

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES

postal Private Bag X5014 Stellenbosch 7599
physical Assegaibosch Nature Reserve Jonkershoek
website www.capenature.co.za
enquiries **Alana Duffell-Canham**
telephone +27 21 866 8000 **fax** +27 21 866 1523
email aduffell-canham@capenature.co.za
reference **SSD14/2/6/1/8/5/792_Water_Dam_Enlargement_Zwartfontein**
date **04 April 2019**

Inge Erasmus
EnviroAfrica
PO Box 5367
Helderberg
7135

By email: admin@enviroafrica.co.za

Dear Ms Erasmus

RE: Proposed increase of the existing Zwartfontein Dam Wall on remainder of Zwartfontein Farm No. 792, Malmesbury – Background Information Document.
DEA&DP Ref: TBC

CapeNature would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Background Information Document for this application and wish to make the following comments:

1. Historically, the proposed development site would have supported Swartland Shale Renosterveld. The site has however been cultivated and there is no natural terrestrial vegetation occurring on the site including the potential expansion area. A botanical specialist assessment is therefore not deemed necessary.
2. The stream in which the dam is located has been heavily modified. It has however been determined as an Ecological Support Area category 2 (ESA2) which are areas which are acknowledged as being degraded but are still important for ecological processes and/or ecosystem services. In this case, the stream is a tributary of the Berg River and should be assisting with maintaining flows. Therefore, consideration should be given to potential positive impacts of the dam that could compensate for increased abstraction and storage of water from the Berg River. For example, not abstracting water from the Berg River at all during the drier months and determining ways to improve riparian and instream habitat of the Berg River and tributaries that are located within the study area.

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

Yours sincerely



Alana Duffell-Canham
For: Manager (Scientific Services)

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