

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
House of Representatives  
State House, Boston 02133-1054

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September 10, 2013

Secretary Richard A. Davey  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation  
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160  
Boston, MA 02116

Dear Secretary Davey,

We are writing in reference to the September 1, 2013 storm event and our concerns pertaining to the volume of stormwater on Interstate 95/Route 128 (I-95) in Needham. As you are aware, I-95 flooded during the storm creating an impassable roadway, an unusual occurrence that we would hope to avoid in the future. A large development has been proposed adjacent to I-95 on Greendale Avenue in Needham and is currently under reviewed by the Needham Zoning Board of Appeals. The six acre undeveloped parcel is currently wooded with a significant change in elevation, sloping down gradient towards I-95. We are very concerned about the effect this development may have to the I-95 stormwater system.

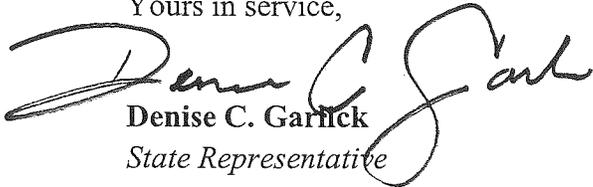
We are wondering if the developer, Mill Creek LLC, has met with Mass DOT to review their stormwater design as you are a direct abutter to the parcel. It is our understanding that the project is just outside the jurisdiction of the Needham Conservation Commission and therefore does not need to comply with the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act. Would this type of project be required to comply with the Massachusetts Department of Environment Protection Stormwater Handbook?

If the developer creates six acres of impervious area on the existing wooded lot is it possible that there will be an increase of stormwater discharging into the I-95 system? If so is there any way to minimize the impacts to the existing stormwater system?

Can you explain to us how the developer intends to control the volume of stormwater discharging from their site? We understand that many developers infiltrate stormwater to minimize their discharge, would infiltration be an appropriate means for a development of this type?

Thank you for your careful consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact us for any further information.

Yours in service,

  
Denise C. Garlick  
*State Representative*

  
Michael F. Rush  
*State Senator*

cc: Needham Board of Selectmen  
Kate Fitzpatrick, Needham Town Manager  
Needham Zoning Board of Appeals  
Trish Foley, MassDOT