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TOWNSHIP MANAGER
JOSEPH M. ZICHELLI, ESQ.

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Jim Muller, Executive Director
Passaic Valley Water Commission
1525 Main Avenue
Clifton, New Jersey, 07011
Via Certified Mail and E-Mail (ExecutiveDirector@pvwc.com)

April 5, 2023

Dear Mr. Muller:

I trust this letter finds you and the Board of Commissioners well. My name is Joseph Zichelli and I am the Township Manager for the Township of Cedar Grove. As you are aware, Cedar Grove is a customer of PVWC.

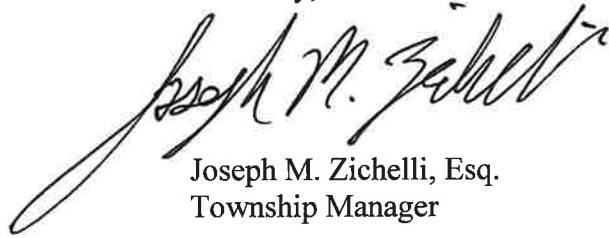
On February 28, 2023, Cedar Grove received a notice of violation for exceedances in pH levels in the drinking water PVWC supplied to us. Samplings of this water occurred prior to the water passing through Cedar Grove's meters and, as such, was still water that belonged to PVWC. After receipt of this notice of violation, the DEP insisted Cedar Grove address the residents via public notice that explained the incident and set forth a remedial action plan. After much dialogue, Cedar Grove's position is that this problem was neither caused by, nor can be remedied by, any action Cedar Grove is capable of performing, as the pH level of the water needs to be corrected directly from your distribution facility. The DEP conceded as much in a virtual call on March 2, 2023, however, the Township does not expect the DEP to address this with your agency, therefore, I am taking the liberty to pen this request.

Immediately, Cedar Grove installed four sample stations throughout the Township to monitor these levels, however, because Cedar Grove does not treat the drinking water, the onus falls on the PVWC to ensure the drinking water reaching Cedar Grove, and subsequent municipalities, falls within the parameters set forth by the State. After receipt of notice, Michael Grasso, Cedar Grove's licensed operator, immediately contacted your facility for pH adjustment and, since then, the Township has been in compliance with all regulations.

Going forward, Cedar Grove is asking PVWC to ensure that all water leaving your facilities and being supplied to Cedar Grove and subsequent municipalities complies with all regulations, including but not limited to, those addressed in the DEP Notice of Violation attached hereto. In the future, should exceedances occur at no fault of the Township, Cedar Grove requests PVWC indemnify, hold harmless, and fulfill any regulatory or procedural requirements issued by the DEP or other governmental agencies to address issues such as this, and others.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me via email at zichelli@cedargrovenj.org or by phone at 973-239-1410 x 201.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph M. Zichelli". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Joseph M. Zichelli, Esq.
Township Manager

CC: Hon. Rigo Sanchez, *President*; Hon. Gerald Friend, *Vice President*; Hon. Carmen DePadua, *Treasurer*; Hon. Ruby Cotton, *Secretary*; Hon. Joseph Kolodziej, *Commissioner*; Hon. Jeffrey Levine, *Commissioner*; Hon. Ronald Van Rensaller, *Commissioner*; Louis Amodio, *Administrative Secretary* (Via E-Mail lamodio@pvwc.com)

CC: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Supply & Geoscience, Attn., Matthew Wilson, *Bureau Chief, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water* (Via E-Mail Matthew.Wilson@dep.nj.gov)

CC: Mayor and Council, Township of Cedar Grove