

Maggie Goodlander and Jake Sullivan 86 New Castle Avenue Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801

March 26, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

We hereby authorize West Environmental to act as our agent for this application.

Respectfully,

Jake Sullivan

Maggie Goodlander



48 Stevens Hill Road, Nottingham, NH 03290 603-734-4298 ♦ mark@westenv.net

Jake Sullivan 86 New Castle Ave Portsmouth, NH o3801 March 27, 2019

RE: Wetland Conditional Use Permit for 86 New Castle Ave Portsmouth, NH

**SUBJ: Wetland Impact Assessment Report** 

Dear Jake:

West Environmental, Inc. flagged the inland and tidal wetland boundaries on your property on January 15, 2019 with no snow cove. A follow-up inspection was conducted on March 20<sup>th</sup> to photo document the site and conduct a wetland evaluation. The wetlands were delineated according to the following standards:

- US Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual, Technical Report Y-87-1 (January 1987).
- Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Northcentral and Northeast Region (2012).
- National List of Plant Species That Occur in Wetlands: Northeast (Region 1). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (May 1988).
- Code of Administrative Rules. Wetlands Board, State of New Hampshire (Current).

We evaluated soil probes and plant communities to determine the edge of wetland. The inland wetland is a ditched wet meadow with areas of scrub-shrub that drains into the tidal wetland through a culvert under a berm. This area was dominated by wetland dependent plant species and hydric soils. There are paths with culverts through this wetland to the berm. There is some invasive purple loosestrife pants present but the wet meadow is dominated by grasses, sedges and wildflowers. Shrub species observed include silky dogwood, buttonbush, and northern arrowwood. There are a few invasive multiflora rose present in this wetland. The soils are silt loams under-laid by clay. There is a very small pond in the wetland that drains into the ditch system.

We have attached photo documentation of the wetlands and the inland upland buffer zone where the proposed addition and patio are planned.

#### **Wetland Function**

The wetland was evaluated utilizing a wetland assessment methodology developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers New England Divisions Highway Methodology Workbook Supplement. This evaluation is based on collection of data on the physical characteristics of the wetland through field inspections, research of existing information and best professional judgment. This methodology provides a better understanding of the physical characteristics of each wetland for both its functions and values.

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The physical features were evaluated to determine if a function is present. The wetland is then evaluated to determine if the function present is a principal function of that wetland based on comparison to other wetlands in the region and using professional judgment. This assessment evaluated the following wetland functions:

 Groundwater Recharge/Discharge — This function includes the ability of a wetland to provide recharge of surface water into the ground and/or discharge groundwater into surface waters.

This wetland has dense soils that do not allow for groundwater recharge.

• Flood-flow Alteration — This function considers the effectiveness of the wetland in reducing flood damage by attenuation of floodwaters for prolonged periods following precipitation events.

This wetland provides some flood storage, but the ditching reduces the effectiveness of this function.

Sediment/Toxicant/Pathogen Retention — The presence of this function reduces or prevents degradation of water quality because the wetland acts as a trap for sediments, toxicants or pathogens.

This wetland provides some of this function, but the ditching reduces the resident time of stormwater in this wetland.

 Nutrient Removal/Retention Transformation — This function relates to the effectiveness of the wetland to prevent adverse effects of excess nutrients entering surface waters or aquifers.

The lack of organic soils and shallow or deep marsh habitat limit this function.

Product Export – This function relates to the effectiveness of the wetland to produce food
or usable products for human or other living organisms.

This function is provided to a small degree by the fruit bearing shrubs in this wetland

 Sediment/Shoreline Stabilization — This function relates to the effectiveness of a wetland to stabilize stream banks and shorelines against erosion.

This function is present in the form of stable wet meadow banks along the ditched stream.

Wildlife Habitat — This function considers the effectiveness of the wetland to provide
habitat for various types and populations of animals typically associated with the wetland and
the wetland edge (includes resident and migratory species).

Due to the location in a residential setting this function is moderate to low. The presence of the small stream and proximity to tidal wetlands prevent it from lower function.

**Restoration Stabilization Potential** — This assessment includes evaluating the restoration potential of wetlands that have ecological deterioration due to human activity. This includes water quality impacts, invasive species, ditching and fill from erosion or human disturbance.

There is an opportunity to restore some function by removing the culverts in this wetland and replacing them with small wooden bridges.

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# **Wetland Impacts**

There are no direct wetland impacts associated with this project. The impacts to 100-foot inland wetland buffer include 405 SF of house addition most of which in located over an existing deck and 630 SF of pervious pavers for a patio and walk ways located over lawn and landscaped areas. There are 1,729 SF of temporary impacts to lawn and landscaped areas most of which will be planted with native flowers and shrubs.

The closest temporary impacts are 39 feet away from the wetland. The closest permanent impacts are 59 feet away for the pervious patio and 63 feet for the addition. The proposed landscaping plan will re establish a vegetated buffer to the wetland in addition to the trees and shrubs that will remain in the buffer. These activities will not have a significant impact to the functions of the wetland due to the nature of the landscaped impact areas and the distance to the resource area.

## Mitigation

The proposed landscaping will help mitigate wetland buffer impacts and the applicant can also remove the culverts in the ditched stream to provide unrestricted flow. We have contacted the NHDES staff and Peter Britz and both agree that this is a good restoration plan to mitigate buffer zone impacts.

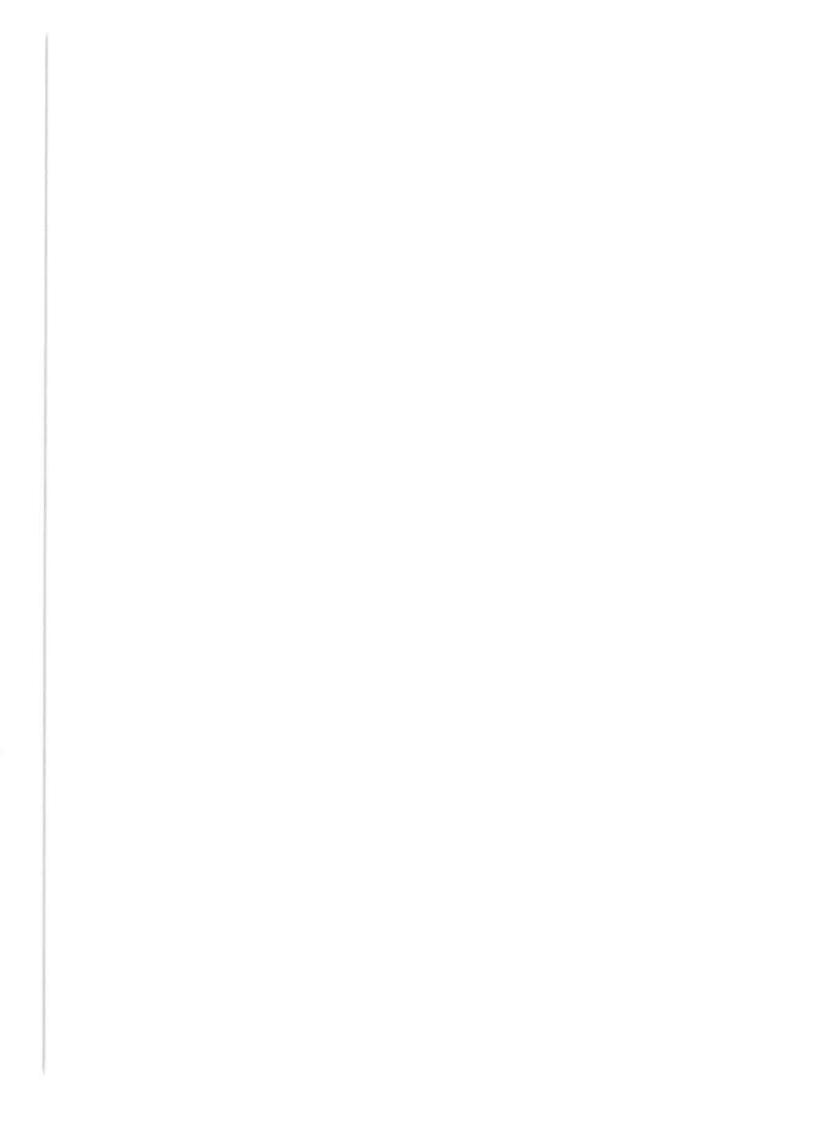
This completes our report and we hope that it meets your needs. Please call our office if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

West Environmental, Inc.

Mark C. West,

NH Certified Wetland Scientist #10



Photographic Documentation – 86 New Castle Ave Portsmouth



1. Looking south towards the wetland from the proposed terrace location with the studio on the right.



2. Looking north towards the house from the edge of the inland wetland.



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3. Looking west at the deck where the addition is proposed. The temporary impacts will start on the other side of this landscape bed.



4. Looking north at the deck where the addition will go and the lawn area where the patio will go in front of the addition.



Photographic Documentation - 86 New Castle Ave Portsmouth

Photos Taken 3/20/19



5. Looking south down the path through the wetland towards the tidal wetland.



6. This is a view of one of the culverts to be removed.



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<u>Photographic Documentation - 86 New Castle Ave Portsmouth</u>

Photos Taken 3/20/19



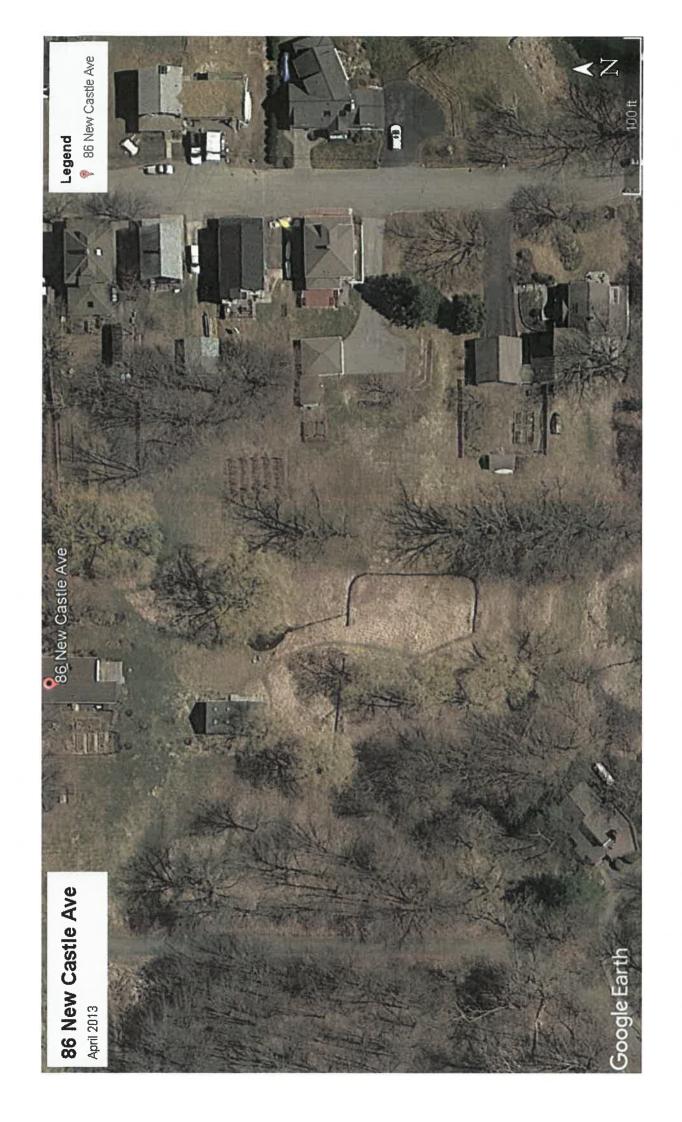
7. This is a view of the berm between the inland wetland and the tidal wetland on the left.

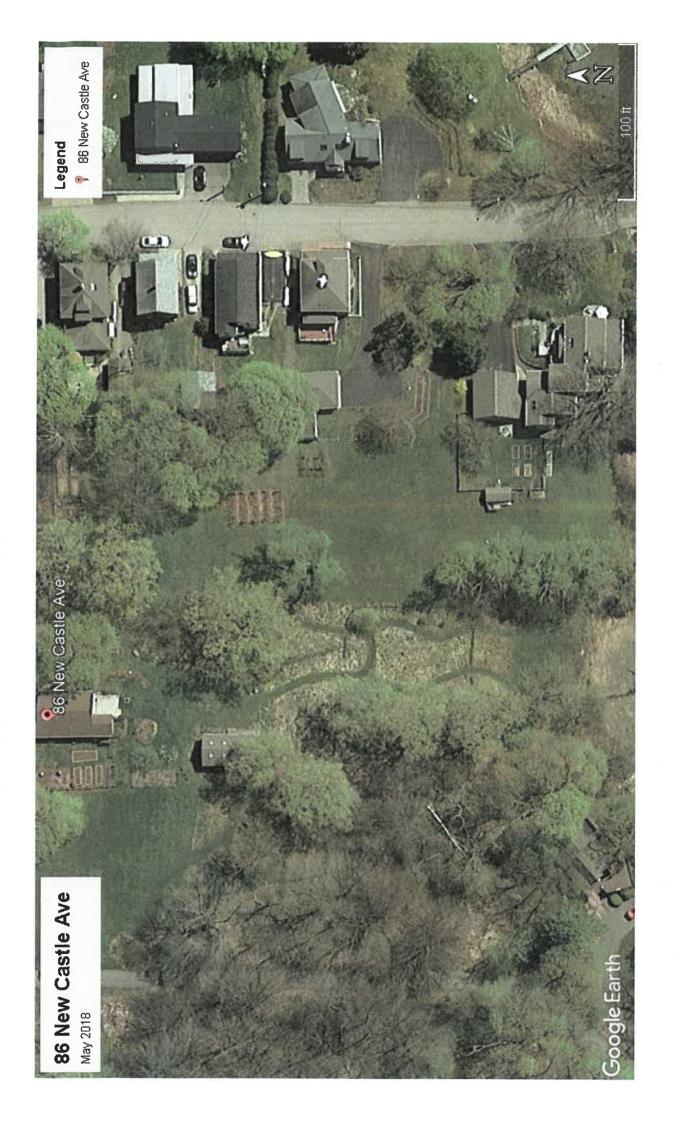


8. Looking north across the inland wetland from the berm with house in background.



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# Landscaping Plant Species for 86 New Castle Road, Portsmouth 3-27-19

Below is a list of species to be planted in the temporary impact areas within the inland wetland buffer zone. Existing plants and shrubs should be salvaged prior to construction if possible.

#### **Shrubs**

Arrowwood Viburnum

Azalea

Bigleaf Hydrangea

Highbush Blueberry

Lowbush Blueberry

Inkberry

Large Cranberry

Northern Bayberry

Rhododendron

Shrubby Cinqufoil

Sweet Pepperbush

Virginia Rose

#### Perennials and Annuals

Asters

Goldenrods

Lavender and other herbs

Anemone

Milkweed

Bachelors button

Carolina Lupine

Trillium

And many others

#### **Wetland Restoration Notes**

The culverts will be removed during low flow-dry conditions mostly by hand tools except for the concrete pipe. All exposed soils will be seeded with a native wetland seed mix and straw mulched to prevent erosion.

