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SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

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reference date	SSD14/2/6/1/9/6/383-26_JadeHills_Dam_Ceres 13 June 2019

Inge Erasmus
EnviroAfrica
P O Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

By email: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Inge,

CAPENATURE COMMENT ON PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW JADE HILLS DAM ON PORTION 26 OF FARM STINKFONTEIN NO. 383, CERES, PRE-APP SCOPING REPORT AND PLAN OF STUDY

DEA&DP Ref: to be supplied

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application and wish to make the following comments. Please note that our comments pertain only to biodiversity related impacts and not to the overall desirability of the application.

1. CapeNature's comments of 11 December 2018 have been correctly reflected in the comments and responses table, bar the date which reflects 2019 for both the CapeNature comment and for the BGCMA comment.
2. As indicated in the 2017 WCBSP there are no Critical Biodiversity Areas (CBAs) mapped for the site nor in the immediate vicinity of the proposed site. Ecological Support Areas (ESA2) are mapped along the drainage lines which traverse the property, one of which coincides with the proposed dam and this is correctly reflected in the report. As noted the desired management objective for ESA 2 areas is that they are restored and or managed to minimise impact on ecological infrastructure functioning – especially as relevant in this case, water-related, functioning. The recommendations that will come out of the freshwater assessment currently underway will be of particular importance in this regard.
3. In terms of potential botanical impacts, the mapped vegetation for the area is Ceres Shale Renosterveld which is classified as Endangered according to criterion A1, irreversible loss of natural habitat. It is noted however, that the area is intensely cultivated with little remaining natural vegetation. As reflected in aerial imagery, and as noted in the comments and responses table, there is little to no natural vegetation remaining at the proposed site and along the associated drainage line. It is understood that the area of natural veld remaining to the south of

The Western Cape Nature Conservation Board trading as **CapeNature**

Board Members: Prof Denver Hendricks (Chairperson), Prof Gavin Maneveldt (Vice Chairperson), Ms Marguerite Bond-Smith, Mr Mervyn Burton, Dr Colin Johnson, Prof Aubrey Redlinghuis, Mr Paul Slack

the proposed dam will not be impacted by the development. The proposal to link this area of natural vegetation up with the small stream and to re-establish a more natural corridor linking the remaining natural veld with the dam along a rocky ridge, is supported. It is noted that a botanical specialist will conduct a Botanical Assessment to determine conditions on site; search for species of conservation concern and to make recommendations.

4. In relation to freshwater impacts, as indicated above, it is noted that a Freshwater Assessment is currently underway, the findings of which will inform the next phase of this application.

CapeNature reserves the right to revise initial comments and request further information based on any additional information that may be received.

Yours sincerely



Philippa Huntly For: Manager (Scientific Services)