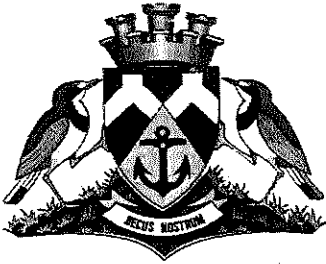


OVERBERG

DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT
DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY
UMASIPALA WESITHILI



MELD ASB/PLEASE QUOTE

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24 November 2023

PHS CONSULTING

**P.O. Box 1752
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For attention: Jenna Theron

RE: THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW DAM, EXPANSION OF AN EXISTING DAM AND THE EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING CULTIVATION AREAS, ON PORTION 3 OF FARM 781 (ERIN DE VIGNE), BOT RIVER, WESTERN CAPE

DEA&DP REF: 16/3/3/6/7/1/E4/4/1346/23

The Overberg District Municipality's department of Environmental Management Services takes cognisance of the draft Basic Assessment Report for the cultivation of a new irrigation area of approximately 10ha, the construction of a new dam of with a storage capacity of 2000m³, and the expansion of Dam2 to a 67000m³ storage capacity.

There are several areas within in the study area which is categorised in terms of the Western Cape Biodiversity Spatial Plan, 2017 (WCBSP) as Critically Biodiversity Areas (CBA 1), Critically Biodiversity Areas (degraded) (CBA 2), Ecological Support Areas (ESA) 1 & 2, and Other Natural Areas. The Overberg District Municipality's Spatial Development Framework, 2023, clearly define Spatial Planning Categories (SPCs) to reflect how the area should be developed spatially to ensure sustainability. These SPCs are linked with the Biodiversity Spatial Plan Categories:

SPC	BSP Category	Protected area	CBA 1	CBA 2	ESA 1	ESA 2	ONA	NNR
Core 1								
Core 2								
Buffer 1								
Buffer 2								
Intensive agriculture								

The following land uses are permitted per Spatial Planning Categories:

The following land uses are permitted per Spatial Planning Categories as follows:

- Core 1: Critical Biodiversity Areas 1 (CBA) and protected areas, these include habitats classified as highly irreplaceable, critically endangered, or endangered terrestrial (land), aquatic (rivers, wetlands, and estuary es,) and marine habitats. It also includes essential biological corridors vital to sustain their functionality. These areas must be regarded as “no-go” for development and must be kept in a natural state, with a management plan focused on maintaining or improving the state of biodiversity. There should be no further loss of natural habitat and degraded areas should be rehabilitated.
- Core 2: Consists of two areas: Critical Biodiversity Area 2 (Degraded) and Ecological Support Area 1. these areas are in a degraded or secondary condition that are required to meet biodiversity targets, for species, ecosystems or ecological processes and infrastructure. These areas should be maintained in a natural or near-natural state with no further loss of natural habitat. These areas should be rehabilitated.
- Buffer 1: These areas may be degraded but still play an important role in supporting the functioning of Protected Areas or CBAs and are essential for delivering ecosystem services. These areas should be restored and/or managed to minimize impact on ecological infrastructure functioning; especially soil and water-related services. Two components of the rural landscape make up Buffer 1 Areas: (i) Ecological Support Area 2: Restore and/or manage to minimize impact on ecological infrastructure functioning; especially soil and water-related services. (ii) Other Natural Areas: Minimize habitat and species loss and ensure ecosystem functionality through strategic landscape planning. Offers flexibility in permissible land-uses, but some authorisation may still be required for high-impact land-uses.
- Buffer 2: This category includes areas designated as Other Natural Areas, located in an extensive and/or intensive agriculture matrix (i.e., livestock production) as the dominant land use. The Buffer 2 SPC requires that habitat and species loss is minimized, and that ecosystem functionality is preserved through strategic landscape planning. Buffer 2 areas offer flexibility in permissible land uses, but some authorisation may still be required for high-impact land-uses.
- Agriculture: Comprises of existing and potential intensive agricultural footprint (i.e., homogeneous farming areas made up of cultivated land and production support areas). It includes areas in which significant or complete loss of natural habitat and ecological functioning has taken place due to farming activities. Existing and potential agricultural landscapes should be consolidated and protected; sustainable agricultural development, land and agrarian reform, and food security should be facilitated, and ecosystems must be stabilised and managed to restore their ecological functionality.

Vegetation types identified within the study area are Rûens Silcrete Renosterveld, Western Rûens Renosterveld, and Elim Ferricrete Fynbos. All of these vegetation types are listed as critically endangered in the revised National List of Threatened Terrestrial Ecosystems, 2022 (Government Gazette notice 47526). It is noted that the planned layout of the proposed development is situated mostly within previously cultivated land, categorising it as low-sensitive


area. The ODM SDF furthermore support the protection of prominent indigenous vegetation and the habitat of indigenous fauna.

The ODM SDF promotes the following principles:

- Promote responsible veld management in Extensive Agricultural areas to improve veld carrying capacity and biodiversity;
- Explore crop diversification in light of predicted temperature increases due to climate change;
- Promote water-saving irrigation systems and precision irrigation technologies;
- Protect and restore productive agricultural land;
- Protect and manage natural sources of potable water to ensure water supply and quality; and
- There must therefore be sufficient water storage capacity in the Overberg District for the growth and expansion of the agriculture sector.

As per the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act of 2004 as well as the Conservation of Agricultural Resources Act of 1983, each landowner is responsible for the management of invasive species on their properties. Therefore, any listed alien and invasive species should be removed with regular follow-up clearing. An alien vegetation removal plan should be developed and implemented for the entire property to limit further degradation to sensitive ecosystems.

Yours faithfully,



R. BOSMAN
MUNICIPAL MANAGER