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NEAS REFERENCE NUMBER: WCP/EIA/0000909/2021
ENQUIRIES: Ms. N. Wookey
DATE OF ISSUE: 13 October 2021

The Municipal Manager
Saldanha Bay Municipality
Private Bag X12
VREDENBURG
7380

For Attention: Mr. H. Mettler

Tel: (022) 701 7043

Email: Heinrich.Mettler@sbm.gov.za

Dear Sir

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED) FOR THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 6.5MI RESERVOIR AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 20 OF THE FARM PATRYSENBERG NO. 43, LAINGVILLE.

With reference to the above application, the Department hereby notifies you of its decision to **grant** Environmental Authorisation, attached herewith, together with the reasons for the decision.

1. In terms of Regulation 4 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations, 2014 (as amended), you are instructed to ensure, within 14 days of the date of the decision on the application, that all registered interested and affected parties ("I&APs") are provided with access to the decision and reasons for the decision, and that all registered I&APs are notified of their right to appeal.
2. Your attention is drawn to Chapter 2 of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended), which prescribes the appeal procedure to be followed. This procedure is summarised hereunder.

Yours faithfully

MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

Copies to: (1) Ms. N. Duarte (Saldanha Bay Municipality)
(2) Mr. S. von Witt (TBL Consulting)

Email: Nazeema.Duarte@sbm.gov.za
Email: Simon@tblconsulting.co.za

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

APPLICATION IN TERMS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT, 1998 (ACT NO. 107 OF 1998) AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 2014 (AS AMENDED): THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF A 6.5MI RESERVOIR AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE ON PORTION 20 OF THE FARM PATRYSENBERG NO. 43, LAINGVILLE

With reference to your application for the abovementioned, find below the outcome with respect to this application.

DECISION

By virtue of the powers conferred on it by the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) ("NEMA") and the Environmental Impact Assessment ("EIA") Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the Competent Authority herewith **grants Environmental Authorisation** to the applicant to undertake the listed activity specified in section B below with respect to Site Alternative 1 (i.e. the Preferred Alternative), described in the Basic Assessment Report ("BAR"), dated August 2021.

A. DETAILS OF THE HOLDER FOR THIS ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION

The Municipal Manager
% Mr. H. Mettler
Saldanha Bay Municipality
Private Bag X12
VREDENBURG
7380

Tel: (022) 701 7043
Email: Heinrich.Mettler@sbm.gov.za

The abovementioned applicant is the holder of this Environmental Authorisation and is hereinafter referred to as "**the holder**".

B. LISTED ACTIVITIES AUTHORISED

Listed Activity	Activity / Project Description
<p>Listing Notice 3 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended):</p> <p>Activity Number: 2 Activity Description:</p> <p><i>The development of reservoirs, excluding dams, with a capacity of more than 250 cubic metres.</i></p> <p>i. Western Cape</p> <p><i>i. A protected area identified in terms of NEMPAA, excluding conservancies;</i></p> <p><i>ii. In areas containing indigenous vegetation; or</i></p> <p><i>iii. Inside urban areas:</i></p> <p><i>(aa) Areas zoned for use as public open space; or</i></p> <p><i>(bb) Areas designated for conservation use in Spatial Development Frameworks adopted by the competent authority, or zoned for a conservation purpose.</i></p>	<p>The proposed development entails the development of a reservoir with a capacity of more than 250m³ in an area containing indigenous vegetation (i.e. Saldanha Granite Strandveld) that will be cleared as a result of the proposed development.</p>

The abovementioned is hereinafter referred to as “**the listed activity**”.

The holder is herein authorised to undertake the following alternative that includes the listed activity as it relates to the proposed development:

The authorised development entails the development of a 6.5Ml reservoir and associated infrastructure on Portion 20 of the Farm Patrysenberg No. 43, Laingville. Approximately 1200m² of indigenous vegetation (i.e. Saldanha Granite Strandveld) will be cleared for the development.

The total footprint will be approximately 2600m² in extent.

Associated pipelines will be developed to connect the new reservoir to an existing reservoir located on Portion 1 of Erf 44, Laingville. The pipelines will be located within a road reserve and will not trigger any listed activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended). Access to the site is existing and will be gained off a dirt off along St Helena Bay Road.

C. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION

The listed activity will take place on Portion 20 of Farm Patrysenberg No. 43, Laingville.

The 21-digit Surveyor General code is:

Portion 20 of Farm Patrysenberg No. 43, Laingville	C0460000000004300020
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The central co-ordinates for the proposed site are:

Middle point	32° 47' 48" South	18° 3' 16" East
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Refer to **Annexure 1**: Locality Plan and **Annexure 2**: Site Plan.

The above is hereinafter referred to as “**the site**”.

D. DETAILS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PRACTITIONER

TBL Consulting (Pty) Ltd.
% Mr. Simon von Witt
9 Clydebank Road,
GREENPOINT
8005

Cell: (076) 726 3093
Email: Simon@tblconsulting.co.za

E. CONDITIONS OF AUTHORISATION

Scope of authorisation

1. The holder is authorised to undertake the listed activity specified in Section B above in accordance with and restricted to the Preferred Design Alternative described in Section B above and in the BAR dated August 2021 on the site as described in Section C above.
2. The holder must commence with the listed activity on site within a period of **five (5) years** from the date of issue of this Environmental Authorisation.
3. The development must be **concluded within ten (10) years** from the date of commencement of the listed activity.
4. The holder shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with the conditions by any person acting on his/her behalf, including an agent, sub-contractor, employee or any person rendering a service to the holder.
5. Any changes to, or deviations from the scope of the alternative described in section B above must be accepted or approved, in writing, by the Competent Authority before such changes or deviations may be implemented. In assessing whether to grant such acceptance/approval or not, the Competent Authority may request information in order to evaluate the significance and impacts of such changes or deviations, and it may be necessary for the holder to apply for further authorisation in terms of the applicable legislation.

Written notice to the Competent Authority

6. A minimum of **seven (7)** calendar days' notice, in writing, must be given to the Competent Authority before commencement of development activity.
 - 6.1. The notice must make clear reference to the site details and EIA Reference number given above.
 - 6.2. The notice must also include proof of compliance with the following conditions described herein:

Conditions: 7, 8, 11 and 18.

Notification and administration of appeal

7. The holder must in writing, within **fourteen (14)** calendar days of the date of this decision—
 - 7.1. Notify all registered Interested and Affected Parties ("I&APs") of –
 - 7.1.1. the outcome of the application;
 - 7.1.2. the reasons for the decision as included in Section H;
 - 7.1.3. the date of the decision; and

- 7.1.4. the date when the decision was issued.
- 7.2. Draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the fact that an appeal may be lodged against the decision in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended) detailed in Section F below;
- 7.3. Draw the attention of all registered I&APs to the manner in which they may access the decision; and
- 7.4. Provide the registered I&APs with:
 - 7.4.1. The name of the holder (entity) of this amended Environmental Authorisation;
 - 7.4.2. The name of the responsible person for this amended Environmental Authorisation;
 - 7.4.3. The postal address of the holder;
 - 7.4.4. The telephonic and fax details of the holder;
 - 7.4.5. The e-mail address, if any, of the holder; and
 - 7.4.6. The contact details (postal and/or physical address, contact number, facsimile and e-mail address) of the decision-maker and all registered I&APs in the event that an appeal is lodged in terms of the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
8. The listed activity, including site preparation, must not commence within twenty (20) calendar days from the date the holder notifies the registered I&APs of this decision. In the event that an appeal is lodged with the Appeal Authority, the effect of this Environmental Authorisation is suspended until the appeal is decided i.e. the listed activity, including site preparation, must not commence until the appeal is decided.

Management of activity

9. The Construction Environmental Management Programme ("EMPr") (compiled by TBL Consulting and dated 27 July 2021) and submitted as part of the application for Environmental Authorisation is hereby approved and must be implemented.
10. The EMPr must be included in all contract documentation for all phases of implementation.

Monitoring

11. The holder must appoint a suitably experienced environmental control officer ("ECO"), or site agent where appropriate, before the commencement of any land clearing or development activities to ensure compliance with the provisions of the EMPr and the conditions contained in this Environmental Authorisation.
12. A copy of the Environmental Authorisation, EMPr, Environmental Audit Reports and compliance monitoring reports must be kept at the site of the authorised activity during the development activities thereafter it must be kept at the office of the holder, and must be made available to any authorised person on request.
13. Access to the site referred to in Section C above must be granted, and the environmental reports mentioned above must be produced, to any authorised official representing the Competent Authority who requests to see it for the purposes of assessing and/or monitoring compliance with the conditions contained herein.

Auditing

14. In terms of Regulation 34 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended), the holder must conduct environmental audits to determine compliance with the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation and the EMPr and submit Environmental Audit Reports to the Competent Authority. The Environmental Audit Report must be prepared by an independent person with the relevant environmental auditing expertise and must contain all the information required in Appendix 7 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).
 - 14.1. The holder must undertake an environmental audit within three (3) months of the commencement of the listed activity and submit an Environmental Audit Report to the Competent Authority one (1) month after the completion of undertaking the environmental audit.
 - 14.2. A final Environmental Audit Report must be submitted to the Competent Authority one (1) month after the completion of the development/construction activities.
 - 14.3. The holder must, within seven (7) days of the submission of the reports to the Competent Authority, notify all potential and registered I&APs of the submission and make the report available to any I&APs upon request.

Specific Conditions

15. Should any heritage resources be discovered during the execution of the activities above, all works must be stopped immediately and the Provincial Heritage Resources Authority of the Western Cape, Heritage Western Cape must be notified without delay. Heritage remains uncovered or disturbed during earthworks must not be further disturbed until the necessary approval has been obtained from Heritage Western Cape. Heritage remains include: meteorites, archaeological and/or palaeontological remains (including fossil bones and fossil shells); coins; indigenous and/ or colonial ceramics; any articles of value or antiquity; stone artifacts and bone remains; structures and other built features with heritage significance; rock art and rock engravings; and/or graves or unmarked human burials including grave goods and/or associated burial material.
16. An integrated waste management approach must be implemented that is based on waste minimisation and must incorporate avoidance, reduction, recycling, treat, reuse and disposal where appropriate. Uncontaminated building rubble generated on the premises can be used as back-filling material on site. Ensure that no refuse or rubble generated on the premises is placed, dumped or deposited in the recreated wetland area.
17. Surface, storm or ground water must not be polluted due to any actions on the site. The applicable requirements with respect to relevant legislation pertaining to water must be met.
18. In accordance with the Botanical Assessment (compiled by Bergwind Botanical Survey & Tours and dated 18 January 2021), the internal perimeter of the site, which contains intact Saldanha Granite Strandveld vegetation must be demarcated as a "no-go" area prior to the commencement of any land clearing activities.
19. Dust suppression measures must be used to mitigate dust during the construction phase. No potable water must be used to mitigate dust nuisance. Alternative dust suppression methods (such as shade netting screens and / or straw stabilization, etc.) must be investigated and implemented instead.
20. Employment opportunities must be afforded to the local community (as far as possible) during all phases of the proposed development.

F. GENERAL MATTERS

1. Notwithstanding this Environmental Authorisation, the holder must comply with any other statutory requirements that may be applicable when undertaking the listed activities.
2. Non-compliance with a condition of this Environmental Authorisation or EMPr may render the holder liable to criminal prosecution.
3. If the holder does not commence with the listed activity within the period referred to in Condition 2, this Environmental Authorisation shall lapse for that activity, and a new application for Environmental Authorisation must be submitted to the Competent Authority. If the holder wishes to extend the validity period of the Environmental Authorisation, an application for amendment in this regard must be made to the Competent Authority prior to the expiry date of the Environmental Authorisation.
4. An application for amendment of the Environmental Authorisation to the Competent Authority where any detail with respect to the Environmental Authorisation must be amended, added, substituted, corrected, removed or updated. If a new holder is proposed, an application for Amendment in terms of Part 1 of the EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) must be submitted.

Please note that an amendment is not required if there is a change in the contact details of the holder. In this case, the Competent Authority must only be notified of such changes.

5. The manner and frequency for updating the EMPr is as follows:

Amendments to the EMPr, must be done in accordance with Regulations 35 to 37 of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended) or any relevant legislation that may be applicable at the time.

G. APPEALS

Appeals must comply with the provisions contained in the National Appeal Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

1. An appellant (if the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the notification of the decision was sent to the holder by the Competent Authority –
 - 1.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 1.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to any registered I&APs, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
2. An appellant (if NOT the holder of the decision) must, within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date the holder of the decision sent notification of the decision to the registered I&APs–
 - 2.1. Submit an appeal in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Appeal Regulations 2014 (as amended) to the Appeal Administrator; and
 - 2.2. Submit a copy of the appeal to the holder of the decision, any registered I&AP, any Organ of State with interest in the matter and the decision-maker i.e. the Competent Authority that issued the decision.
3. The holder of the decision (if not the appellant), the decision-maker that issued the decision, the registered I&AP and the Organ of State must submit their responding statements, if any, to the appeal authority and the appellant within 20 (twenty) calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal submission.
4. The appeal form/s must be submitted by means of one of the following methods:
 - By post: Attention: Marius Venter
Western Cape Ministry of Local Government, Environmental Affairs and
Development Planning
Private Bag X9186
CAPE TOWN
8000
 - By facsimile: (021) 483 4174; or
 - By hand: Attention: Mr M. Venter (Tel: 021 483 2659)
Room 809
8th Floor Utilitas Building
1 Dorp Street
CAPE TOWN
8001
 - By e-mail: DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za
5. A prescribed appeal form, as well as assistance regarding the appeal processes is obtainable from the office of the appeal authority at: Tel. (021) 483 3721, E-mail DEADP.Appeals@westerncape.gov.za or URL <http://www.westerncape.gov.za/eadp>.

H. DISCLAIMER

The Western Cape Government, the Local Authority, committees or any other public authority or organisation appointed in terms of the conditions of this Addendum to the Environmental Authorisation shall not be responsible for any damages or losses suffered by the holder, developer or his/her successor in any instance where construction or operation subsequent to construction is temporarily or permanently stopped for reasons of non-compliance with the conditions as set out herein or any other subsequent document or legal action emanating from this decision.

Your interest in the future of our environment is appreciated.

Yours faithfully

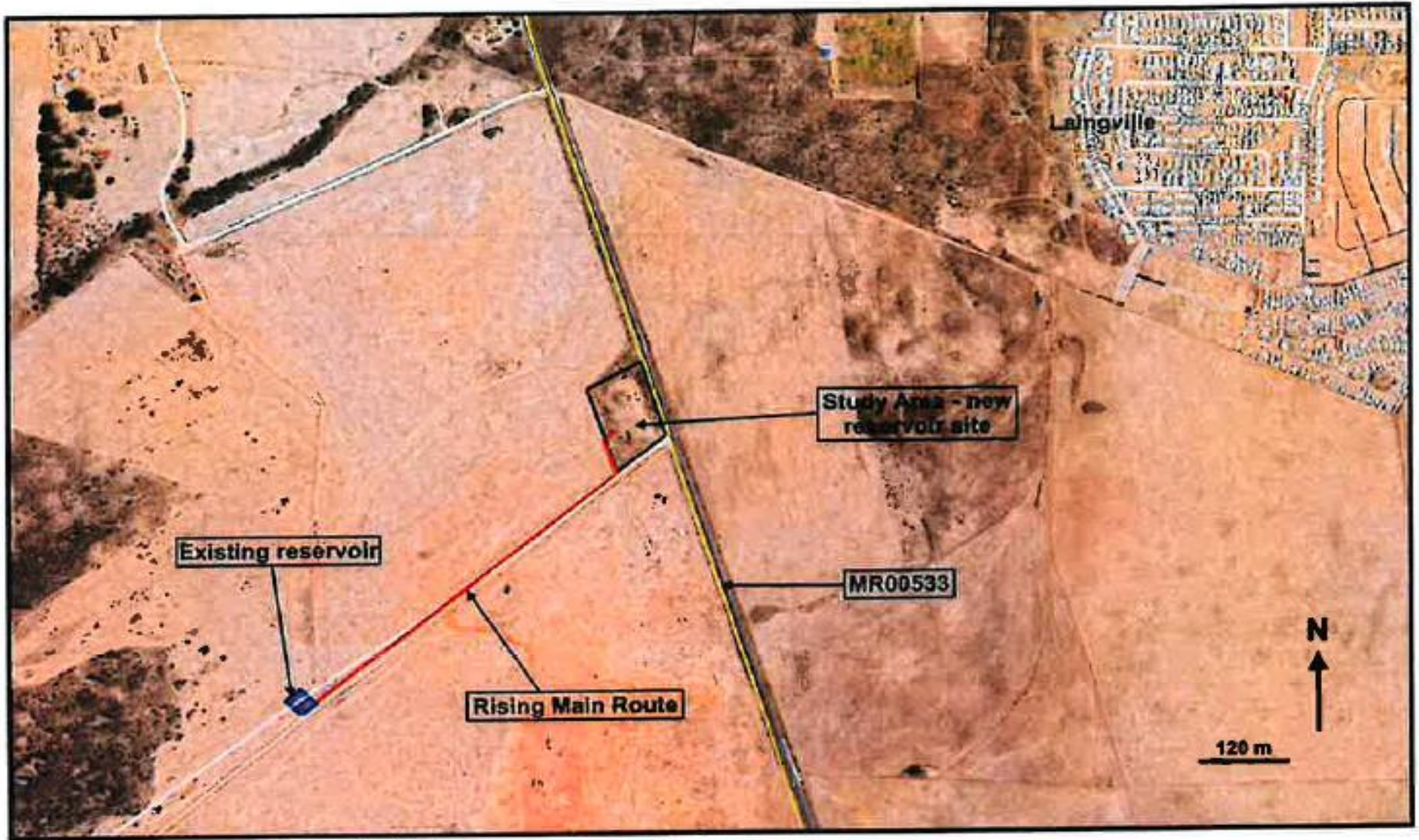
MR. ZAAHIR TOEFY
DIRECTOR: DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT (REGION 1)

DATE OF DECISION: 13 OCTOBER 2021

Copies to: (1) Ms. N. Duarte (Saldanha Bay Municipality)
(2) Mr. S. von Witt (TBL Consulting)

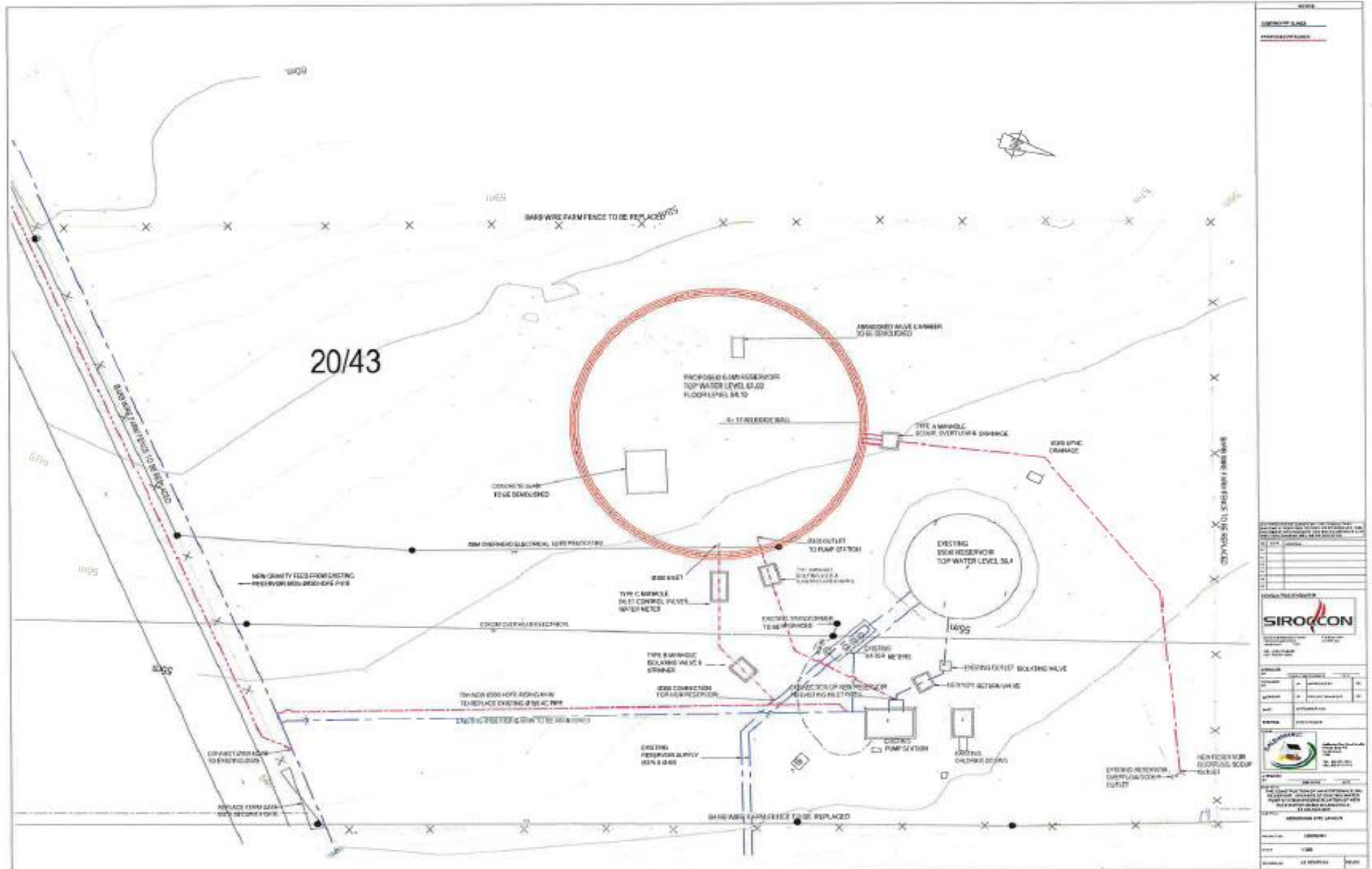
Email: Nazeema.Duarte@sbm.gov.za
Email: Simon@tblconsulting.co.za

Annexure 1: Locality Plan



ANNEXURE 2: SITE PLAN

Site plan of the proposed development.



ANNEXURE 3: REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In reaching its decision, the Competent Authority took, inter alia, the following into consideration:

- a) The information contained in the revised Application Form dated 31 August 2021 and received by the Competent Authority on 01 September 2021, the additional information received by this Directorate on 07 July 2021, the BAR dated August 2021 and received by the Competent Authority on 01 September 2021 and the additional information received by the Competent Authority on 11 October 2021;
- b) Relevant information contained in the Departmental information base, including, the Guidelines on Public Participation, Alternatives and Exemptions (dated March 2013);
- c) The objectives and requirements of relevant legislation, policies and guidelines, including section 2 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998);
- d) The comments received from interested and affected parties and the responses to these, included in the BAR dated August 2021;
- e) The balancing of negative and positive impacts and proposed mitigation measures; and
- f) No site visits were conducted, the Competent Authority had sufficient information before it to make an informed decision without conducting a site visit.

All information presented to the Competent Authority was taken into account in the consideration of the application for Environmental Authorisation. A summary of the issues which, according to the competent authority, were the most significant reasons for the decision, is set out below.

1. Public Participation

The public participation process included:

- identification of and engagement with I&APs;
- fixing a notice board on the property entrance where the listed activity is to be undertaken on 24 June 2021;
- giving written notice to the owners and occupiers of land adjacent to the site where the listed activities are to be undertaken, the municipality and ward councilor, and the various organs of state having jurisdiction in respect of any aspect of the listed activity on 25 June 2021;
- the placing of a newspaper advertisement in the 'Die Burger' on 24 June 2021;
- Making the draft BAR available to I&APs for public review from 25 June 2021 to 26 July 2021 and a revised draft BAR available to I&APs for public review from 30 July 2021 to 30 August 2021; and
- The PPP undertaken was in accordance with the approved undated Public Participation Plan.

All the concerns raised by I&APs were responded to and adequately addressed during the public participation process. The Department is satisfied that the PPP that was followed met the minimum legal requirements and all the comments raised and responses thereto were included in the comments and response report. Specific management and mitigation measures have been considered in this Environmental Authorisation and in the EMPr to adequately address concerns raised.

2. Alternatives

Site Alternative 1 (The Preferred Alternative – herewith authorised)

Site Alternative 1 entails the development of a 6.5MI reservoir and associated infrastructure on Portion 20 of the Farm Patrysenberg No. 43, Laingville. Approximately 1200m² of indigenous vegetation (i.e. Saldanha Granite Strandveld) will be cleared for the development.

The total footprint will be approximately 2600m² in extent.

Associated pipelines will be developed to connect the new reservoir to an existing reservoir located on Portion 1 of Erf 44, Laingville. However, the pipelines will be located within a road reserve and will not trigger any listed activities in terms of the NEMA EIA Regulations, 2014 (as amended).

Access to the site is existing and will be gained off a dirt off along St Helena Bay Road.

Site Alternative 1 was deemed the preferred since the proposed site is owned by the applicant. In addition, Site Alternative 1 will result in a minimal loss of indigenous vegetation and will be located in close proximity to an existing reservoir. For these reasons, Site Alternative 1 was deemed the Preferred Alternative.

Site Alternative 2

Portion 1 of Farm No. 44, Laingville was considered for the development of the proposed 6.5MI reservoir.

Although an existing high-lying reservoir is located on Site Alternative 2 and would require minimal infrastructure, site alternative 2 was not deemed the preferred alternative due to the fact that the proposed site is not owned by the applicant and would result additional financial implications. In addition, the botanical sensitivity of site alternative 2 was deemed higher than that of the preferred site since it is mapped to contain Critical Biodiversity Areas and contains intact Saldanha Granite Strandveld vegetation, which is classified as Endangered in terms of the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act, 2004 (Act No. 10 of 2004) – National List of Ecosystems that are threatened and in Need of Protection.

“No-Go” Alternative

The “No-Go” Alternative is deemed unfavourable due to the fact that the local community's water demand has increased and requires intervention to meet the requirements of service delivery. Since the Site Alternative 1 (i.e. the Preferred Alternative) will not result in unacceptable environmental impacts, the “No-Go” Alternative was not warranted.

3. Impact Assessment and Mitigation measures

3.1 Activity Need and Desirability

The proposed site is currently owned by the applicant and is zoned as authority. An existing low-lying reservoir is located on the proposed site, which has been developed and in use since before 1997. An additional reservoir is required to ensure that adequate water supply and water storage is available for the town of Laingville and the surrounding areas. Although the proposed development will result in the loss of approximately 1200m² of indigenous vegetation, the condition of the indigenous vegetation has been confirmed as highly degraded by the botanical specialist who conducted the Botanical Assessment discussed below.

The proposed development will enable bulk water storage facilities to meet the increasing demand of potable water supply to the surrounding communities. The development will

enable the applicant to meeting its objective with respect to basic service delivery within the area and a safe water supply.

3.2 Geotechnical considerations

A Geotechnical Site Investigation (compiled by Melis and Du Plessis Consulting Engineers (Pty) Ltd and dated September 2020) was undertaken to determine whether the proposed site was suitable for development from a geotechnical perspective. A number of trial pits were excavated on the proposed site. No groundwater was encountered during the test pit excavations. The DPSH 3 test identified a risk at the site related to variable depth of weathering and rockhead level, which could cause non-uniform support and differential settlement across the base of the reservoir. Mitigation measures to avoid this risk have been recommended by the specialist and have been included in the EMPr. Provided that the mitigation measures are implemented, the risk should be reduced to fall within acceptable limits from a geotechnical perspective. The Department of Water and Sanitation indicated (in their comment dated 26 August 2021) requested that a stormwater management plan be developed and implemented and offered no objection to the proposed development. A Stormwater Management Plan (compiled by TBL Consulting and dated 29 August 2021) has been included in the EMPr.

3.3. Botanical Impacts

According to the Screening Report (dated 31 March 2021), the proposed site is deemed to be located within a very high sensitivity area from a terrestrial biodiversity perspective and a low sensitivity area from an plant species perspective. A Botanical Impact Assessment (compiled by Bergwind Botanical Survey & Tours and dated 18 January 2021) was undertaken to determine the potential botanical impacts associated with the proposed development. The specialist indicated that although the Screening Report indicates that the site is located within a very high sensitivity area from a terrestrial biodiversity perspective, the site is located within a medium terrestrial biodiversity area. The specialist further indicated that the proposed development would result in the minimal loss of Saldanha Granite Strandveld as the proposed site is located in a heavily disturbed area. A band of intact indigenous vegetation located on the internal perimeter of the site was indicated as a “no-go” area by the specialist. The overall botanical impacts were deemed to be of very low negative significance post mitigation. No specific mitigation measures were recommended by the specialist, except that the internal perimeter of the site be demarcated as a “no-go” area. The recommendation of the specialist has been included as a condition set in this Environmental Authorisation and in the EMPr.

3.4. Heritage Impacts

A Notice of Intent to Develop was submitted to Heritage Western Cape. Heritage Western Cape indicated (in their comment dated 06 July 2021) that since there is no reason to believe that the proposed development will impact on heritage resources, no further action under Section 38 of the National Heritage Resources Act, 1999 (Act No. 25 of 1999) is required.

3.5. Services

Existing electricity supply is available on the proposed site and no additional infrastructure is anticipated.

3.6. Dust and Noise Impacts

Potential dust and noise impacts associated with the proposed development will be mitigated by the implementation of the mitigation measures included in the EMPr.

The development will result in both negative and positive impacts.

Negative Impacts include:

- The loss of some indigenous vegetation; and
- Potential dust and noise impacts during the construction phase.

Positive impacts include:

- Improved water security and supply for the surrounding community;
- Some employment opportunities during construction phase of the proposed development; and
- Improved service delivery in the Laingville and surrounding areas.

National Environmental Management Act Principles

The National Environmental Management Principles (set out in section 2 of the NEMA, which apply to the actions of all organs of state, serve as guidelines by reference to which any organ of state must exercise any function when taking any decision, and which must guide the interpretation, administration and implementation of any other law concerned with the protection or management of the environment), inter alia, provides for:

- the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment to be taken into account;
- the consideration, assessment and evaluation of the social, economic and environmental impacts of activities (disadvantages and benefits), and for decisions to be appropriate in the light of such consideration and assessment;
- the co-ordination and harmonisation of policies, legislation and actions relating to the environment;
- the resolving of actual or potential conflicts of interest between organs of state through conflict resolution procedures; and
- the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

Conclusion

In view of the above, the NEMA principles, compliance with the conditions stipulated in this Environmental Authorisation, and compliance with the EMPr, the Competent Authority is satisfied that the proposed listed activity will not conflict with the general objectives of integrated environmental management stipulated in Chapter 5 of the National Environmental Management Act, 1998 (Act No. 107 of 1998) and that any potentially detrimental environmental impacts resulting from the listed activity can be mitigated to acceptable levels.

You are reminded of your general duty of care towards the environment in terms of Section 28(1) of the NEMA which states: *“Every person who causes, has caused or may cause significant pollution or degradation of the environment must take reasonable measures to prevent such pollution or degradation from occurring, continuing or recurring, or, in so far as such harm to the environment is authorised by law or cannot reasonably be avoided or stopped, to minimise and rectify such pollution or degradation of the environment.”*

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