Comment from Kristopher Wilhoyte received via PublicInput on Nov. 2, 2022.

Lowe Grass Carp SEPA# 22046 To whom it may concern, Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Lowe Grass Carp Project. I am a student at Green River College and am taking fish identification and biology classes currently. I would like to inquire about some of the details of this project. To begin, I am curious about the planned number of triploid carp being added to the stormwater pond. I am concerned that the number stocked may reduce the oxygen content of the water to dangerous levels, especially if there are already populations of bass and bluegill within the pond already that were mentioned in part 5A of the SEPA application. According to Gary Burtle, from the Department of Animal and Dairy Science at the Texas A&M University, "Common causes of oxygen depletion include cloudy weather, sudden death of algae or plants in the pond, and wind mixing the pond water (Burtle, P.1, Paragraph 3)". I believe this is important because adding carp to manage the vegetation is a sound idea, however, if too many carp are added, there is a risk of them destroying the underwater vegetation too quickly, resulting in a large decrease in pond oxygenation while increasing the number of fish that need oxygen in the pond. Additionally, concerning the amount stocked, I believe the fish may be at risk of overcrowding. Natural die-off is expected in the proposal and restocking is planned, however, has the die-off of the "native" fish like bass and bluegill after the carp have been added been considered? Finally, I have a question concerning the photos in the application. Is the fish gate/barrier photo attached last to the application, part of the large pond shown in the photo above it? I think the addition of sterile carp is a great idea to manage vegetation levels, I am simply concerned about the other fish in the pond and their survival rates. I suggest evaluating the number of fish currently in the pond before adding the carp to better manage for survival of the fish in the pond and the ones added. Sources Texas A&M University (2014, May) Oxygen Depletion in Ponds. http://soiltesting.tamu.edu/publications/c1048.PDF Sincerely, Kristopher Wilhoyte Wilhoyte.Kristopher@student.greenriver.edu (If this is a substantive comment I would appreciate being added as a party of record.)