

TOWNSHIP OF EAST NANTMEAL

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April 12, 2017

Patrick Gardner
Land Protection Project Manager
Natural Land Trust
1031 Palmers Mill Road
Media, PA 19063

RE: Letter of Support- Petition to Upgrade Marsh Creek, East Branch Brandywine Creek,
Chester County to Exceptional Value

Dear Patrick:

East Nantmeal Township supports the French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust's petition requesting that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection consider Marsh Creek, including its tributaries and Marsh Creek Reservoir, for redesignation from High Quality to Exceptional Value (EV). If re-designated to EV, the upgrade would enable the creek, its headwaters in the Great Marsh, tributaries and the lake in Marsh Creek State Park to maintain its water quality, despite the significant current and future development pressure in this area. This proposed effort is also essential to protect water quantity. Marsh Creek, the Reservoir, and the East Branch Brandywine Creek watershed serve as an important drinking water source for the greater Downingtown Region, West Chester Region, City of Wilmington and northern New Castle County in the state of Delaware. This redesignation effort also dovetails with other watershed protection and restoration efforts in the Christina River Basin watershed.

The Great Marsh and the Marsh Creek sub-watershed, including Marsh Creek Lake, are designated as Natural Heritage Areas in Chester County by the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program and these areas are ranked as state significant. The Great Marsh supports two state rare natural communities and seven species of concern and Marsh Creek Lake supports several species of concern.

Landscapes2 and Watersheds -An Integrated Water Resources Management Plan for Chester County, PA and its Watersheds promote the protection of state-designated sensitive aquatic habitat and supports upgrades in state stream designations where justified by stream conditions and uses. The sub-basin containing Marsh Creek is ranked as one of the highest priorities in Chester County for the protection of stream resources and groundwater protection because of its critical role in water supply and the maintenance of stream base flows for Brandywine Creek. Marsh Creek Reservoir serves as an essential part of regional water supply and is considered an

important component of future water supply needs as the region grows. All municipalities in the Marsh Creek sub-watershed have adopted standards consistent with the County-wide Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan for Chester County, PA to address stormwater quality and quantity management.

The upgrade to EV would afford the highest level of protection for a critical water resource. This proposed redesignation will work in tandem with other local and regional efforts to protect local surface water quality, groundwater quality, regional water supplies, and state significant habitats. East Nantmeal Township supports this redesignation and encourages favorable consideration of the petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James R. Jenkins, Jr." The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

James R. Jenkins, Jr., Chairman
On behalf of East Nantmeal Township
Board of Supervisors