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Veronica Oliver,
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Semia Hackett,
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January 30, 2014

Mr. Jeff Flynn
Deputy Director of Economic Development
City of Wilmington
800 French Street
Wilmington, Delaware 19801

RE: South Wilmington Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project (the "Project")

Dear Mr. Flynn:

The South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) is pleased to support the City of Wilmington's application for a Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Grant.

Based in the low-income Southbridge section of Wilmington, Delaware, the SWPN is a collaborative partnership of Southbridge residents and dozens of government, nonprofit and private agencies. The mission of the Network is to serve as a vehicle for information-sharing and the leveraging of resources on collaborative projects to improve the community's quality of life.

The SWPN believes the South Wilmington Wetlands Restoration and Conservation Project will positively impact the South Wilmington community by: reducing the number and frequency of flood events; converting a large, currently abandoned brownfield area into a recreational green space; and reducing the number of CSO overflows, thereby improving water quality in the Christina River.

The Project has been in the planning stages since first conceptualized in the 2006 Special Area Management Plan. Since then the number, frequency and severity of flood events in Southbridge has increased. This has triggered numerous economic, public health and environmental concerns among public officials, agency staff and area residents.

The SWPN is in full support of federal assistance to accelerate the completion of this Project, which we believe will improve quality of life for its residents by reducing flooding and sea level rise impacts in South Wilmington.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached at 302 – 737 – 6205 x 113.

Sincerely,

William Swiatek
Chair