



*Keeping Watch Over Our Waters*

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August 10, 2009

**VIA Electronic Mail**

Bradford Townsend  
Planning and Zoning Director  
City of Roswell  
38 Hill Street  
Roswell, GA 30075

RE: Parkway Village - Stream Buffer Variance Request

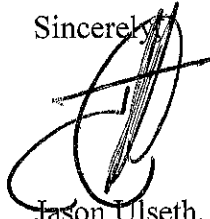
Dear Mr. Townsend,

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper ("UCR") is a nonprofit environmental advocacy organization with over 5,000 members whose mission is to protect the Chattahoochee River, its tributaries and watershed. UCR has reviewed documentation regarding the above referenced project proposed by Racetrac Petroleum, Inc ('Applicant'). The Applicant proposes to permanently impact an unknown length of stream buffer of Hog Waller Creek in order to accommodate the site plan for the purpose of constructing a Racetrac gas station. The proposed development site is located in the Chattahoochee River basin.

UCR is familiar with the proposed project development area – the Hog Waller Creek and Chattahoochee River watersheds. We have seen first-hand, the problems associated with development in this large watershed, including: increased sedimentation in stream channels and lakes, flooding, increased turbidity during rain events, loss of aquatic and riparian habitat, and a rise in citizen complaints about damage to property. The vegetated buffer requirements were developed to protect water quality in Roswell from the effects of stormwater runoff by ensuring that a sufficient amount of vegetation remains to filter out sediment and other contaminants that may adversely affect water quality. We believe that stream buffers must be utilized for all projects, but are especially important for projects that will be storing and dispensing hazardous materials such as gasoline. The protected buffers are necessary to help filter out any contaminants such as gasoline, oil, heavy metals, etc that may wash off of this site during storm events.

UCR asks that this stream buffer variance request be denied so that the buffers may function to protect water quality as they are designed to do. Thank you for considering our comments and if you have any questions please contact me at [julseth@ucriverkeeper.org](mailto:julseth@ucriverkeeper.org) or 404-352-9828 ext 16.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Ulseth', written over a horizontal line.

Jason Ulseth, CPESC  
Technical Programs Director