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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Information for South Burlington Residents
On State of Vermont Stormwater Regulations

The State of Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) recently received a court decision stating that National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit coverage would be required for the properties located in stormwater impaired watersheds (http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw_RDA.htm) throughout Vermont. This decision commonly referred to as Residual Designation Authority (RDA), will impact properties in South Burlington before other communities as South Burlington has more stormwater impaired watersheds than any other Vermont municipality. These watersheds include Bartlett Brook, Centennial Brook, Potash Brook, and Englesby Brook. These requirements will eventually apply to all towns with stormwater impaired streams in Vermont.

The decision says that private property that does not drain to the public infrastructure (i.e. private property that discharges directly to an impaired stream) will be required to apply for coverage under a new general permit within 180 days of the notification that took place on June 19, 2009. The impacted property owners (there are approximately 480 in South Burlington) will be notified shortly by ANR. Additionally, we have posted the addresses of all the impacted properties on the City's website (www.sburl.com).

The VT ANR intends to issue a general stormwater permit for discharges in the near future. This permit is still being drafted and details related to what will be required are not currently available. Affected property owners do not yet have specific requirements and will not until the release of the permit detail.

We are currently reviewing the list of properties identified and will be issuing comments to the State regarding this list. Until a draft general permit is made available and the requirements for permit coverage are made clear, South Burlington and other municipalities will be unable to provide specific information to affected property owners. We will work with homeowners who need assistance complying with these state requirements once the permit requirements are made clear.

The City of South Burlington Stormwater Utility is currently working with a number of homeowners associations to design and construct stormwater treatment projects for their neighborhoods. We have generally advised homeowners associations to defer construction until the final VT ANR permit requirements are issued.

Due to the lack of clarity related to the State permits, the City is not currently taking over responsibility for the State permits. The Stormwater Utility intends to take over maintenance of these facilities after design and construction of the required improvements.

We are also working with VT ANR on the City's stormwater permit. This permit will be re-written in the fall of 2009 and will likely require additional stormwater improvement projects as part of the permit process. Fortunately, the City through the stormwater utility is well positioned to handle additional stormwater projects.

To obtain more information on the RDA decision, or to determine if your property will be required to seek NPDES coverage, you can visit VT ANR's web site at:

http://www.vtwaterquality.org/stormwater/htm/sw_RDA.htm .