

**Mount Arlington 200/202 Howard Boulevard WQMP Amendment
RMP Consistency Determination
Public Comments and Responses**

Public Comments Received

David A. Clark, PE, CE (on behalf of the Borough of Mount Arlington)

One public comment letter was received regarding the Highlands Council staff Regional Master Plan Consistency Determination review of the proposed Mount Arlington 200/202 Howard Boulevard WQMP amendment. The comment acknowledges the inconsistency with Objective 2B8b (proposed new consumptive or depletive water uses within a Current Deficit Area requires 125% mitigation) but offers that there are multiple water conservation measures already being implemented within the Borough's Morris County Municipal Utilities Authority (MCMUA) water service area (i.e., leak detection program, an ordinance that adopts a fee structure regarding water use, and a water conservation ordinance). The commenter notes that with the use of these measures, the Borough is effectively mitigating the loss of 600 gpd from the source watershed and complying with Objective 2B8b.

The commenter also notes, on behalf of the Borough, that the process of gaining approval for this amendment from the NJDEP has spanned over five years. During this time, the owners of the two affected properties have had to deal with failing septic systems that have reduced the quality of life for themselves and local residents and impacted the surrounding natural environment.

Response

Mitigation is required to be consistent with Objective 2B8b. NJDEP may determine that Mt. Arlington has already met the requirement. While the Council acknowledges the points made in the comment letter, the staff could not determine whether the total water use has actually declined based on the information provided. It would be necessary for the Borough to conduct a comparison of pre to post depletive uses to determine if the actual draw against MCMUA goes down.

With respect to the second comment (the approval process spanning five years and the impacts of failing septic systems on the property owners and the environment), the Borough's environmental issue is noted in the *Description of Project* section of the review template.