

December 26, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, S. C. 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

We are earnestly appealing for your assistance in a matter that affects not only us but our neighbors as well.

We live in the town of St. Matthews in Calhoun County at 103 Forest Drive. There is a creek that runs through our town, under the railroad track, and behind our house. When we get as little as 1 ½ inches of rain in a short amount of time, the creek floods our yards. This flooding is due to several circumstances to include the widening of Highway 601, the new construction of commercial building with parking lot, as well as the huge amount of run-off that comes from up stream which is littered with everything imaginable.

Governor Haley, we have lived here for 18 years and admittedly, this kind of flooding has occurred probably 8 times over the years; however, the damage and erosion that has affected our properties at this point is quite severe. We had a civil engineer come and evaluate our property. His report and pictures are enclosed for your review as well as a petition signed by those neighbors whose property is also affected by this problem.

I have written DHEC regarding the tremendous amount of water run-off; I have written our representative, Russell Ott asking for his assistance with this matter.

I realize our problem may not seem so great when compared to the many other ongoing issues that you and our great state must handle. But I earnestly request that you consider what could be done to help our neighborhood with this serious problem. We would be forever grateful for any assistance you could provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Laing". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Mrs. George Laing (Cheryl)

DALE DUDLEY, PE

CIVIL ENGINEER

December 6, 2015

George / Cheryl

I visited your property at 103 Forest Drive in St. Matthews on October 24, 2015 to observe the erosion and evidence of flooding of the creek in your back yard. The photographs below show that the creek banks have not contained the amount of water being released onto your property, causing erosion behind the concrete block retaining wall and under your driveway parking pad.



Upstream from your property, the creek passes through culverts that cross a railroad and US Hwy 601. These culverts drain a couple of hundred acres (est.) west of US Hwy 601 and the railroad. I understand that the culverts under the railroad upstream from your property have been upgraded since you purchased your property. I also understand that these upgrades were made due to flooding problems upstream of the railroad. To improve upstream conditions, the capacity of the culverts would have been increased, allowing a greater flow rate to your property. A hydrology study would be necessary to quantify the increase, but an increased flow rate would be necessary to improve upstream conditions. The engineer who designed the culvert improvements should have the pre-improvement and post improvement flow rates, showing how much more runoff would have been allowed downstream to your property during various rainfall amounts.

DALE DUDLEY, PE

CIVIL ENGINEER

There are two possible ways to help alleviate your flooding:

1. Improve the capacity of the creek downstream from your property. This would involve cleaning out any debris and vegetation in the creek bed, and eliminating as many bends and turns as possible.
2. Construct a detention pond upstream from your property. This would allow runoff to be stored and released at a lower rate. This option would require property for a pond, and would also impact upstream conditions. In effect, the railroad crossing provided this storage prior to the culvert improvements.

Note: There is a small detention pond across the creek from your property. This appears to be detaining runoff from US Hwy 601. It has no effect on the runoff generated from the area upstream (west) of the railroad and 601.

A hydrology study would need to be done to recommend the extent of either of the two options.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I'll be happy to discuss this with you at any time.

Sincerely:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dale Dudley".

Dale Dudley, PE

PETITION

WATER RUN-OFF AND CREEK FLOODING

We, the undersigned, hereby respectfully petition the proper authority to alleviate the tremendous water run-off onto our property.

The aforementioned run-off comes from a creek that runs through the town of St. Matthews, under the railroad track and winds through the back yards of our property, which is located directly off of Highway 601 in the Valleybrook Subdivision. Specifically, beginning at 103 Forest Drive and continuing as it curves down the entire street of Brook Drive.

The run-off into this creek has increasingly become more and more damaging as new buildings are built with parking lots, the widening of Highway 601, and the lack of retaining ponds upstream which could help alleviate the tremendous run-off that has affected our properties.

A report by a civil engineer is enclosed along with pictures showing the damage at 103 Forest Drive.

We trust our earnest plea for aid to alleviate this problem will be met with deep concern, not only for the environment but for the affected properties as well.

NAME

ADDRESS

1. George & Cheryl Laing 103 Forest Dr., St. Matthews
2. Suzette Heckler 105 Brook Dr St. Matthews
3. Candice M. Hagan 215 Brook Dr St. Matthews
4. Rhonda B. Toole 101 Brook Drive, St. Matthews
5. Steve K. Toole 101 Brook Drive, St. Matthews
6. Chafford M. Toole 101 Brook Drive, St. Matthews
7. Brandi N. Pacheco 201 Brook Drive St. Matthews
8. Jennifer W. Wale 203 Brook Drive St. Matthews
9. Franklin Wade 103 Brook Dr St. Matthews SC
10. Jimmy and Jackie Nye