us. If these wetlands are well managed, they may not only reduce the cost of future waste water treatment facilities, but also provide a strong measure of flood control as well as a variety of recreational opportunities for members of our community.

As you know environmental problems can reach staggering proportions when left unchecked. In this case, however, Orange County easily has the ability to produce an ecologically sound solution to waste water management.

Sincerely,

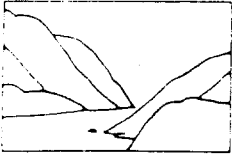


Charles I. Weene
Director of Natural History

c.c. J. Townsend
S. McLaughlin



May 29, 1991



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Mr. Spencer McLaughlin
Chairman
Orange County Sewer Committee
Legislative Offices, 2nd Floor
County Government Center
Goshen, NY 10924

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

Scenic Hudson is a not-for-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection of the resources of the Hudson River and its Valley.

We understand that the Orange County Sewer Committee is currently considering alternatives to increase sewage treatment for the county. While this step is certainly prerequisite to the County moving forward with its supply expansion plans, we have concerns about the way the Committee's decisions appear to be heading.

Of greatest concern is that the County is planning to discharge sewage effluent into the Hudson River from a large centralized treatment facility. We understand that the original proposal to discharge up to 12 million gallons per day (mgd) in the New Windsor area, has recently been increased to 25 mgd because of the Town of New Windsor's desire to be linked into the system. We are concerned about the impacts on water quality posed by both proposals as only secondary treatment is being considered. Clearly, in light of the additional discharge created by the New Windsor link, a tertiary treatment option should be reconsidered.

While it has been argued that the assimilative capacity of the Hudson would mitigate the impacts of decreased dissolved oxygen, industrial pollutants and increased coliform levels, it is important to remember that the receiving waters in this section of the Hudson are class A and water is withdrawn just upstream as New York City's emergency supply. The fact that the discharge is downstream offers little

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Mr. Spencer McLaughlin
May 29, 1991
Page -2-

reassurance in an estuarine system that contaminants will not be carried within proximity of the water intake.

In the County's evaluation, it is absolutely critical that thorough attention be given to the benefits of water conservation planning as it relates to waste water management and treatment. Water conservation can extend the life expectancy of plants, as well as improve the efficiency of treatment, thus reducing the impacts of effluents discharged. Water conservation planning is thus both economically and environmentally sound from the wastewater management perspective.

Finally, we question the advisability of relying on a large centralized facility as opposed to smaller more localized plants, as it will represent a significant diversion of water away from natural watersheds areas. We urge the County to evaluate alternatives that are smaller scale in order to avoid diversions and to allow for consideration of a variety of technologies.

Please feel free to call us if you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,



Cara Lee
Environmental Director

cc: Commissioner Albert F. Appleton, NYC DEP
Ralph Manna, Regional Director, NYS DEC

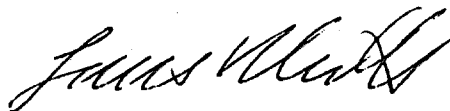
To; Orange County Executive and Legislature
From; Louis V. Mills, Sewer Committee member
date; July 5, 1991

The July 2 presentation on waste water treatment by Dr. John Sheaffer, of Sheaffer and Roland, makes very clear the fact that waste water reclamation at or near its source is far past experimentation and is in extensive use everywhere in the country and in all kinds of conditions (e. g. Chicago). While the private sector is ahead of the public sector, there is nothing to prevent town governments in Orange County from exploring the technology as a less costly and more environmentally sound method of recycling their waste water.

Interestingly enough, both EPA and DEC efforts to upgrade stream and river water quality in Orange County would be enhanced by the implementation of water reclamation processes whereas the collection, treatment, and discharge of our waste waters in the Hudson River at New Windsor would tend to work against these very objectives.

Finally, such a process places the fiscal responsibility for dealing with waste water on the same level of government (the town or city) which determines the amount and type of growth which will be permitted in its jurisdiction.

For these reasons, I urge the County government to defer accepting the Hazen and Sawyer recommendations until the various impacted towns have thoroughly explored the possibility of solving their waste water problems within their own boundaries.





July 8, 1991

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Mr. Spencer McLaughlin
Chairman
Orange County Sewer Committee
Legislative Offices, 2nd floor
County Government Center
Goshen, NY 10924

Dear Mr. McLaughlin:

Scenic Hudson submitted a letter to you dated May 29, 1991, in which we expressed concerns about the discharge of sewage effluent into the Hudson River from the proposed treatment facility. Additionally, we mentioned the rationale for water conservation planning as it relates to waste water management and treatment alternatives.

We remain interested in the County's ongoing evaluation of alternatives and would like to request that a copy of the Final Orange County Sewerage Study be mailed to us upon its upcoming release.

Again, please feel free to call us if you have any questions about our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beth Gelber".

Beth Gelber
Environmental Associate

/rmm

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