



**Charles County  
Board of County Commissioners  
Meeting of December 3, 2024  
Department of Planning and Growth  
Management Staff Report**

**Water Service Category Amendment  
2024 Fall Cycle**

**Wawa Bel Alton  
9260 Crain Highway  
Application Number: 2024-B15**

**Prepared by Heather Kelley, Planning Supervisor  
For questions, contact Planning at 301-645-0592**

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## **I. Applicant & Project Information:**

- a. Project Name: Wawa Bel Alton
  - i. Applicant: Bel Alton 301 Developers, LLC
  - ii. Engineer: Dynamic Engineering, PC (Connor McManus, PE)
- b. Project Number: 2024-B15
- c. Subject Property: The Project encompasses Tax Map 64, Parcels 1-5 of 10.41 acres.
- d. Land Use & Zoning Category: The subject property is zoned Village Commercial (CV) and is located outside of the Development District and the Priority Funding Area. The property is located within Septic Tier 2 (planned for sewer service) on the “Sustainable Growth and Agricultural Preservation Act Tier Area Designations Map” most recently updated on July 12, 2016.
- e. General Description of Request: The Applicant is requesting a change to their water category from W-5 to W-3, in accordance with the Review and Amendment Procedures described in Section 1.4.2 of the Charles County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan.

## **II. Review and Amendment Procedures:**

As described in Section 1.4.2 of the Charles County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan, the County Commissioners will consider amendments to priority classification, text, and maps of the adopted Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan and may do so on a semi-annual amendment cycle. A public hearing before the Charles County Commissioners will be held to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on the proposed amendments. Local jurisdictions shall be given at least two weeks’ notice of the public hearing, to afford them the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed amendments. To that end, the public notice for the subject hearing has been provided to planning agencies for Calvert County, Prince George’s County, St. Mary’s County, the Towns of Indian Head and LaPlata, and the Director of Environmental Health for the Charles County Health Department.

Requests for service category amendment must meet the criteria for priority re-classification established in the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan and described below.

## **III. Water & Sewer Category Classification System:**

As described in the Charles County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan, Section 1.4.1, the County Commissioners have established a priority classification system in accordance

with State law. The priority system is designed to show a rational and timely means to obtain such facilities, while maintaining the integrity of both the County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan and the County Comprehensive Land Use Plan. The priority system is designed to show need and intent of the County, its municipalities, and the development community for establishing or extending public, community, or multi-use water and sewer systems. The County Commissioners of Charles County separate their water and sewer priority classification system as there are fundamental differences in the interpretation of these categories, which affects their implementation. Each category change requires an amendment to the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan, as approved by the Charles County Commissioners, except for the change from Category 3 to Category 1. The change from Category 3 to Category 1 will be completed administratively by the Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management as properties receive an approved Utility Permit and Use and Occupancy Permit. As the subject application is requesting a water service category amendment, an explanation of each water service category is provided below in a.

**a. Water Supply: Priority Classification System**

- **W-6 Outside Designated Service Areas – No Planned Service.** This category is assigned to all properties outside municipalities and outside designated water service areas.
- **W-5 Water Service Areas or Interconnection Zones.** This category is assigned to all properties within designated water service areas or water interconnection zones, unless properties have attained a "W-3" or "W-1" category. Properties within water supply zones may be required to interconnect infrastructure systems in order to assure that adequate contingency water supply, storage and fire suppression capabilities exist. Lots in minor subdivisions or new residential construction on existing lots may be served by individual wells where public water is more than 500 feet away.
- **W-3 Planned Service.** Properties where improvements to, or construction of, new community water supply systems are planned or are under design. All subdivisions and new construction with this designation must be served by public/central water systems. A service category amendment to "W-3" shall precede the approval of preliminary plans of subdivision and site plans utilizing public water supply and sewer services by the Planning Commission. Properties desiring such a re-classification shall submit an application for amendment to the County Department of Planning and Growth Management. Replacement wells are permitted for properties more than 500 feet from existing distribution lines within an area designated as "W-3" or "W-1". A "W-3" does not require further application, as elevation to a "W-1" is contingent upon developer action or infrastructure status.

- **W-1 Existing Service.** Properties served by community or multi-use systems which are either existing or under construction. No private wells are permitted.

**Staff Comment:** The applicant's request meets the criteria for priority re-classification from W-5 to W-3.

**b. Sewer Service: Priority Classification System**

**Staff Comment:** The subject parcel's current sewer service category of "S-3", which indicates planned for service, is adequate for the proposed use and an amendment is not required or proposed.

Per Section 6.4 of the Water and Sewer Ordinance, to develop on public water and/or sewer, an allocation must be obtained. Areas available for allocation shall be designated by at least a "W-3" category for water service and a "S-3" category for sewer service as shown in the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan, and its accompanying maps.

**III. Conclusion & Recommendation:**

The Applicant's proposed change in water category from W-5 to W-3 has met the criteria for priority re-classification established in the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan described above, and staff recommends approval.

Following the decision of the County Commissioners, the amendment shall be sent to the Maryland Department of the Environment for its review and final approval.

**IV. Appendices:** Attached.