



September 25, 2009

Mr. Brad Townsend  
Planning and Zoning Director  
City of Roswell

Dear Brad,

These comments are regarding the plan for 1500 Holcomb Bridge Road. The improvements proposed to the property at 1500 Holcomb Bridge include additional paving in excess of 5,000 square feet.

The proposed solution to provide the required detention and channel protection is oversized storm pipe (underground detention), and the water quality solution proposed is a hydrodynamic device. The PW/Env Department views hydrodynamic devices as a last resort to be used when no other options are available. The City of Roswell PW/Env department does not give them full credit for reducing total suspended solids (TSS) because non-biased testing has indicated that the effectiveness of these systems is much lower than the respective manufactures' claims. These devices are expensive to purchase and install and require ongoing maintenance that is rarely, or is never, performed (out of site out of mind). Please let me know if you would like additional information on these devices.

On the subject site, however, there is an opportunity to install a 30 foot by 60 foot bioretention/rain garden which can provide water quality protection and which has landscape as part of the system. These systems tend to get maintained since they are part of the landscaping of the site, and a property designed cell, even when neglected still provides better protection than a hydrodynamic device. The bioretention cell would be more economical to install, and less expensive to maintain going forward.

Six parking spaces of the proposed 75 parking spaces would be lost to convert the appropriately situated island to a bioretention cell. In my opinion, the loss of these six spaces greatly outweighs the benefits that a natural system provides. Further, there is considerable parking surrounding the development. An agreement could be pursued for overflow parking from adjacent businesses.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this plan and would be happy to provide additional information to you or your staff should you have additional questions.

Best regards,

Danelle Volpe, PE CFM  
Water Resources Engineer  
Public Works/Environmental