

Basic Stormwater Management Facility Maintenance Policy

In accordance with the Intergovernmental Agreements Regarding Stormwater Management between the Authority and the City of Douglasville and Douglas County, the Authority's Board of Directors has approved the following basic maintenance and repair policy:

1. The Authority owns, operates, maintains, and repairs:
 - a. Stormwater structures that are located within public road right-of-way;
 - b. Stormwater structures in single-family residential areas that are directly connected to structures in the public road right-of-way and that the Authority has, in writing, accepted an ownership interest in (provided, however, that there is express written acceptance by deed or easement); and
 - c. Other stormwater structures that the Authority has, in writing, accepted an ownership interest in (provided, however, that there is express written acceptance by deed or easement).
2. The Authority regulates, but is not responsible for the maintenance of:
 - a. Stormwater structures completely located on private property;
 - b. Driveway pipes; and
 - c. Nonstructural controls on private property.
3. General drainage easements are dedicated to the public good. They are not owned or maintained by the Authority. Private property owners are responsible for maintaining any drainage easements on or across their property and for ensuring that debris, yard clippings, fallen trees, etc. do not block, clog, or otherwise impede any pipe inlet or outlet on their property.
4. Private property owners are responsible for addressing erosion along any creek, stream, drainage ditch, or any other waterway on or across their property, regardless of whether such watercourses are "waters of the State," so as to ensure that the banks of the watercourse are stabilized and that sediment does not leave their property.
5. When public safety is at issue:
 - a. The Authority *may* participate in a multi-property solution, provided that all affected property owners consent, cooperate, and contribute, as may be appropriate on a case by case basis. The Authority *may* participate in a one-time repair, replacement, and/or upgrade project on private property, provided that the property owners execute a release, which shall make it clear that the perpetual duty to maintain any structures on private property shall be the responsibility of the property owner, unless otherwise specifically provided in a written agreement executed by the Authority.
 - b. If a private structure or condition located on private property is contributing to a public safety problem, and the property owner(s) will not consent, cooperate, and contribute to the solution, then the Authority reserves the right to go onto private property for the purpose of correcting the problem. The Authority shall have the right to charge the property owner(s) for said repairs, the cost of which may be included on the property owner(s) utility bill or invoiced separately, at the sole discretion of the Authority.
6. With respect to flooding, the Authority does not purchase flooded houses (or other structures, whether habitable or not); provided, however, that the Authority may, in its sole discretion, participate in a voluntary buy-out program for single-family residential homes in the floodplain where the Authority qualifies for and is awarded grant monies for this specific purpose. The Authority does not build levies.