

## Chapter 8. Post Construction Storm Water Regulations

### 155.801. General Provisions [formerly § 154]

- A. **TITLE.** These regulations shall be officially known as the “Post Construction Storm Water Ordinance” and is commonly known as and referred to in this Title as the “PCO”. **[formerly known as § 154.001]**
- B. **AUTHORITY.** The Town is authorized to adopt these regulations pursuant to North Carolina law, including but not limited to Article 14, Section 5 of the Constitution of North Carolina; North Carolina General Statutes 143-214.7 and rules promulgated by the Environmental Management Commission; Session Law 2004-163; Chapter 160A, §§ 174, 185. **[formerly known as § 154.002]**
- C. **FINDINGS.** It is hereby determined that: Development and redevelopment alter the hydrologic response of local watersheds and increase storm water runoff rates and volumes, flooding, soil erosion, stream channel erosion, non-point source pollution, and sediment transport and deposition, as well as reduce groundwater recharge; these changes in storm water runoff contribute to increased quantities of water-borne pollutants and alterations in hydrology which are harmful to public health and safety as well as to the natural environment; and these effects can be managed and minimized by applying proper design and well planned controls to manage storm water runoff from development sites. Further, the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972 (“Clean Water Act”) and Federal Phase II Storm Water Rules promulgated under it, as well as rules of the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission promulgated in response to federal Phase II requirements, compel certain urbanized areas, including the Town of Matthews (the “Town”), to adopt the minimum storm water controls such as those included in the PCO. Therefore, the Town establishes this set of water quality and quantity regulations to meet the requirements of state and federal law regarding control of storm water runoff and discharge. **[formerly known as § 154.003]**
- D. **PURPOSE.**
1. **GENERAL.** The purpose of these regulations is to protect, maintain and enhance the public health, safety, environment and general welfare by establishing minimum requirements and procedures to control the adverse effects of increased post construction storm water runoff and non-point source pollution associated with new development and redevelopment. It has been determined that proper management of construction-related and post construction storm water runoff will minimize damage to public and private property and infrastructure, safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare, and protect water and aquatic resources.



2. SPECIFIC. These regulations seek to meet its general purpose through the following specific objectives and means:
  - a. Establishing decision-making processes for development that protect the integrity of watersheds and preserve the health of water resources;
  - b. Minimizing changes to the predevelopment hydrologic response for new development and redevelopment in their post construction state in accordance with the requirements of these regulations for the applicable design storm in order to reduce flooding, streambank erosion, and non-point and point source pollution, as well as to maintain the integrity of stream channels, aquatic habitats and healthy stream temperatures;
  - c. Establishing minimum post construction storm water management standards and design criteria for the regulation and control of storm water runoff quantity and quality;
  - d. Establishing design and review criteria for the construction, function, and use of structural storm water control facilities that may be used to meet the minimum post construction storm water management standards;
  - e. Establishing criteria for the use of better management and site design practices, such as the preservation of greenspace and other conservation areas;
  - f. Establishing provisions for the long-term responsibility for and maintenance of structural and nonstructural storm water best management practices (BMPs) to ensure that they continue to function as designed, are maintained appropriately, and pose minimum risk to public safety;
  - g. Establishing administrative procedures for the submission, review, approval and disapproval of storm water management plans, for the inspection of approved projects, and to assure appropriate long-term maintenance; and
  - h. Coordinating post construction storm water control provisions to be consistent with other standards within this Title, including such areas as storm water detention, landscaping and tree canopy, open space, and nonconforming improvements. (Am. Ord. 2025A, passed 6-9-14) **[formerly known as § 154.004]**

E. APPLICABILITY AND JURISDICTION.

1. GOOSE CREEK DISTRICT. All developments and redevelopments within the corporate limits of the Town of Matthews in the Goose Creek District as illustrated by the “Post Construction Ordinance Map of the Town of Matthews” and described in 155.801.E.4. below are not subject to this Chapter, but rather are subject to the requirements contained in North Carolina Administrative Code 15A NCAC 2B.0600 – o.609 as administered by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources.
2. CATAWBA AND YADKIN DISTRICTS. The requirements of these regulations shall apply to all developments and redevelopments within the Town not within the Goose Creek District, unless one of the following exceptions applies to the development or redevelopment as of the effective date of June 30, 2007.
  - a. For residential development, preliminary subdivision plan application or in the case of minor subdivisions, construction plan for required improvements, submitted and accepted for review;
  - b. For nonresidential development, preliminary subdivision plan application submitted and accepted for review, provided that subdivision-wide water quality and quantity features required at the time of submittal are contained within the submittal and provided the plan is subsequently approved and all necessary easements are properly established;
  - c. Zoning use application submitted and accepted for review for uses that do not require a building permit;
  - d. Certificate of Building Code Compliance issued by the proper governmental authority;
  - f. Valid building permit issued pursuant to G.S. § 153A-344 or G.S. § 160A-385(b)(I), so long as the permit remains valid, unexpired, and unrevoked;

- g. Common law vested right established (e.g., the substantial expenditure of resources (time, labor, money) based on a good faith reliance upon having received a valid governmental approval to proceed with a project); and/or
  - h. A conditional zoning district or parallel conditional district approved prior to the effective date of this article/ordinance, provided formal plan submission has been made and accepted for review either prior to five (5) years from the Effective Date of these regulations in the case of conditional zoning districts approved on or after February 14, 2000 or prior to two (2) years from the Effective Date of these regulations in the case of conditional zoning districts approved prior to February 14, 2000, and provided such plans encompass either a minimum of twenty five (25%) of the area of the project, or any phase of a project so long as such phase is part of a project that includes project-wide water quality requirements to achieve eighty five percent (85%) Total Suspended Solids removal from developed areas. If no such formal plan submission occurs within the above-described five (5) year or two (2) year time frames, the requirements of these regulations shall be applied to the project, except for total phosphorus removal, undisturbed open space and buffer requirements not in effect at the time of the approval of the conditional zoning district, all of which do not apply. Any changes to a conditional zoning district necessary to comply with the requirements of these regulations shall be made through administrative amendment and not through a rezoning.
- 3. EXEMPTIONS. The requirements of the PCO shall not apply within the corporate limits with respect to the following types of development or redevelopment activities:
  - a. Residential development that cumulatively disturbs less than one acre and cumulatively creates less than twenty four percent (24%) built upon area based on lot size or the lot is less than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet (lot must have been described by metes and bounds in a recorded deed prior to the Effective Date of the PCO and cannot be part of a larger development);
  - b. Commercial and industrial development that cumulatively disturbs less than one acre and cumulatively creates less than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet of built upon area (built upon area includes gravel and other partially impervious materials);
  - c. Redevelopment that incorporates removal of some or all previous buildings and above-ground structures but reuses existing impervious area (same footings/foundations) for new buildings, that results in no net increase in built upon area, that cumulatively disturbs less than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet and is not part of a larger common plan of development or sale;
  - d. Any intensification of development on an existing improved/partially improved site not part of a larger common plan of development or sale, which may convert ground-level impervious surface to more intense uses, such as a paved area being converted to a building, in no net increase in built-upon area, that cumulatively disturbs less than twenty thousand (20,000) square feet, and that provides equal or greater storm water control than the previous development;
  - e. Any intensification of development on an existing improved/partially improved site which is part of a larger common plan of development or sale, and only when the overall larger common plan for development or sale has already incorporated and installed sufficient storm water control improvements such that no further storm water control measures are necessary to accommodate the new impervious area being created; and
  - f. Activities exempt from permit requirements of § 404 of the federal Clean Water Act, as specified in 40 CFR 232 (primarily, ongoing farming and forestry activities). (Am. Ord. 2025A, passed 6-9-14)
- 4. NO DEVELOPMENT OR REDEVELOPMENT UNTIL COMPLIANCE AND PERMIT. No development or redevelopment shall occur except in compliance with the provisions of the PCO or unless exempted. No development for which a permit is required pursuant to the PCO shall occur except in compliance with the provisions, conditions, and limitations of the permit.

5. MAP. The provisions of the PCO shall apply within the areas designated on the map titled “Post Construction Ordinance Map of the Town of Matthews, North Carolina” (hereafter referred to as the “Post Construction Ordinance Map” or “PCO Map”), which is adopted simultaneously with this Chapter. The Post Construction Ordinance Map and all explanatory matter contained on it accompanies and is made a part of the PCO. The Post Construction Ordinance Map shall be kept on file by the Storm Water Administrator or designee (the “Storm Water Administrator”) and shall be updated to take into account changes in the land area covered by the PCO and the geographic location of all structural BMPs permitted under the PCO. In the event of a dispute, the applicability of the PCO to a particular area of land or BMP shall be determined by appeal through the Storm Water Administrator. **[formerly known as § 154.005]**

**F. INTERPRETATION.**

1. MEANING AND INTENT. All provisions, terms, phrases, and expressions contained in the PCO shall be construed according to the general and specific purposes set forth in § 155.801.D, Purpose. If a different or more specific meaning is given for a term defined elsewhere in this Title, the meaning and application of the term in the PCO shall control for purposes of application of the PCO.
2. TEXT CONTROLS IN EVENT OF CONFLICT. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between the text of the PCO and any heading, caption, figure, illustration, table, or map, the text shall control.
3. AUTHORITY FOR INTERPRETATION. The Storm Water Administrator has authority to interpret the PCO. Any person may request an interpretation by submitting a written request to the Storm Water Administrator who shall respond in writing within thirty (30) days. The Storm Water Administrator shall keep on file a record of all written interpretations of the PCO.
4. REFERENCES TO STATUTES, REGULATIONS, AND DOCUMENTS. Whenever reference is made to a resolution, ordinance, statute, regulation, manual (including the Design and Administrative Manuals), or document, it shall be construed as a reference to the most recent edition of such that has been finalized and published with due provision for notice and comment, unless otherwise specifically stated.
5. COMPUTATION OF TIME. The time in which an act is to be done shall be computed by excluding the first day and including the last day. If a deadline or required date of action falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday observed by the Town, the deadline or required date of action shall be the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday or holiday observed by the Town. References to days are calendar days unless otherwise stated.
6. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY. Any act authorized by the PCO to be carried out by the Storm Water Administrator of the Town may be carried out by his or her designee.
7. USAGE.
  - a. MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY TERMS. The words “shall”, “must”, and “will” are mandatory in nature, establishing an obligation or duty to comply with the particular provision. The words “may” and “should” are permissive in nature.
  - b. CONJUNCTIONS. Unless the context clearly indicates the contrary, conjunctions shall be interpreted as follows: The word “and” indicates that all connected items, conditions, provisions or events apply. The word “or” indicates that one or more of the connected items, conditions, provisions or events apply.
  - c. TENSE, PLURALS, AND GENDER. Words used in the present tense include the future tense. Words used in the singular number include the plural number and the plural number includes the singular number, unless the context of the particular usage clearly indicates otherwise. Words used in the masculine gender include the feminine gender, and vice versa.
8. MEASUREMENT AND COMPUTATION. Lot area refers to the amount of horizontal land area contained inside the lot lines of a lot or site. **[formerly known as § 154.006]**

**G. DESIGN MANUAL.**

1. REFERENCE TO DESIGN MANUAL. The Storm Water Administrator shall use the policy, criteria, and information, including technical specifications and standards, in the Design Manual as the basis for

decisions about storm water management permits and about the design, implementation and performance of structural and non-structural storm water BMPs. The Design Manual includes a list of acceptable storm water treatment practices, including the specific design criteria for each storm water practice. Storm water treatment practices that are designed and constructed in accordance with these design and sizing criteria will be presumed to meet the minimum water quality performance standards of the PCO and the Phase II laws. Failure to construct storm water treatment practices in accordance with these criteria may subject the violator to a civil penalty as described in § 155.807 of the PCO.

2. **RELATIONSHIP OF DESIGN MANUAL TO OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS.** If the specifications or guidelines of the Design Manual are more restrictive or apply a higher standard than other laws or regulations, that fact shall not prevent application of the specifications or guidelines in the Design Manual.
3. **CHANGES TO STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS.** Standards, specifications, guidelines, policies, criteria, or other information in the Design Manual in effect at the time of acceptance of a complete application shall control and shall be utilized in reviewing the application and in implementing the PCO with regard to the application.
4. **AMENDMENTS TO DESIGN MANUAL.** The Design Manual may be updated and expanded from time to time, based on advancements in technology and engineering, improved knowledge of local conditions, or local monitoring or maintenance experience. Prior to amending or updating the Design Manual, proposed changes shall be generally publicized and made available for review, and an opportunity for comment by interested persons shall be provided. **[formerly known as § 154.007]**

**H. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS, REGULATIONS AND PRIVATE AGREEMENTS.**

1. **CONFLICT OF LAWS.** The PCO is not intended to modify or repeal any other ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law. The requirements of the PCO are in addition to the requirements of any other ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law, and where any provision of the PCO imposes restrictions different from those imposed by any other ordinance, rule, regulation or other provision of law, whichever provision is more restrictive or imposes higher protective standards for human or environmental health, safety, and welfare, shall control.
2. **PRIVATE AGREEMENTS.** The PCO is not intended to revoke or repeal any easement, covenant, or other private agreement. However, where the regulations of the PCO are more restrictive or impose higher standards or requirements than such easement, covenant, or other private agreement, then the requirements of the PCO shall govern. Nothing in the PCO shall modify or repeal any private covenant or deed restriction, but such covenant or restriction shall not legitimize any failure to comply with the PCO. In no case shall the Town be obligated to enforce the provisions of any easements, covenants, or agreements between private parties. **[formerly known as § 154.008]**

**I. EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS.**

1. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** The PCO shall take effect on June 30, 2007.
2. **VIOLATIONS CONTINUE.** Any violation of the provisions of the PCO existing as of the Effective Date of the PCO shall continue to be a violation under the PCO and be subject to penalties and enforcement unless the use, development, construction, or other activity complies with the provisions of the PCO. **[formerly known as § 154.110]**

**155.802. Administration and Procedures [formerly § 154, Section II]**

- A. **THE STORM WATER ADMINISTRATOR.** The Storm Water Administrator has designated responsibilities as listed at § 155.206. **[formerly known as § 154.021, moved to § 155.206]**
- B. **REVIEW PROCEDURES.**
  1. **PERMIT REQUIRED; MUST APPLY FOR PERMIT.** A storm water management permit is required for all development and redevelopment unless exempt pursuant to the PCO. A permit may only be issued subsequent to a properly submitted, reviewed and approved permit application, pursuant to this Chapter. The content and form of the permit shall be established by the Storm Water Administrator.

2. **EFFECT OF PERMIT.** A storm water management permit shall govern the design, installation, and construction of storm water management and control practices on the site, including structural BMPs and elements of site design for storm water management other than structural BMPs. The permit is intended to provide a mechanism for the review, approval, and inspection of the approach to be used for the management and control of storm water for the development or redevelopment site consistent with the requirements of the PCO, whether the approach consists of structural BMPs or other techniques such as low-impact or low-density design. Compliance after project construction is assured by the maintenance provision of the PCO.
3. **AUTHORITY TO FILE APPLICATIONS.** All applications required pursuant to the PCO shall be submitted to the Storm Water Administrator by the land owner or the land owner's duly authorized agent or anyone having interest in the property by reason of a written contract with the owner.
4. **ESTABLISHMENT OF APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS, SCHEDULE, AND FEES.**
  - a. **APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORM** The Storm Water Administrator shall establish requirements for the content and form of all applications and shall amend and update those requirements from time to time. At a minimum, the storm water management permit application shall describe in detail how post construction storm water runoff will be controlled and managed, the design of all storm water facilities and practices, and how the proposed project will meet the requirements of the PCO.
  - b. **SUBMISSION SCHEDULE.** The Storm Water Administrator shall establish a submission schedule for applications. The schedule shall establish deadlines by which complete applications must be submitted for the purpose of ensuring that there is adequate time to review applications, and that the various stages in the review process are accommodated.
  - c. **PERMIT REVIEW FEES.** The Storm Water Administrator shall establish permit review fees as well as policies regarding refund of any fees upon withdrawal of an application, and may amend and update the fees and policies from time to time.
  - d. **ADMINISTRATIVE MANUAL.** For applications required under the PCO, the Storm Water Administrator shall compile into an Administrative Manual the application requirements, submittal checklist, submission schedule, fee schedule, maintenance agreements, a copy of the PCO, and where to obtain the Design Manual, as well as other information and materials necessary for the effective administration of the PCO. This Administrative Manual shall be made available to the public.
5. **SUBMITTAL OF COMPLETE APPLICATION.** Applications shall be submitted to the Storm Water Administrator pursuant to the application submittal schedule in the form established by the Storm Water Administrator, along with the appropriate fee established pursuant to this Chapter. An application shall be considered as timely submitted only when it contains all elements of a complete application pursuant to the PCO, along with the appropriate fee. If the Storm Water Administrator finds that an application is incomplete, the applicant shall be notified of the deficient elements and shall be provided with an opportunity to submit a complete application. However, the submittal of an incomplete application shall not suffice to meet a deadline contained in the submission schedule established above.
6. **REVIEW.** Within thirty (30) working days after a complete application is submitted, the Storm Water Administrator shall review the application and determine whether the application complies with the standards of the PCO. A copy of the application including all attachments shall be provided to the Town for review.
  - a. **APPROVAL.** If the Storm Water Administrator finds that the application complies with the standards of the PCO, the Storm Water Administrator shall approve the application and issue a storm water management permit to the applicant. The Storm Water Administrator may impose conditions of approval as needed to ensure compliance with the PCO. The conditions shall be included in the permit as part of the approval.
  - b. **FAILS TO COMPLY.** If the Storm Water Administrator finds that the application fails to comply with the standards of the PCO, the Storm Water Administrator shall notify the applicant and shall indicate how the application fails to comply. The applicant shall have an opportunity to submit a revised application.

- c. **REVISION AND SUBSEQUENT REVIEW.** A complete revised application shall be reviewed by the Storm Water Administrator within fifteen (15) working days after its re-submittal and shall be approved, approved with conditions or disapproved. If a revised application is not re-submitted within sixty (60) calendar days from the date the applicant was notified, the application shall be considered withdrawn, and a new submittal for the same or substantially the same project shall be required along with the appropriate fee. **[formerly known as § 154.022]**

C. APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL.

- 1. **CONCEPT PLAN AND CONSULTATION MEETING.** A Concept Plan shall be submitted to and approved by the Storm Water Administrator prior to approval of the preliminary plan for a project or approval of a rezoning application, and prior to submittal of a Storm Water Management Permit Application. The Concept Plan should be submitted for review along with sketch plans for the project. The purpose of the Concept Plan is to demonstrate how a proposed project shall comply with the post construction ordinance requirements in the early stages of project design. At the time of submittal of a Concept Plan the Storm Water Administrator or land owner or the land owner's duly authorized agent or anyone having interest in the property, by reason of a written contract with the owner, may request consultation(s) on a Concept Plan for the post construction storm water management system to be utilized in the proposed development project. This consultation meeting(s) should take place at the time of the preliminary plan of the subdivision, submission of a rezoning application, or other early step in the development process. The purpose of this meeting(s) is to discuss the post construction storm water management measures necessary for the proposed project, as well as to discuss and assess constraints, opportunities and potential approaches to storm water management designs before formal site design engineering is commenced. Local watershed plans and other relevant resource protection plans may be consulted in the discussion of the Concept Plan. To accomplish this goal the following information should be included in the Concept Plan, which should be submitted in advance of the meeting as specified in the Administrative Manual.
  - a. **EXISTING CONDITIONS / PROPOSED SITE PLANS.** A Concept Plan shall include existing conditions and proposed site layout sketch plans, which illustrate at a minimum: existing and proposed topography; perennial and intermittent streams; mapping of predominant soils from soil surveys; boundaries of existing predominant vegetation and proposed limits of clearing and grading; proposed Undisturbed Open Space area; and location of existing and proposed roads, buildings, parking areas and other impervious surfaces.
  - b. **NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY.** A Concept Plan submitted prior to a consultation meeting shall include a written or graphic inventory of the natural resources at the site and surrounding area as it exists prior to the commencement of the project. This description should include a discussion of soil conditions, forest cover, geologic features, topography, wetlands, and native vegetative areas on the site, as well as the location and boundaries of other natural feature protection and conservation areas such as lakes, ponds, flood plains, stream buffers and other setbacks (e.g., drinking water well setbacks, septic system setbacks, etc.) Particular attention should be paid to environmentally sensitive features that provide particular opportunities or constraints for development.
  - c. **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM CONCEPT PLAN.** A Concept Plan shall include the proposed post construction storm water management system including: preliminary selecting and location of proposed structural storm water controls; low impact design elements; location of existing and proposed conveyance systems such as grass channels, swales, and storm drains; flow paths; location of proposed Undisturbed Open Space areas; location of all floodplain/floodway limits; relationship of site to upstream and downstream properties and drainages; and preliminary location of proposed stream channel modifications, such as bridge or culvert crossings.
- 2. **STORM WATER MANAGEMENT PERMIT APPLICATION.** The storm water management permit application shall detail how post construction storm water runoff will be controlled and managed and how the proposed project will meet the requirements of the PCO, including § 155.803, Standards. All such plans submitted with the application shall be prepared by a registered North Carolina professional engineer or landscape architect. The engineer or landscape architect shall

perform services only in their area of competence, and shall verify that the design of all storm water management facilities and practices meets the submittal requirements for complete applications, that the designs and plans are sufficient to comply with applicable standards and policies found in the Design Manual, and that the designs and plans ensure compliance with the PCO. The submittal shall include all of the information required in the submittal checklist established by the Storm Water Administrator. Incomplete submittals shall be treated pursuant to § 155.802.B.5.

3. **AS-BUILT PLANS AND FINAL APPROVAL.** The applicant shall certify that the completed project is in accordance with the approved storm water management plans and designs, and shall submit actual “as- built” plans for all storm water management facilities or practices after final construction is completed. Failure to provide approved as-built plans within the time frame specified by the Storm Water Administrator may result in assessment of penalties as specified in § 155.807, Violations and Enforcement. At the discretion of the Storm Water Administrator, performance securities or bonds may be required for storm water management facilities or practices until as-built plans are approved. As-built plans shall show the final design specifications for all storm water management facilities and practices and the field location, size, depth, and planted vegetation of all measures, controls, and devices, as installed, and location and size of all Undisturbed Open Space areas and tree plantings. The designer of the storm water management measures and plans shall certify, under seal, that the as-built storm water measures, controls, and devices are in compliance with the approved storm water management plans and designs and with the requirements of the PCO. Final as-built plans and a final inspection and approval by the Storm Water Administrator are required before a project is determined to be in compliance with the PCO. At the discretion of the Storm Water Administrator, certificates of occupancy may be withheld pending receipt of as-built plans and the completion of a final inspection and approval of a project. **[formerly known as § 154.023]**

D. APPROVALS.

1. **EFFECT OF APPROVAL.** Approval authorizes the applicant to go forward with only the specific plans and activity authorized in the permit. The approval shall not be construed to exempt the applicant from obtaining other applicable approvals from local, state, and federal authorities.
2. **TIME LIMIT/EXPIRATION.** A Storm Water Management Permit and accompanying plan approved under the provisions of the PCO shall remain valid for a period of three (3) years from the date of approval. If no work on the site in furtherance of the plan has commenced within the three (3) year period, the permit and plan approval will become null and void and a new application will be required to develop the site. If work on the site in furtherance of the plan has commenced that involves any utility installations or street improvements except grading, the permit and plan shall remain valid and in force and the project may be completed in accordance with the approved plan. **[formerly known as § 154.024]**

E. APPEALS AND VARIANCES.

1. **POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE STORM WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** The Storm Water Advisory Committee (the “SWAC”), shall have the following powers and duties:
  - a. **ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW.** To hear and decide appeals according to the procedures set forth in this Chapter, where it is alleged there is an error in any order, decision, determination, or interpretation made by the Storm Water Administrator in the enforcement of the PCO, including assessments of remedies and/or penalties.
  - b. **VARIANCES.** To grant variances in specific cases from the terms of the PCO according to the standards and procedures in § 155.802.E.
2. **PETITION TO SWAC FOR APPEAL OR VARIANCE.** An appeal may be initiated by any aggrieved person affected by any decision, order, requirement, or determination relating to the interpretation or application of the PCO. A petition for variance from the requirements of the PCO may be initiated by the owner of the affected property, an agent authorized in writing to act on the owner’s behalf, or a person having written contractual interest in the affected property.
  - a. **FILING OF NOTICE OF APPEAL.** A notice of appeal shall be filed with the Storm Water Administrator contesting any order, decision, determination or interpretation within thirty (30) working days of the day of the order, decision, determination or interpretation made or rendered by the Storm Water Administrator in the enforcement of the PCO, including



assessments of remedies and penalties. SWAC may waive or extend the thirty (30) day deadline only upon determining that the person filing the notice of appeal received no actual or constructive form of notice of the order, decision, determination or interpretation being appealed. The notice filed with the Storm Water Administrator shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable filing fee as established by SWAC as well as a list of adjoining properties including tax parcel numbers and the name and address of each owner. Failure to timely file such notice and fee shall constitute a waiver of any rights to appeal under the PCO. Upon receipt of a notice of appeal, the Storm Water Administrator shall transmit to SWAC copies of all administrative papers, records, and other information regarding the subject matter of the appeal. The filing of such notice shall stay any proceedings in furtherance of the contested action, except the Storm Water Administrator may certify in writing to SWAC that because of facts stated in the certificate, a stay imposes an imminent peril to life or property or would seriously interfere with the enforcement of the PCO. SWAC shall then review such certificate and may override the stay of further proceedings.

- b. **FILING A VARIANCE PETITION.** A petition for variance, in the form prescribed by SWAC, shall be filed with the Storm Water Administrator accompanied by a nonrefundable filing fee as established by SWAC as well as a list of adjoining properties including tax parcel numbers and the name and address of each owner. Upon receipt of a variance petition, the Storm Water Administrator shall transmit to SWAC copies of all information regarding the variance.
- c. **NOTICE AND HEARING.** SWAC shall, in accordance with the rules adopted by it for such purposes, hold public hearings on any appeal or variance petition which comes before it. SWAC shall, prior to the hearing, mail written notice of the time, place and subject of the hearing to the person or persons filing the notice of appeal or variance petition, to the owners of the subject property and to the owners of property adjacent to the subject property. The hearing shall be conducted in the nature of a quasi-judicial proceeding with all findings of fact supported by competent, material evidence.
- d. **STANDARDS FOR GRANTING AN APPEAL.** SWAC shall reverse or modify the order, decision, determination or interpretation under appeal only upon finding an error in the application of the PCO on the part of the Storm Water Administrator. In modifying the order, decision, determination or interpretation, SWAC shall have all the powers of the Storm Water Administrator from whom the appeal is taken. If SWAC finds that a violation of the PCO has occurred, but that in setting the amount of the penalty the Storm Water Administrator has not considered or given appropriate weight to either mitigating or aggravating factors, SWAC shall either decrease or increase the per day civil penalty within the range allowed by the PCO. Any decision of SWAC that modifies the amount of a civil penalty shall include, as part of the findings of fact and conclusions of law, findings as to which mitigating or aggravating factors exist and the appropriate weight that should have been given to such factors by the Storm Water Administrator in setting the amount of the civil penalty levied against the Petitioner.
- e. **STANDARDS FOR GRANTING A VARIANCE.** Before granting a variance, SWAC shall have made all the following findings:
  - i. Unnecessary hardships would result from the strict application of the PCO.
  - ii. The hardships result from conditions that are peculiar to the property, such as the location, size or topography of the property.
  - iii. The hardships did not result from actions taken by the petitioner.
  - iv. The requested variance is consistent with the spirit, purpose, and intent of the PCO; will secure public safety and welfare; and will preserve substantial justice.
- f. **VARIANCE CONDITIONS.** SWAC may impose reasonable and appropriate conditions and safeguards upon any variance it grants.
- g. **ACTION BY SWAC.** SWAC bylaws will determine the number of concurring votes needed to grant an appeal or request for variance. SWAC shall grant or deny the variance or shall reverse, affirm or modify the order, decision, determination or interpretation under appeal

by recording in the minutes of the meeting the reasons that SWAC used and the findings of fact and conclusions of law made by SWAC to reach its decision.

- h. REHEARING. SWAC shall refuse to hear an appeal or variance petition which has been previously denied unless it finds there have been substantial changes in the conditions or circumstances relating to the matter.
- 3. REVIEW BY SUPERIOR COURT. Every decision of SWAC shall be subject to Superior Court review by proceedings in the nature of *certiorari*. Petition for review by the Superior Court shall be filed with the Clerk of Superior Court within thirty (30) days after the later occurring of the following: 1) the decision of SWAC is filed; or 2) a written copy of the decision is delivered to every aggrieved party who has filed a written request for such copy with SWAC at the time of its hearing of the case. [formerly known as § 154.025]

### **155.803. Standards [formerly § 154, Section III]**

- A. GENERAL STANDARDS. All development and redevelopment to which the PCO applies shall comply with the standards of this section. [formerly known as § 154.031]
  - 1. All built-upon area for development and redevelopment subject to the requirements of this PCO shall be at a minimum thirty feet (30') landward of all perennial and intermittent surface waters. This built-upon area setback can be located within the stream buffer area defined by this PCO, but any disturbances within the built-upon area setback must also comply with SWIM buffers and detention standards as outlined at § 155.704, and regulated floodways as outlined in Chapter 9. A surface water shall be deemed present if the feature is approximately shown on either the most recent version of the soil survey map prepared by the Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture or the most recent version of the 1:24,000 scale (7.5 minute) quadrangle topographic maps prepared by the United States Geologic Survey (USGS). An exception to this requirement shall be granted if one or more of the following is satisfied and documented:
    - a. Based on an on-site determination by the Storm Water Administrator or designee, surface waters are not present on the site. When a landowner or other affected party believes that the maps have inaccurately depicted surface waters, he or she shall consult the Storm Water Administrator or designee. Upon request, the Storm Water Administrator or designee shall make on-site determinations. Surface waters that appear on the maps shall not be subject to this Chapter if this on-site determination shows that they fall into one of the following categories:
      - i. Ditches and manmade conveyances other than modified natural streams unless constructed for navigation or boat access;
      - ii. Manmade ponds and lakes located outside natural drainage ways;
      - iii. Ephemeral (storm water) streams.
    - b. Based on a variance issued pursuant to § 155.802.E., unnecessary hardships would result from the strict application of this requirement.
    - c. Based on a determination by the Storm Water Administrator, a lack of practical alternatives exists for accomplishing the basic purpose of the project in a manner that would avoid or result in less adverse impact to surface waters considering the potential for a reduction in size, configuration, or density and all alternative designs.
- B. WATERSHED DISTRICTS. Standards for development and redevelopment vary depending on the watershed district in which a project is located as described in the Town's "Post Construction Ordinance Map," which is adopted simultaneously as described in § 155.801.E.4. The Town is divided into the following watershed districts for purposes of the PCO.
  - 1. CATAWBA DISTRICT. That area of land that drains to West Fork Twelve Mile, McAlpine, and Four Mile Creeks in the Catawba River basin in the Town, including all creeks and tributaries.

2. YADKIN DISTRICT. That area of land that drains to the North Fork of Crooked Creek in the Yadkin River basin in the Town, including all creeks and tributaries.
3. Goose Creek District. That area of land that drains to Goose Creek in the Yadkin River Basin in the Town, including all tributaries. This area of land is not subject to the provisions of this Chapter, but rather is subject to the requirements contained in the State of North Carolina Administrative Code 15A NCAC 2B.0600 – 0.609 as administered by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. **[formerly known as § 154.032]**

C. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR THE CATAWBA DISTRICT.

1. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR LOW DENSITY PROJECTS. Any project in the Catawba District is considered low density when said drainage area has less than or equal to twenty four percent (24%) built upon area as determined by the methodology established in the Design Manual. Such low-density projects shall comply with each of the following standards.
  - a. VEGETATED CONVEYANCES. Storm water runoff from the development shall be transported from the development by vegetated conveyances to the maximum extent practicable.
  - b. STREAM BUFFERS. The S.W.I.M. Stream Buffer requirements apply in the Catawba as described in Chapter 7. In addition, intermittent and perennial streams within the project boundary shall be delineated by a certified professional using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and N.C. Division of Water Quality methodology and shall be shown in the storm water management permit application along with all buffer areas. All perennial and intermittent streams draining less than fifty (50) acres shall have a minimum thirty foot (30') vegetated buffer including a ten foot (10') zone adjacent to the bank. All buffers shall be measured from the top of the bank on both sides of the stream. Disturbance of the buffer is allowed; however, any disturbed area must be revegetated and disturbance of the ten foot (10') zone adjacent to the bank shall require stream bank stabilization using bioengineering techniques as specified in the Design Manual. The buffer widths for streams draining greater than or equal to fifty (50) acres and the other provisions of the S.W.I.M. regulations shall apply in the Catawba District. Passive recreational uses are allowed in the buffer, including greenway trails and bicycle paths, as well as other land uses consistent with maintaining the natural topography and vegetation.
2. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR HIGH DENSITY PROJECTS. Any project in the Catawba District is considered high density when said drainage area has greater than twenty four percent (24%) built upon area as determined by the methodology established in the Design Manual. Such high-density projects shall implement storm water treatment systems that comply with each of the following standards.
  - a. STORM WATER QUALITY TREATMENT VOLUME. Storm water quality treatment systems shall treat the runoff generated from the first inch of rainfall.
  - b. STORM WATER QUALITY TREATMENT. All structural storm water treatment systems used to meet these requirements shall be designed to have a minimum of eighty five percent (85%) average annual removal for Total Suspended Solids. Low Impact Development techniques as described in the Design Manual can be used to meet this requirement.
  - c. STORM WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM DESIGN. General engineering design criteria for all projects shall be in accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .1008(c), as explained in the Design Manual.
  - d. STREAM BUFFERS. The S.W.I.M. Stream Buffer requirements apply in the Catawba as described in Chapter 7. In addition, intermittent and perennial streams within the project boundary shall be delineated by a certified professional using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and N.C. Division of Water Quality methodology and shall be shown in the storm water management permit application along with all buffer areas. All perennial and intermittent streams draining less than fifty (50) acres shall have a minimum thirty foot (30') vegetated buffer including a ten foot (10') zone adjacent to the bank. All buffers shall be measured from the top of the bank on both sides of the stream. Disturbance of the buffer is allowed; however, any disturbed area must be revegetated and disturbance of the ten foot (10') zone adjacent to the bank shall require stream bank stabilization using bioengineering

techniques as specified in the Design Manual. The buffer widths for streams draining greater than or equal to fifty (50) acres and the other provisions of the S.W.I.M. regulations shall apply in the Catawba District. Passive recreational uses are allowed in the buffer, including greenway trails and bicycle paths, as well as other land uses consistent with maintaining the natural topography and vegetation.

- e. STORM WATER VOLUME CONTROL. Storm water treatment systems shall be installed to control the volume leaving the project site at post-development for the one (1) year, twenty four (24) hour storm. Runoff volume drawdown time shall be a minimum of 24 hours, but not more than one hundred twenty (120) hours.
- f. STORM WATER PEAK CONTROL. For residential developments exceeding twenty four percent (24%) built-upon area, peak control shall be installed for the appropriate storm frequency (i.e., 10, 25, 50 or 100 yr, 6 hr) as determined by the Storm Water Administrator based on a downstream flood analysis provided by the owner or designee using the criteria specified in the Design Manual or if a downstream analysis is not performed the peak shall be controlled for the ten (10) year and twenty five (25) year, six (6) hour storms. For commercial development exceeding twenty four percent (24%) built-upon area, peak control shall be installed for the 10-yr, 6-hr storm and additional peak control provided for the appropriate storm frequency (i.e., 25, 50 or 100-yr, 6-hr) as determined by the Storm Water Administrator based on a downstream flood analysis provided by the owner or designee using the criteria specified in the Design Manual or if a downstream analysis is not performed the peak shall be controlled for the 10-yr and 25-yr, 6-hr storms. Controlling the 1-year, 24-hour volume achieves peak control for the 2-year, 6-hour storm. The emergency overflow and outlet works for any pond or wetland constructed as a storm water BMP shall be capable of safely passing a discharge with a minimum recurrence frequency as specified in the Design Manual. For detention basins, the temporary storage capacity shall be restored within seventy two (72) hours. Requirements of the Dam Safety Act shall be met when applicable. **[formerly known as § 154.033]**

D. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR THE YADKIN DISTRICT.

- 1. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR LOW DENSITY PROJECTS. Any project in the Yadkin District is considered low density when said drainage area has less than or equal to ten percent (10%) built upon area as determined by the methodology established in the Design Manual. Such low density projects shall comply with each of the following standards.
  - a. VEGETATED CONVEYANCES. Storm water runoff from the development shall be transported from the development by vegetated conveyances to the maximum extent practicable.
  - b. STREAM BUFFERS. Intermittent and perennial streams within the project boundary shall be delineated by a certified professional using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and N.C. Division of Water Quality methodology and shall be shown in the storm water management permit application along with all buffer areas. All perennial and intermittent streams draining less than fifty (50) acres shall have a minimum fifty foot (50') undisturbed buffer. All perennial and intermittent streams draining greater than or equal to fifty (50) acres shall have a one hundred foot (100') undisturbed buffer, plus the entire floodplain. All buffers shall be measured from the top of the bank on both sides of the stream. The uses allowed in the stream side zone described in the S.W.I.M. Stream Buffer requirements in Chapter 7 as well as the other provisions of the S.W.I.M. regulations shall apply in the Yadkin District (except buffer widths). Passive recreational uses are allowed in the buffer, including greenway trails and bicycle paths, as well as other land uses consistent with maintaining the natural topography and vegetation.
- 2. DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR HIGH DENSITY PROJECTS. Any project in the Yadkin District is considered high density when said drainage area has greater than ten percent (10%) built upon area as determined by the methodology established in the Design Manual. Such high density projects shall implement storm water treatment systems that comply with each of the following standards:

- a. STORM WATER QUALITY TREATMENT VOLUME. Storm water quality treatment systems shall treat the runoff generated from the first inch of rainfall.
- b. STORM WATER QUALITY TREATMENT. All structural storm water treatment systems used to meet these requirements shall be designed to have a minimum of eighty five percent (85%) average annual removal for Total Suspended Solids and seventy percent (70%) average annual removal for Total Phosphorus. Low Impact Development techniques as described in the Design Manual can be used to meet this requirement.
- c. STORM WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM DESIGN. General engineering design criteria for all projects shall be in accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .1008(c), as explained in the Design Manual.
- d. STREAM BUFFERS. Intermittent and perennial streams within the project boundary shall be delineated by a certified professional using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and N.C. Division of Water Quality methodology and shall be shown in the storm water management permit application along with all buffer areas. All perennial and intermittent streams draining less than fifty (50) acres shall have a minimum fifty foot (50') undisturbed buffer. All perennial and intermittent streams draining greater than or equal to fifty (50) acres shall have a one hundred foot (100') undisturbed buffer, plus the entire floodplain. All buffers shall be measured from the top of the bank on both sides of the stream. The uses allowed in the stream side zone described in the S.W.I.M. Stream Buffer requirements in Chapter 7 as well as the other provisions of the S.W.I.M. regulations shall apply in the Yadkin District (except buffer widths). Passive recreational uses are allowed in the buffer, including greenway trails and bicycle paths, as well as other land uses consistent with maintaining the natural topography and vegetation.
- e. STORM WATER VOLUME CONTROL. Storm water treatment systems shall be installed to control the volume leaving the project site at post-development for the 1-year, 24-hour storm. Runoff volume drawdown time shall be a minimum of twenty four (24) hours, but not more than one hundred twenty (120) hours.
- f. STORM WATER PEAK CONTROL. For residential developments exceeding ten percent (10%) built-upon area, peak control shall be installed for the appropriate storm frequency (i.e., 10, 25, 50 or 100-yr, 6-hr) as determined by the Storm Water Administrator based on a downstream flood analysis provided by the owner or designee using the criteria specified in the Design Manual or if a downstream analysis is not performed the peak shall be controlled for the 10-yr and 25-yr, 6-hr storms. For commercial development exceeding ten percent (10%) built-upon area, peak control shall be installed for the 10-yr, 6-hr storm and additional peak control provided for the appropriate storm frequency (i.e., 25, 50 or 100-yr, 6-hr) as determined by the Storm Water Administrator based on a downstream flood analysis provided by the owner or designee using the criteria specified in the Design Manual or if a downstream analysis is not performed the peak shall be controlled for the 10-yr and 25-yr, 6-hr storms. Controlling the 1-year, 24-hour volume achieves peak control for the 2-year, 6-hour storm. The emergency overflow and outlet works for any pond or wetland constructed as a storm water BMP shall be capable of safely passing a discharge with a minimum recurrence frequency as specified in the Design Manual. For detention basins, the temporary storage capacity shall be restored within seventy two (72) hours. Requirements of the Dam Safety Act shall be met when applicable. **[formerly known as § 154.034]**

E. STANDARDS FOR STORM WATER CONTROL MEASURES

1. EVALUATION ACCORDING TO CONTENTS OF DESIGN MANUAL. All storm water control measures and storm water treatment practices (also referred to as Best Management Practices, or BMPs) required under the PCO shall be evaluated by the Storm Water Administrator according to the policies, criteria, and information, including technical specifications, standards and the specific design criteria for each storm water best management practice contained in the Design Manual. The Storm Water Administrator shall determine whether these measures will be adequate to meet the requirements of the PCO.

2. DETERMINATION OF ADEQUACY; PRESUMPTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES. Storm water treatment practices that are designed, constructed, and maintained in accordance with the criteria and specifications in the Design Manual will be presumed to meet the minimum water quality and quantity performance standards of the PCO. Whenever an applicant proposes to utilize a practice or practices not designed and constructed in accordance with the criteria and specifications in the Design Manual, the applicant shall have the burden of demonstrating that the practice(s) will satisfy the minimum water quality and quantity performance standards of the PCO before it can be approved for use. The Storm Water Administrator may require the applicant to provide such documentation, calculations, and examples as necessary for the Storm Water Administrator to determine whether such an affirmative showing is made.
3. SUBMITTAL OF DIGITAL RECORDS. Upon submittal of as-built plans, the location of storm drainage pipes, inlets and outlets as well as the location of all BMPs as well as Undisturbed Open Space must be delivered to the Storm Water Administrator in the digital format specified in the Design Manual. **[formerly known as § 154.035]**

F. TOTAL PHOSPHOROUS MITIGATION FOR THE YADKIN DISTRICT.

1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this mitigation is to reduce the cost of complying with the seventy percent (70%) total phosphorus removal criteria for developments exceeding fifty percent (50%) built-upon area while ensuring the reduction of pollution loads and achievement of the ordinance objectives.
2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION. For the Yadkin District, there are two (2) total phosphorus mitigation options available to developments greater than or equal to sixty percent (60%) built-upon area, including offsite mitigation and a buy-down option as described in this Chapter. For developments with greater than or equal to fifty percent (50%) and less than sixty percent (60%) built-upon area, off-site mitigation only is allowed provided it occurs in the same named creek system. Both off-site and buy-down mitigation will result in the construction of retrofit BMPs. In addition, the buy-down option is available provided the Town of Matthews has projects and/or property available for mitigation. There is no total phosphorus requirement in the Catawba District so the mitigation option is not necessary.
3. CRITERIA FOR OFF-SITE MITIGATION FOR THE YADKIN DISTRICT.
  - a. The owner or designee of a proposed construction site that will include greater than or equal to fifty percent (50%) built upon area shall construct a BMP retrofit project designed to achieve an equivalent or greater net mass removal of total phosphorus as would be achieved by removing seventy percent (70%) of the total phosphorus from the proposed site. Off-site mitigation is allowed only for total phosphorus removal above fifty percent (50%). On-site BMPs shall be constructed to achieve fifty percent (50%) removal of total phosphorus.
  - b. The Storm Water Administrator shall receive, review, approve, disapprove or approve with conditions an "Application for Off-Site Total Phosphorus Mitigation." The Storm Water Administrator shall design this application to include all pertinent information. This application shall be submitted with the storm water management permit application and shall at a minimum contain a description of the BMP(s) to be constructed, including their type and size as well as the pollutant removal efficiencies to be achieved. The location of the site where the BMP(s) are to be constructed shall be described, including the size of the drainage area to be treated and percentage and type of existing built upon area. The application must also include the pounds of total phosphorus being mitigated for and the pounds of total phosphorus reduced with the retrofit BMP(s). A legally valid instrument shall be submitted with the application to demonstrate that the applicant has land rights to perform the BMP retrofit on the property.
  - c. The criteria for approval of offsite total phosphorus mitigation by the Storm Water Administrator are as follows:
    - i. BMP(s) must be constructed in accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .1008(c), as explained in the Design Manual.
    - ii. BMP(s) must be sized for the corresponding watershed area according to the Design Manual.

- iii. BMP(s) must be inspected by the Storm Water Administrator and found to be in compliance with all approved plans and specifications prior to the release of occupancy permits for the mitigated site.
- iv. Following approval from the Storm Water Administrator, BMP(s) may be installed and credits obtained for pounds of total phosphorus removed that can be applied to future projects. These credits can be accumulated or “banked” for a period of time as specified by the Storm Water Administrator in the Administrative Manual.
- v. All off-site mitigation BMPs shall be subject to the maintenance requirements as well as installation and maintenance performance securities specified in § 155.806.

4. CRITERIA FOR TOTAL PHOSPHORUS BUY-DOWN OPTION FOR THE YADKIN DISTRICT.

- a. The owner or designee of a proposed construction site that will include greater than or equal to sixty percent (60%) built upon area may “buy-down” the seventy percent (70%) phosphorus removal requirement to no less than fifty percent (50%). On-site BMPs must be installed to remove the remaining total phosphorus load. The money shall be used by the Town of Matthews to construct BMP retrofit projects designed to achieve an equivalent or greater net mass removal of total phosphorus as would be achieved by removing seventy percent (70%) of the total phosphorus from the proposed site.
- b. The Storm Water Administrator shall receive, review, approve, disapprove or approve with conditions an “Application for Total Phosphorus Buy-Down.” The Storm Water Administrator shall design this application to include all pertinent information. This application shall be submitted with the storm water management permit application and shall at a minimum contain calculations showing the total load buy-down and all cost calculations as described in the Design Manual.
- c. The criteria for the buy-down option are as follows:
  - i. The buy-down option shall not be approved by the Storm Water Administrator unless projects and/or properties are available for mitigation, including BMP construction, BMP maintenance, BMP rehabilitation and stream restoration.
  - ii. There is no time constraint for the Town of Matthews to spend mitigation money; however, the Town shall strive to spend buy-down monies in a timely and efficient manner such that a net improvement in water quality results.
  - iii. All BMPs constructed by the Town of Matthews as part of this mitigation option shall be maintained by the Town of Matthews into perpetuity.
- d. The criteria for calculating the buy down cost shall be provided in the Design Manual.**[formerly known as § 154.036]**

- G. DEED RECORDATION AND INDICATIONS ON PLAT. The approval of the storm water management permit shall require an enforceable restriction on property usage that runs with the land, such as plat, recorded deed restrictions or protective covenants, to ensure that future development and redevelopment maintains the site consistent with the approved project plans. The location of all designated Undisturbed Open Space for a site shall be recorded at the Register of Deeds Office as “Undisturbed Open Space.” Streams and buffer boundaries including the delineation of each buffer zone must be specified on all surveys and record plats. The applicable operations and maintenance agreement pertaining to every structural BMP shall be referenced on the final plat and shall be recorded with the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds Office upon final plat approval. If no subdivision plat is recorded for the site, then the operations and maintenance agreement shall be recorded with the Mecklenburg County Register of Deeds Office so as to appear in the chain of title of all subsequent purchasers under generally accepted searching principles. A copy of the recorded maintenance agreement shall be provided to the Storm Water Administrator within fourteen (14) days following receipt of the recorded document. A maintenance easement shall be recorded for every structural BMP to allow sufficient access for adequate maintenance. The specific recordation and deed restriction requirements as well as notes to be displayed on final plats and deeds shall be contained in the Administrative Manual. **[formerly known as § 154.037]**

**155.804. Development and Redevelopment Mitigation [formerly § 154, Section IV]**

- A. **MITIGATION PAYMENT.** Development and redevelopment on a lot less than one (1) acre in size measured in accordance with § 155.801.F.8 that is not exempt according to § 155.801.E.2 is allowed by right to forego meeting the requirements of the PCO provided the Town is paid a mitigation fee according to rates set forth in the Administrative Manual and provided such development and redevelopment are not part of a larger common plan of development or sale, even though multiple, separate or distinct activities take place at different times on different schedules. **[formerly known as § 154.041]**
- B. **CRITERIA FOR MITIGATION PAYMENT.**
1. **NOTIFICATION TO STORM WATER ADMINISTRATOR.** The by-right mitigation option does not require approval by the Storm Water Administrator; however, notification that this right is to be exercised for a particular lot must be made prior to the issuance of any permits for the project. This notification is to be made to the Storm Water Administrator on a standard form provided in the Administrative Manual.
  2. **USE OF MITIGATION PAYMENT.** The Town shall use the mitigation payment to install water quality enhancement measures, including but not limited to BMPs, stream restoration, open space preservation, etc. BMP(s) installed using the mitigation payment must be constructed in accordance with 15A NCAC 2H .1008(c), as explained in the Administrative Manual. All BMPs constructed by the Town as part of this mitigation option shall be maintained by the Town of Matthews into perpetuity.
  3. **TIME FRAME FOR USE OF MITIGATION PAYMENT.** The Town shall use the mitigation payment within a maximum of two (2) years of the end of the calendar year from the receipt of the payment. As an option, the Town of Matthews may elect to use the fee to purchase and plant trees within the Town. **[formerly known as § 154.042]**

**155.805. Undisturbed Open Space [formerly § 154, Section V]**

- A. **PURPOSE.** Undisturbed Open Space provides for a reduction in the negative impacts from storm water runoff through nonstructural means. The combination of the structural BMPs described in § 155.803 with the non-structural Undisturbed Open Space provisions described in this § 155.805 allow the objectives of the PCO to be fulfilled. **[formerly known as § 154.051]**
- B. **GENERAL DESCRIPTION.** Undisturbed Open Space is required for all development unless mitigated. The percentage of Open Space required depends on a project's built-upon area as described below. Undisturbed Open Space requirements can be met in stream or lake buffers, designated common areas or on individual lots for residential development (e.g., backyards, borders, etc.). Undisturbed Open Space cannot be designated within rights of way, utility easements, etc. where re-disturbance could occur. Grass fields can also be used to meet Undisturbed Open Space requirements; however, the fields must be replanted in accordance with the tree planting provisions described in § 155.805.E. below. Undisturbed Open Space is preferred where it will provide maximum water quality benefit (i.e., around gullies and existing drainage areas, adjacent to streams and wetlands, around structural BMPs, etc.). **[formerly known as § 154.052]**
- C. **UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE CRITERIA.** Undisturbed Open Space requirements apply to projects as described below.
1. **LESS THAN TWENTY FOUR PERCENT (24%) BUILT-UPON AREA.** A project with less than twenty four percent (24%) built-upon area shall include as Undisturbed Open Space within the boundaries of the project a minimum of twenty five percent (25%) of the project area.
  2. **GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO TWENTY FOUR PERCENT (24%) AND LESS THAN FIFTY PERCENT (50%) BUILT-UPON AREA.** A project with greater than or equal to twenty four percent (24%) and less than fifty percent (50%) built-upon area shall include as Undisturbed Open Space within the boundaries of the project a minimum of seventeen and one-half percent (17.5%) of the project area.



3. GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO FIFTY PERCENT (50%) BUILT-UPON AREA. A project with greater than or equal to fifty percent (50%) built upon area shall include as Open Space within the boundaries of the project a minimum of ten percent (10%) of the project area. **[formerly known as § 154.053]**
- D. UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE DESIGNATION. The Undisturbed Open Space location shall be recorded at the Register of Deeds Office as “Undisturbed Open Space” and future disturbance is prohibited except for greenway trails with unlimited public access, Charlotte- Mecklenburg Utility lines and channel work/maintenance activities by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services. Other utility work may be allowed in the Undisturbed Open Space area provided it will not result in loss of Undisturbed Open Space as approved by the Town of Matthews. **[formerly known as § 154.054]**
- E. UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE MITIGATION.
1. PURPOSE. The purpose of this mitigation is to reduce the cost of complying with the Undisturbed Open Space requirement while ensuring the reduction of pollution loads and achievement of the ordinance objectives.
  2. GENERAL DESCRIPTION. Approved disturbance to the Open Space area described in § 155.805.C. above must be off-set by an allowable form of mitigation, including on-site and off-site mitigation as well as through payment-in-lieu.
  3. UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE MITIGATION CRITERIA.
    - a. ON-SITE MITIGATION. On-site mitigation shall allow the disturbance of designated Undisturbed Open Space area on a project with the fulfillment of the following criteria on the project site:
      - i. Fifty percent (50%) increase in total Undisturbed Open Space area designation above the requirements specified in § 155.805.D, except when the Undisturbed Open Space area qualifies as a “grass field” in which case the size of the required Undisturbed Open Space area remains unchanged. The portion of the Open Space area that is a grass field, whether or not disturbed, must be replanted with trees as specified in subsection 3, below.
      - ii. Establishment of a minimum of six inches (6”) of top soil to the disturbed Open Space area following the completion of construction activities. This material may be obtained from on-site when available.
      - iii. Planting of a minimum of thirty six (36) trees per acre of Undisturbed Open Space area as follows:
        - Trees shall have a minimum caliper of one and one-half inches (1.5”).
        - Trees shall be of a quality set forth by the American Standard for Nursery Stock and will be selected from a list of acceptable native species for planting in Undisturbed Open Spaces established by the Town of Matthews.
        - Planted trees shall contain a mix of at least three (3) different species in roughly equal proportions and be “large mature shade tree species” as listed in § 155.606.14.
        - Trees shall be planted in accordance with specifications provided by the Town of Matthews.
        - Trees shall be warranted for a minimum of three (3) years following planting and any dead or diseased trees must be replaced.
      - iv. The area around and between trees must be stabilized using an approved vegetative ground cover and mulch.
      - v. The slope of any graded or disturbed area that is dedicated for Undisturbed Open Space cannot exceed three (3) to one (1) (3:1).
      - vi. The flow of water across the Undisturbed Open Space area must be controlled to prevent soil erosion or mulch disturbance.
    - b. OFF-SITE MITIGATION. On a case by case basis and at the sole discretion of the Storm Water Administrator, the Town may allow Undisturbed Open Space disturbance and off-

site mitigation through the acceptance for ownership or conservation easement properties for the protection of Undisturbed Open Space, provided the result will be an increased protection of water quality over what would be attained through preservation of Undisturbed Open Space or on site mitigation (see Administrative Manual).

- c. **PAYMENT - IN - LIEU OF UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE DEDICATION.** Payment-in-lieu of Undisturbed Open Space dedication is only allowed for industrial and commercial developments and multi-family projects that are in excess of fifty percent (50%) built upon area. Payment-in-lieu shall only be allowed to the extent an approved disturbance cannot be offset by onsite mitigation as determined by the Storm Water Administrator. The following criteria shall be fulfilled for the payment-in-lieu option:
  - i. A fee shall be paid to the Town or its designee based on the following formula:  $1.25 \times$  (appraised value of subject property including intended use without improvements). The appraised value of the subject property shall be determined by a licensed, independent real estate appraiser retained by the developer or owner. The Town may accept the appraised value or at its discretion obtain its own appraisal. In the event the parties cannot agree on the appraised value, the two appraised values shall be averaged together to determine the final appraised value to be used in the formula above.
  - ii. Payment shall be accepted by the Town or its designee prior to land disturbing activities.
  - iii. The Town shall use the payment-in-lieu to purchase Undisturbed Open Space in the same river basin (Yadkin or Catawba) as the property to be disturbed within a maximum of two (2) years of the end of the calendar year from the receipt of the payment. As an option, the Town may elect to use up to ten percent (10%) of the fee to purchase and plant trees within the Town.
- 4. **APPROVAL CRITERIA FOR UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE MITIGATION.**
  - a. **APPLICATION FOR UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE MITIGATION.** The Storm Water Administrator shall receive, review, approve, disapprove or approve with conditions an "Application for Undisturbed Open Space Mitigation." The Storm Water Administrator shall design this application to include all pertinent information, including at a minimum a "mitigation plan" describing the desired mitigation option as discussed in previous sections and an effective demonstration that all reasonable efforts have been undertaken to fulfill the Undisturbed Open Space requirement on the particular site. An application for on-site mitigation shall show the location of the restored Undisturbed Open Space on the property and the location, type and size of all trees and ground cover to be planted as well as contain a warranty statement for the trees. An off-site mitigation application shall show the location and description including acreage, etc. of the property to be used for mitigation and contain a legally valid instrument demonstrating that the applicant has legal title to the property for transfer to the Town. A payment-in-lieu application shall at a minimum contain the location and description of the site to be mitigated and an approved appraisal by a licensed, independent real estate appraiser
  - b. **PRE-APPROVED UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE MITIGATION.** The following is pre-approved for on-site mitigation and does not require the submittal of an application to the Storm Water Administrator; however, these mitigation areas shall be described on the storm water management permit application.
    - i. **Residential, Commercial and Multifamily Uses:** twenty five percent (25%) of the required Undisturbed Open Space area as described in § 155.805.D is preapproved for on-site mitigation provided the size of mitigation area is one hundred fifty percent (150%) of the disturbed area. Other forms of mitigation as described above must receive approval from the Storm Water Administrator.
    - ii. **Industrial Uses:** one hundred percent (100%) of the required Undisturbed Open Space area as described in § 155.805.D above is pre-approved for on-site mitigation with no increase in total required Undisturbed Open Space area. Other

forms of mitigation as described above must receive approval from the Storm Water Administrator.

5. **UNDISTURBED OPEN SPACE DESIGNATION.** All designated Undisturbed Open Space areas included as part of an approved mitigation must be recorded at the Register of Deeds Office as “Undisturbed Open Space” and any future disturbance of this area is strictly prohibited except for greenway trails with unlimited public access, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility lines and channel work/maintenance activities by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services. Other utility work may be allowed in the Undisturbed Open Space area provided it will not result in loss of Undisturbed Open Space as approved by the Town. **[formerly known as § 154.055]**

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**155.806. Maintenance [formerly § 154, Section VI]**

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**A. DEDICATION OF BMPs, FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS.**

1. **SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL BMPs ACCEPTED FOR MAINTENANCE.** The Town shall accept maintenance responsibility (as specified in the Design Manual) of structural BMPs that are installed pursuant to the PCO following a warranty period of two (2) years from the date of as-built certification described in § 155.802.C.3, provided the BMP:
  - a. Only serves a single family detached residential development or townhomes all of which have public street frontage;
  - b. Is satisfactorily maintained during the two-year warranty period by the owner or designee;
  - c. Meets all the requirements of the PCO and the Design Manual; and
  - d. Includes adequate and perpetual access and sufficient area, by easement or otherwise, for inspection, maintenance, repair or reconstruction. The Storm Water Administrator must receive an application for transfer of maintenance responsibilities for the structural BMP along with the storm water management permit application. The Storm Water Administrator will develop and distribute this application as a component of the Administrative Manual (see § 155.802.B.4.d).
2. **MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF BMPs.** The owner of a structural BMP installed pursuant to the PCO and not covered under Sub§ 155.806.A.1 shall maintain and operate the BMP so as to preserve and continue its function in controlling storm water quality and quantity at the degree or amount of function for which the structural BMP was designed.
3. **DAMAGE OR REMOVAL OF TREES.** The following provisions apply to trees contained in permitted Undisturbed Open Space areas or in BMPs that are damaged or removed:
  - a. For trees damaged or removed due to natural disasters, the owner shall be required to replace the trees in accordance with the undisturbed open space mitigation criteria described in § 155.805.E.3.a of the PCO within a timeframe specified by the Storm Water Administrator.
  - b. For trees damaged or removed due to reasons other than (a) above, the owner shall be required to replace the trees in accordance with the undisturbed open space mitigation criteria described in § 155.805.E.3.a of the PCO within a timeframe specified by the Storm Water Administrator with the following exception, the trees shall be replaced at twice the specified density. In addition, the owner may be subject to fines as described in § 155.807, Violations and Enforcement.
4. **ANNUAL MAINTENANCE INSPECTION AND REPORT.** The person responsible for maintenance of any BMP installed pursuant to the PCO and not covered under § 155.806.A.1 shall submit to the Storm Water Administrator an inspection report from a qualified registered North Carolina professional engineer or landscape architect performing services only in their area of competence. All inspection reports shall be on forms supplied by the Storm Water Administrator that are contained in the Design Manual. An original inspection report shall be provided to the Storm Water Administrator beginning one year from the date of as-built certification and each year thereafter on or before the anniversary date of the as-built certification. **[formerly known as § 154.061]**

B. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT.

1. GENERAL. At the time that as-built plans are provided to the Storm Water Administrator as described in § 155.802.C.3 and prior to final approval of a project for compliance with the PCO, but in all cases prior to placing the BMPs in service, the applicant or owner of the site must execute an operation and maintenance agreement that shall be binding on all current and subsequent owners of the site, portions of the site, and lots or parcels served by the structural BMP. This maintenance agreement shall be recorded as specified in § 155.803.G. Failure to execute an operation and maintenance agreement within the time frame specified by the Storm Water Administrator may result in assessment of penalties as specified in § 155.807, Violations and Enforcement. Until the transference of all property, sites, or lots served by the structural BMP, the original owner or applicant shall have primary responsibility for carrying out the provisions of the maintenance agreement. At the discretion of the Storm Water Administrator, certificates of occupancy may be withheld pending receipt of an operation and maintenance agreement. The operation and maintenance agreement shall require the owner or owners to maintain, repair and, if necessary, reconstruct the structural BMP, and shall state the terms, conditions, and schedule of maintenance for the structural BMP. In addition, it shall grant to the Town a right of entry in the event that the Storm Water Administrator has reason to believe it has become necessary to inspect, monitor, maintain, repair, or reconstruct the structural BMP; however, in no case shall the right of entry, of itself, confer an obligation on the Town to assume responsibility for the structural BMP. Standard operation and maintenance agreements for BMPs shall be developed by the Storm Water Administrator and made available in the Design Manual. The operation and maintenance agreement must be approved by the Storm Water Administrator prior to plan approval, and it shall be referenced on the final plat as described in § 155.803.G.
2. SPECIAL REQUIREMENT FOR HOMEOWNERS AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS. For all structural BMPs required pursuant to the PCO not covered under § 155.806.A.1 and that are to be or are owned and maintained by a homeowners' association, property owners' association, or similar entity, the required operation and maintenance agreement shall include the provisions described in the Design Manual. **[formerly known as § 154.062]**

C. INSPECTION PROGRAM. Inspections and inspection programs by the Town may be conducted or established on any reasonable basis, including but not limited to routine inspections; random inspections; inspections based upon complaints or other notice of possible violations; and joint inspections with other agencies inspecting under environmental or safety laws. Inspections may include, but are not limited to, reviewing maintenance and repair records; sampling discharges, surface water, groundwater, and material or water in BMPs; and evaluating the condition of BMPs. If the owner or occupant of any property refuses to permit such inspection, the Storm Water Administrator shall proceed to obtain an administrative search warrant pursuant to G.S. 15-27.2 or its successor. No person shall obstruct, hamper or interfere with the Storm Water Administrator while carrying out his or her official duties. **[formerly known as § 154.063]**

D. PERFORMANCE SECURITY FOR INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE. The Town may require the submittal of a performance security or bond with surety, cash escrow, letter of credit or other acceptable legal arrangement prior to issuance of a permit in accordance with the provisions contained in the Administrative Manual. **[formerly known as § 154.064]**

E. RECORDS OF INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES. The owner of each structural BMP shall keep records of inspections, maintenance, and repairs for at least five (5) years from the date of creation of the record and shall submit the same upon reasonable request to the Storm Water Administrator. **[formerly known as § 154.065]**

F. MAINTENANCE EASEMENT. Every structural BMP installed pursuant to the PCO shall be made accessible for adequate inspection, maintenance, reconstruction and repair by a maintenance easement. The easement shall conform to standards listed in the Administrative Manual, and be recorded as described in § 155.803.G and its terms shall specify who may make use of the easement and for what purposes. **[formerly known as § 154.066]**

**155.807. Violations and Enforcement [formerly § 154, Section VII]**

A. GENERAL.

1. AUTHORITY TO ENFORCE. The provisions of the PCO shall be enforced by the Storm Water Administrator, his or her designee, or any authorized agent of the Town. Whenever this section refers to the Storm Water Administrator, it includes his or her designee as well as any authorized agent of Town.
2. VIOLATION UNLAWFUL. Any failure to comply with an applicable requirement, prohibition, standard, or limitation imposed by the PCO, or the terms or conditions of any permit or other development or redevelopment approval or authorization granted pursuant to the PCO, is unlawful and shall constitute a violation of the PCO.
3. EACH DAY A SEPARATE OFFENSE. Each day that a violation continues shall constitute a separate and distinct violation or offense.
4. RESPONSIBLE PERSONS/ENTITIES. Any person who erects, constructs, reconstructs, alters (whether actively or passively), or fails to erect, construct, reconstruct, alter, repair or maintain any structure, BMP, practice, or condition in violation of the PCO, as well as any person who participates in, assists, directs, creates, causes, or maintains a condition that results in or constitutes a violation of the PCO, or fails to take appropriate action, so that a violation of the PCO results or persists; or an owner, any tenant or occupant, or any other person, who has control over, or responsibility for, the use or development of the property on which the violation occurs shall be subject to the remedies, penalties, and/or enforcement actions in accordance with this § 155.807. For the purposes of this article, responsible person(s) shall include but not be limited to:
  - a. PERSON MAINTAINING CONDITION RESULTING IN OR CONSTITUTING VIOLATION. Any person who participates in, assists, directs, creates, causes, or maintains a condition that constitutes a violation of the PCO, or fails to take appropriate action, so that a violation of the PCO results or persists.
  - b. RESPONSIBILITY FOR LAND OR USE OF LAND. The owner of the land on which the violation occurs, any tenant or occupant of the property, any person who is responsible for storm water controls or practices pursuant to a private agreement or public document, or any person, who has control over, or responsibility for, the use, development or redevelopment of the property. **[formerly known as § 154.071]**

B. INSPECTIONS AND INVESTIGATIONS

1. AUTHORITY TO INSPECT. The Storm Water Administrator shall have the authority, upon presentation of proper credentials, to enter and inspect any land, building, structure, or premises to ensure compliance with the PCO, or rules or orders adopted or issued pursuant to the PCO, and to determine whether the activity is being conducted in accordance with the PCO and the approved storm water management plan, Design Manual and Administrative Manual and whether the measures required in the plan are effective. No person shall willfully resist, delay, or obstruct the Storm Water Administrator while the Storm Water Administrator is inspecting or attempting to inspect an activity under the PCO.
2. NOTICE OF VIOLATION AND ORDER TO CORRECT. When the Storm Water Administrator finds that any building, structure, or land is in violation of the PCO, the Storm Water Administrator shall notify in writing the responsible person/entity. The notification shall indicate the nature of the violation, contain the address or other description of the site upon which the violation occurred or is occurring, order the necessary action to abate the violation, and give a deadline for correcting the violation. The notice shall, if required, specify a date by which the responsible person/entity must comply with the PCO, and advise that the responsible person/entity is subject to remedies and/or penalties or that failure to correct the violation within the time specified will subject the responsible person/entity to remedies and/or penalties as described in § 155.807.C In determining the measures required and the time for achieving compliance, the Storm Water Administrator shall take into consideration the technology and quantity of work required, and shall set reasonable and attainable time limits. The Storm Water Administrator may deliver the notice of violation and correction order personally, by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, or by any means authorized for the service of documents by Rule 4 of the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure. If a violation is not corrected within a reasonable period of time, as provided in the notification, the Storm Water

Administrator may take appropriate action, as provided in § 155.807.C, Remedies and Penalties, to correct and abate the violation and to ensure compliance with the PCO. Violations of other Chapters of this Title are a separate issue.

3. **EXTENSION OF TIME.** A responsible person/entity who receives a notice of violation and correction order, or the owner of the land on which the violation occurs, may submit to the Storm Water Administrator a written request for an extension of time for correction of the violation. On determining that the request includes enough information to show that the violation cannot be corrected within the specified time limit for reasons beyond the control of the responsible person/entity requesting the extension, the Storm Water Administrator may extend the time limit as is reasonably necessary to allow timely correction of the violation, up to, but not exceeding sixty (60) days. The Storm Water Administrator may grant thirty (30) day extensions in addition to the foregoing extension if the violation cannot be corrected within the permitted time due to circumstances beyond the control of the responsible person/entity violating the PCO. The Storm Water Administrator may grant an extension only by written notice of extension. The notice of extension shall state the date prior to which correction must be made, after which the violator will be subject to the penalties described in the notice of violation and correction order. This provision does not automatically provide the same extension for violations of any other chapter of the Town Unified Development Ordinance.
4. **PENALTIES ASSESSED CONCURRENT WITH NOTICE OF VIOLATION.** Penalties may be assessed concurrently with a notice of violation for any of the following in which case the notice of violation shall also contain a statement of the civil penalties to be assessed, the time of their accrual, and the time within which they must be paid or be subject to collection as a debt:
  - a. Failure to submit a storm water management plan.
  - b. Performing activities without an approved storm water management plan.
  - c. Obstructing, hampering or interfering with an authorized representative who is in the process of carrying out official duties.
  - d. A repeated violation for which a notice was previously given on the same project and to the same responsible person/entity responsible for the violation.
  - e. Willful violation of the PCO.
  - f. Failure to install or maintain best management practices per the approved plan.
5. **AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE.** The Storm Water Administrator shall have the authority to conduct such investigation as it may reasonably deem necessary to carry out its duties as prescribed in the PCO, and for this purpose to enter at reasonable times upon any property, public or private, for the purpose of investigating and inspecting. No Person shall refuse entry or access to the Storm Water Administrator who requests entry for purpose of inspection or investigation, and who presents appropriate credentials, nor shall any Person obstruct, hamper, or interfere with the Storm Water Administrator while in the process of carrying out official duties. The Storm Water Administrator shall also have the power to require written statements, or the filing of reports under oath as part of an investigation.
6. **ENFORCEMENT AFTER TIME TO CORRECT.** After the time has expired to correct a violation, including any extension(s) if authorized by the Storm Water Administrator, the Storm Water Administrator shall determine if the violation is corrected. If the violation is not corrected, the Storm Water Administrator may act to impose one or more of the remedies and penalties authorized by § 155.807.C.
7. **EMERGENCY ENFORCEMENT.** If delay in correcting a violation would seriously threaten the effective enforcement of the PCO or pose an immediate danger to the public health, safety, or welfare, then the Storm Water Administrator may order the immediate cessation of a violation. Any Person so ordered shall cease any violation immediately. The Storm Water Administrator may seek immediate enforcement, without prior written notice, through any remedy or penalty specified in § 155.807.C. **[formerly known as § 154.072]**

- C. REMEDIES AND PENALTIES. The remedies and penalties provided for violations of the PCO, whether civil or criminal, shall be cumulative and in addition to any other remedy provided by law, and may be exercised in any order.

1. REMEDIES.

- a. WITHHOLDING OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY. The Storm Water Administrator or other authorized agent may refuse to issue a certificate of occupancy for the building or other improvements constructed or being constructed on the site and served by the storm water practices in question until the applicant or other responsible person has taken the remedial measures set forth in the notice of violation or has otherwise cured the described violations.
- b. DISAPPROVAL OF SUBSEQUENT PERMITS AND DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS. As long as a violation of the PCO continues and remains uncorrected, the Storm Water Administrator or other authorized agent may withhold, and the Town of Matthews may disapprove, any request for permit or development approval or authorization provided for by the PCO or the zoning, subdivision, and/or building regulations, as appropriate for the land on which the violation occurs.
- c. INJUNCTION, ABATEMENTS, ETC. The Storm Water Administrator, with the written authorization of the Matthews Town Manager may institute an action in a court of competent jurisdiction for a mandatory or prohibitory injunction and order of abatement to correct a violation of the PCO. Any person violating the PCO shall be subject to the full range of equitable remedies provided in the General Statutes or at common law.
- d. CORRECTION AS PUBLIC HEALTH NUISANCE, COSTS AS LIEN, ETC. If the violation is deemed dangerous or prejudicial to the public health or public safety and is within the geographic limits prescribed by North Carolina G.S. 160A-193, the Storm Water Administrator, with the written authorization of the Town Manager, may cause the violation to be corrected and the costs to be assessed as a lien against the property.
- e. RESTORATION OF AREAS AFFECTED BY FAILURE TO COMPLY. By issuance of an order of restoration, the Storm Water Administrator may require a Person who engaged in a land development activity and failed to comply with the PCO to restore the waters and land affected by such failure so as to minimize the detrimental effects of the resulting pollution. This authority is in addition to any other civil penalty or injunctive relief authorized under the PCO.

2. CIVIL PENALTIES

- a. VIOLATIONS OF ORDINANCE. A violation of any of the provisions of the PCO or rules or other orders adopted or issued pursuant to the PCO may subject the violator to a civil penalty. A civil penalty may be assessed from the date the violation occurs. No penalty shall be assessed until the person alleged to be in violation has been notified of the violation except as provided in § 155.807.B.4 in which case the penalty is assessed concurrently with a notice of violation. Refusal to accept the notice or failure to notify the Storm Water Administrator of a change of address shall not relieve the violator's obligation to comply with the PCO or to pay such a penalty.
- b. AMOUNT OF PENALTY. The maximum civil penalty for each violation of the PCO is twenty seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$27,500.00). Each day of continuing violation shall constitute a separate violation. In determining the amount of the civil penalty, the Storm Water Administrator shall consider any relevant mitigating and aggravating factors including, but not limited to, the effect, if any, of the violation; the degree and extent of harm caused by the violation; the cost of rectifying the damage; whether the violator saved money through noncompliance; whether the violator took reasonable measures to comply with the PCO; whether the violation was committed willfully; whether the violator reported the violation to the Storm Water Administrator; and the prior record of the violator in complying or failing to comply with the PCO or any other post construction ordinance or law. The Storm Water Administrator is authorized to vary the amount of the *per diem* penalty based on criteria specified in the Administrative Manual and based on relevant

- mitigating factors. Civil penalties collected pursuant to the PCO shall be credited to the Town general fund as non-tax revenue.
- c. NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTY. The Storm Water Administrator shall determine the amount of the civil penalty and shall notify the violator of the amount of the penalty and the reason for assessing the penalty. This notice of assessment of civil penalty shall be served by any means authorized under G.S. 1A-1, Rule 4 and shall direct the violator to either pay the assessment or file an appeal within thirty (30) days of receipt of the notice as specified in § 155.807.C.2.e.
  - d. FAILURE TO PAY CIVIL PENALTY ASSESSMENT. If a violator does not pay a civil penalty assessed by the Storm Water Administrator within thirty (30) days after it is due, or does not request a hearing as provided in § 155.807.C.2.e, the Storm Water Administrator shall request the initiation of a civil action to recover the amount of the assessment. The civil action shall be brought in Mecklenburg County Superior Court or in any other court of competent jurisdiction. A civil action must be filed within three (3) years of the date the assessment was due. An assessment that is appealed is due at the conclusion of the administrative and judicial review of the assessment.
  - e. APPEAL OF REMEDY OR PENALTY. The issuance of an order of restoration and/or notice of assessment of a civil penalty by the Storm Water Administrator shall entitle the responsible party or entity to an appeal before the Storm Water Advisory Committee (SWAC) if such Person submits written demand for an appeal hearing to the Clerk of SWAC within thirty (30) days of the receipt of an order of restoration and/or notice of assessment of a civil penalty. The demand for an appeal shall be accompanied by a filing fee as established by SWAC. The appeal of an order of restoration and/or notice of assessment of a civil penalty shall be conducted as described in § 155.802.E.
3. CRIMINAL PENALTIES. Violation of the PCO may be enforced as a misdemeanor subject to the maximum fine permissible under North Carolina law. **[formerly known as § 154.073]**

#### **155.808. Definitions [formerly § 154, Section VIII]**

- A. USE OF DEFINITIONS. In the construction of the PCO, the definitions contained in this § 155.808 shall be observed and applied, unless other provisions of the PCO specifically indicate otherwise.
- B. DEFINITIONS. The following words and terms when used in the interpretation and administration of the PCO shall have the meaning set forth below except where otherwise specifically indicated. **[formerly known as § 154.081]**

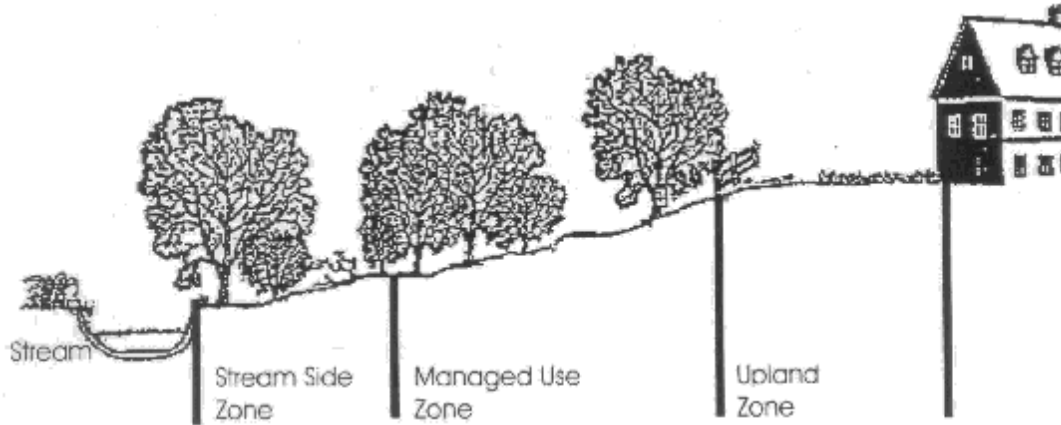
**Administrative Manual** – Shall mean a manual developed by the Storm Water Administrator and distributed to the public to provide information for the effective administration of the PCO, including but not limited to application requirements, submission schedule, fee schedule, maintenance agreements, criteria for mitigation approval, criteria for recordation of documents, inspection report forms, requirements for submittal of bonds, a copy of the PCO, and where to obtain the Design Manual.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** – Shall mean a structural management facility used singularly or in combination for storm water quality and quantity treatment to achieve water quality protection goals.

**Buffer** – Shall mean a natural or vegetated area through which storm water runoff flows in a diffuse manner so that the runoff does not become channelized and which provides for infiltration of the runoff and filtering of pollutants.



**Buffer Zones** – Shall mean in the Catawba District, streams draining greater than or equal to fifty (50) acres but less than three hundred (300) acres have a two (2) zone buffer including a stream side and upland zone. Buffers for streams draining greater than or equal to three hundred (300) acres have three (3) zones as shown below. The amount of disturbance allowed in the buffer differs in each zone. In the Yadkin District there are no zones, the entire buffer is undisturbed.



**Buffer Widths** – Shall mean viewed aerially, the stream buffer width is measured horizontally on a line perpendicular to the surface water, landward from the top of the bank on each side of the stream.

**Built-Up Area (BUA)** – Shall mean that portion of a development project that is covered by impervious or partially impervious surface including, but not limited to, buildings; pavement and gravel areas such as roads, parking lots, and paths; and recreation facilities such as tennis courts. “Built-upon area” does not include a wooden slatted deck or the water area of a swimming pool.

**Commercial Development** – Shall mean any development that is not residential development as defined below.

**Design Manual** – Shall mean the storm water design manual approved for use in the Town of Matthews by the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources and shall be at least as stringent as the storm water design manual approved for use in Phase II jurisdictions by the Department for the proper implementation of the requirements of the federal Phase II storm water program. All references to the Design Manual are to the latest published edition or revision.

**Development** – Shall mean new development created by the addition of built upon area to land void of built upon area as of the Effective Date of the Post Construction Regulations.

**Disturbance** – Shall mean any use of the land by any person or entity which results in a change in the natural cover or topography of the land.

**Drainage Area** – Shall mean that area of land that drains to a common point on a project site.

**Effective Date of the PCO**– Shall mean June 30, 2007.

**Floodplain** – Shall mean the low, periodically-flooded lands adjacent to streams. For land use planning purposes, the regulatory floodplain is usually viewed as all lands that would be inundated by the Regulatory Flood.

**Grass Field** – Shall mean land on which grasses and other herbaceous plants dominate and trees over six feet in height are sparse or so widely scattered that less than five percent (5%) of the land area is covered by a tree canopy.

**Industrial Uses** – Shall mean land used for industrial purposes only; commercial (or other non-industrial) businesses operating on industrially zoned property shall not be considered an industrial use.

**Larger common plan of development or sale** – Shall mean any contiguous area where multiple separate and distinct construction or land disturbing activities will occur under one plan. A plan is any announcement or piece of documentation (including but not limited to public notice or hearing, drawing, permit application, zoning request, or site design) or physical demarcation (including but not limited to boundary signs, lot stakes, or surveyor markings) indicating that construction activities may occur on a specific plot.

**Low Impact Development (LID)** – Shall mean the integration of site ecology and environmental goals and requirements into all phases of urban planning and design from the individual residential lot level to the entire watershed.

**Mitigation** – Shall mean actions taken either on-site or off-site as allowed by the PCO to offset the impacts of a certain action.

**Multifamily** – Shall mean a group of two or more attached, duplex, triplex, quadruplex, or multi-family buildings, or a single building of more than two (2) units constructed on the same lot or parcel of land under single ownership, and planned and developed with a unified design of buildings and coordinated common open space and service areas.

**Non-Point Source (NPS) Pollution** – Shall mean forms of pollution caused by sediment, nutrients, organic and toxic substances originating from land use activities and carried to lakes and streams by surface runoff.

**Owner** – Shall mean the legal or beneficial owner of land, including but not limited to a fee owner, mortgagee or vendee in possession, receiver, executor, trustee, or long term or commercial lessee, or any other person or entity holding proprietary rights in the property or having legal power of management and control of the property. “Owner” shall include long term commercial tenants; management entities, such as those charged with or engaged in the management of properties for profit; and every person or entity having joint ownership of the property. A secured lender not in possession of the property does not constitute an owner, unless the secured lender is included within the meaning of “owner” under another description in this definition, such as a management entity.

**Person(s)** – Shall mean any individual, partnership, firm, association, joint venture, public or private corporation, trust, estate, commission, board, public or private institution, utility, cooperative, interstate body, or other legal entity.

**Redevelopment** – Shall mean rebuilding activities on land containing built upon area as of the effective date of the PCO and where any pre-existing impervious surface remains intact and is not removed during the rebuilding or redevelopment process.

**Residential Development** – Shall mean a development containing dwelling units with open yards on at least two sides where land is sold with each dwelling unit.

**Storm Water Administrator** – Shall mean the position or individual that has been designated by the Matthews Board of Commissioners to administer and enforce the PCO.

**Storm Water Advisory Committee (SWAC)** – Shall mean the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Advisory Committee as established by joint resolutions of the Charlotte City Council, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners and the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill and Pineville, together with any amendments.

**Storm Water Management Permit** – Shall mean a permit required for all development and redevelopment unless exempt pursuant to the PCO, which demonstrates compliance with the PCO.

**S.W.I.M.** – Shall mean an acronym for the Surface Water Improvement and Management initiative by the Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners for the purpose of restoring the quality and usability of Mecklenburg County’s surface water resources. The S.W.I.M. initiative resulted in the adoption of county wide buffers on streams that are termed S.W.I.M. Buffers.

**Top of Bank** – Shall mean the landward edge of the stream channel during high water or bankfull conditions at the point where the water begins to overflow onto the floodplain.

**Topsoil** – Shall mean natural, fertile soil capable of sustaining vigorous plant growth that is of uniform composition throughout with an admixture of subsoil, has an acidity range of pH 5.5 - 7.0.

**Total Phosphorus (TP)** – Shall mean a nutrient that is essential to the growth of organisms but when it occurs in high enough concentrations it can negatively impact water quality conditions. Total phosphorus includes both dissolved and suspended forms of reactive phosphorus, acid-hydrolyzable phosphorus and organic phosphorus as measured by Standard Method 4500-P.

**Total Suspended Solids (TSS)** – Shall mean total suspended matter in water which includes particles collected on a filter with a pore size of two (2) microns as measured by Standard Method 2540-D, which is commonly expressed as a concentration in terms of milligrams per liter (mg/l) or parts per million (ppm).

**Townhomes** – Shall mean attached dwellings where a lot is created for each unit.

**Undisturbed Open Space** – Shall mean land that consists of natural areas containing trees and other natural shrubs consisting of either undisturbed areas or disturbed areas that have been replanted in accordance with the criteria established in the PCO. (Ord. No. 1559, passed 5-14-07; eff. 6-30-07; Ord. 2025A, passed 6-9-14)

## Town of Matthews Post-Construction Storm Water Ordinance Map

