

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DIVISION  
PUBLIC NOTICE  
WATERSHED PROTECTION BRANCH

August 20, 2024  
Notice Issue Date

Putnam County  
City / County

September 19, 2024  
Notice Close Date

BV-117-24-01  
Control Number

Sammon Presbyterian Church Lake Dam Rehabilitation  
(GPS Coordinates: 33.4340, -83.2702)

Activity

This notice is issued to inform the public of a receipt of an application for a variance submitted pursuant to a state environmental Law. The public is invited to comment during the 30-day period on the proposed activity. Site plans are available for review and are located in the following EPD office: Watershed Protection Branch File Room, 2 MLK Jr. Drive, SW, West Tower, Balcony, Suite 418, Atlanta, GA 30334. Please contact [GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:GORArequest.Water@dnr.ga.gov) to schedule an appointment to review the plans. Since the EPD has no authority to zone property or determine land use, only those comments addressing environmental issues related to air, water, and land protection will be considered in the application review process. Comments may be submitted via e-mail to: [EPDcomments@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:EPDcomments@dnr.ga.gov). Comments may also be provided in writing to: Program Manager, Nonpoint Source Program, Erosion and Sedimentation Control, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Suite 1452 East, Atlanta, GA 30334. The words “Buffer Variance Comment”, including the Control Number shown above, should be placed in the e-mail subject line (if sent via e-mail) or on the top of the first page of written comments to ensure that your comments will be forwarded to the appropriate staff.

Type of Permit Application: Variance to encroach within the 25-foot State waters buffer.

Applicable Law: Georgia Erosion and Sedimentation Act O.C.G.A. § 12-7-1 et seq.

Applicable Rules: Erosion and Sedimentation Control Chapter 391-3-7

Basis under which variance shall be considered {391-3-7-.05 (2)(a-k)}: (a)

Description and Location of Proposed Activity:

This proposed project will rehabilitate an unregulated Category II dam, to include repairs to the structure crest and the principal and auxiliary spillway. Buffer encroachments will allow construction access to improve structure integrity and comply with current regulations. After rehabilitation, the normal pool elevation will be reduced from 470.3 FT to 463.5 FT. Dam structure slopes will be restored and stabilized with vegetation to current conditions as practicable. The proposed project will result in 750 total linear feet (18,894 square feet) of buffer disturbance on an unnamed tributary to Lake Oconee, located on the Oconee River in the Upper Oconee Watershed (03070101).

Name and Address of Permit Applicant: Mr. Renato Ghizoni  
Forestar (USA) Real Estate Group, Inc.  
3330 Cumberland Boulevard, Suite 275  
Atlanta, GA 30339

Summary of Rules Requirements for Variance Application:

The application for a variance must include an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan with control measures based on sound conservation and engineering practices which meet or exceed the standards in the "Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia" and which will minimize erosion and deposition of sediments on adjacent lands or into State waters.

For Additional Information Contact: Brian Kent, CPESC  
Environmental Engineer  
EPD Watershed Protection Branch  
Nonpoint Source Program  
2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW, Suite 1462 East  
Atlanta, GA 30334  
Telephone: (470) 604-9419