

December 3, 2013

Mr. Albert Padilla
Dr. Michael Conti Public School #5
182 Merseles St
Jersey City, NJ 07302

RE: Improving Water Absorption Efficiency Using Green Infrastructure

Dear Mr. Padilla & Students:

On behalf of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) Water Resources Program, I would like to express our strong support for your work on the green infrastructure proposal, "Improving Water Absorption Efficiency Using Green Infrastructure" for the Dr. Michael Conti Public School #5, presented by the "Conti Cougars." The innovative strategies outlined in this multi-phase project and the array of enthusiastic partners you will be working with will help Jersey City envision a new future. This new future will include unique strategies like you have proposed to better manage stormwater runoff and will protect the health of Jersey City residents from the impacts of combined sewers while reducing flooding, increasing resiliency, and protecting water quality.

The RCE Water Resources Program provides solutions for many of the water quality and quantity issues facing New Jersey. In partnership with the Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC), we are currently partnering with communities throughout Hudson, Essex, Passaic, and Bergen Counties to implement a green infrastructure program that better manages stormwater runoff while reducing flooding, sewer back-ups, and combined sewer overflows. Efforts include providing green infrastructure educational programs, green job training, and implementing demonstration projects. The RCE Water Resources Program provides technical assistance to communities solving water resources problems. Through our partnership with PVSC, we have provided the Environmental Science Club students at the Dr. Michael Conti Public School #5 with an overview of sustainable stormwater management through green infrastructure and an evaluation of the school's surroundings to identify possible green infrastructure practices that can be implemented at the school.

We urge the City of Jersey City and the Dr. Michael Conti Public School #5 to support the students' proposal in becoming the first school in Jersey City to implement green infrastructure. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Christopher C. Obropta, Ph.D., P.E.