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From: Lewellen, Sabrina <Sabrina.lewellen@Senate.Ar.Gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 13, 2022 3:12 PM
To: Water Draft Permit Comment
Subject: Senator Clarke Tucker Letter - Public Comment - Paradise Valley Wastewater Treatment
Attachments: Senator Clarke Tucker - Letter - Public Comment - Paradise Valley Wastewater Treatment.pdf

Importance: High

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THE SENATE
STATE OF ARKANSAS

December 13, 2022

Becky Keogh
Secretary
Department of Energy and Environment
5301 Northshore Drive
North Little Rock, Arkansas 72118-5317

**RE: Discharge Permit Number AR0053210, AFIN 60-05010
Paradise Valley Wastewater Treatment on Roland Cutoff – Roland, Arkansas**

Dear Secretary Keogh:

As the State Senator who, for a short time longer, represents northwestern Pulaski County, I am writing concerning the above-referenced permit. I am opposed to the issuance of the permit and to the ability of a wastewater treatment plant to go into the proposed location, at a minimum without an impact study being conducted, as requested by the Maumelle Water Corporation.

As I have written before, the proposed sewage facility would discharge up to 50,000 gallons of sewer water per day into Mill Bayou. Mill Bayou, and the surrounding area, is a natural haven of biologically diverse habitat. Hundreds of thousands of people enjoy the affected natural habitat, in all four seasons of the year.

Second, Mill Bayou is not a stream that consistently flows. Rather, it consists of wetlands that stay stagnant for long periods of time. Given this, the sewage water would remain in the area for long periods of time, making the water toxic and contaminating the ground and surrounding wetland. The toxicity and contamination would only grow from there, as local wildlife, and ultimately, humans, ingest these toxins in one form or another, either by eating tainted fish or game or drinking contaminated water.

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Third, this area, which has remained largely rural and natural, has already been subjected to another recent development, Waterview Estates. I understand that Waterview Estates has not complied with ADEQ requirements on at least eight occasions since 2011. The damage, and risk of further damage, to the community and the local habitat would be substantially amplified with the addition of another development of this size in this close proximity.

Given the importance of Mill Bayou to Central Arkansas, particularly given its proximity to Lake Maumelle, and the importance of Pinnacle Mountain State Park to the entire state, it is difficult to overstate the possible impact this development could have. The proposed Paradise Valley development not only poses this risk to the local habitat and potentially even to the purity of our drinking water, it is also out of character with this rural portion of Pulaski County. Current and future residents of Central Arkansas—indeed of the entire state—should be able to enjoy the benefits of this beautiful part of Pulaski County.

In light of these facts that have been identified and other questions that have been raised, it is essential to have a comprehensive and thorough understanding of all the impacts of this proposal before moving forward. For these reasons, at a minimum, an impact study must be conducted before moving forward.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I may be of further assistance on this matter. Thank you for your consideration.

With appreciation,



Clarke Tucker
State Senator
District 32