



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

FEB 27 2018

Executive Office

Ms. Mary D. Shahid
Nexsen/Pruet, LLC
Post Office Box 4888
Charleston, South Carolina 29402

Dear Ms. Shahid:

I am writing in response to your May 19, June 16, September 7, 2017, and January 9, 2018, letters requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) change the shoreline allocation from "protected area" to "limited development area" (LDA) to allow for a community dock to serve a proposed water-front development by Clemson Family Investors, LLC. The delay in responding to your request was so it could receive full consideration during the scoping of the Update to the Hartwell Shoreline Management Plan (SMP). After careful consideration, we have determined that the SMP Update will not engage in a reallocation of shoreline.

While you requested a change in the allocation specifically in front of your client's property, our regulations and precedence support changes in allocation only through a comprehensive SMP update process. The Corps regulations require balancing a variety of interests across the project when engaging in shoreline allocation. Such balance is accomplished by a comprehensive process, and site specific allocation changes are inconsistent with the comprehensive balancing approach contemplated by the regulations.


In considering the request for a reevaluation of shoreline allocations across Hartwell Lake, a variety of factors were reviewed, including the current allocations. Hartwell Lake has more shoreline allocated as LDA than any other Corps project with LDAs accounting for 50 percent of the shoreline allocation. There are approximately 11,000 docks permitted, with another approximately 10,000 docks which can be authorized under the existing allocation.

Based on the number of docks which could be allowed, and the large portion of Harwell Lake currently allocated as LDA, consideration must be given to balancing the other competing uses. Increasing LDAs at the expense of other allocations (e.g. protected areas) will restrict use of the project for those other purposes. Because of these facts, I have determined that a reallocation of the shoreline is not appropriate in connection with the current SMP Update.

Your June 16, 2017, letter referenced a reserved easement for a sewage outfall line and water intake station, and implied the easement has a connection to the request for a community dock. While your letter did not explain the connection, I request you consult with our counsel in the pursuit of further clarity on this issue (see contact information below).

Your understanding of the management decisions necessary to protect the natural resources at Hartwell Lake while balancing competing demands and uses is appreciated. If you have any further questions regarding the public land adjacent to your client's proposed development, please contact Mr. Phillip Paradise, Assistant District Counsel at 912-652-5143, or Phillip.T.Paradise@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,


Marvin L. Griffin, P.E.
Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding