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To	Jim Donovan	From	Valerie Capels		
Co./Dept.	WSA	Co.			
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Department of Fish and Wildlife  
 Department of Forest, Parks and Recreation  
 Department of Environmental Conservation

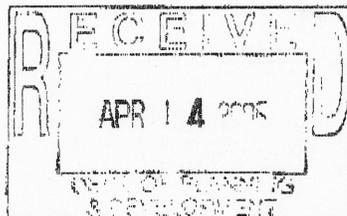
## AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
 District Fisheries Office  
 3902 Roxbury Road  
 Roxbury, Vermont 05669  
 (802) 485-7566

April 11, 2005

Valerie J. Capels  
 City of Montpelier  
 Department of Planning and Community Development  
 City Hall, 39 Main Street  
 Montpelier, VT 05602-2950

Ms. Capels,



I am writing in response to your March 10, 2005 memo re: the proposed Montpelier multi-modal transit and welcome center on land adjacent to the confluence of the North Branch and Winooski rivers. While your memo provides a site location and general description of the proposal, detailed site development plans were not included. Therefore my comments must be general in nature as well.

The North Branch and Winooski rivers in this vicinity support both stocked and wild trout (rainbow trout and brown trout) which sustain a recreational fishery, as well as several nongame fish species. A 1999 angler survey conducted by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife estimated angling pressure in the Winooski River in this vicinity to be 342 angler hours per mile, which can be considered a moderately high level for Vermont rivers.

Protection of these aquatic resources and the recreational fisheries they sustain depends largely on adjacent land management. The maintenance of forested riparian buffers is among the most important measure available to protect aquatic resources (<http://www.anr.state.vt.us/site/html/buff/anrbuffer2005.htm>). Undisturbed, naturally vegetated buffer strips are extremely important in maintaining cool water temperatures and stable streambanks, filtering pollutants and providing food and shelter for fish and other aquatic organisms. These benefits are realized not only within the protected stream reach, but also in its downstream receiving waters. While currently, little riparian vegetation exists along the streambanks, enhancements of these features would be beneficial. Stormwater management will also be an important feature of this development to minimize the discharge of additional pollutants to area rivers.

Providing access to the river for recreational fishing or other activities would also be a great asset of this project. Despite the urban nature of this section of river, large wild trout have been regularly reported by anglers.

If there is any instream or streambank related construction being considered, please provide additional information, as I will need to review these activities under the stream alteration permit process. Let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rich Kim  
 District Fisheries Biologist