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State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY
DIVISION OF PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & CONSTRUCTION
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State Treasurer

STEVEN SUTKIN
Director

April 18, 2012

Ms. Althena Tacha (*atacha@UMD.EDU*)
3721 Huntington Street, NW
Washington, DC 20015

**Re: Green Acres
Dept. of Environmental Protection Sculpture**

Dear Ms. Tacha:

I am responding to your email of January 19, 2012 (attached) concerning the Green Acres sculpture located at the headquarters of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP"). As you know, the State of New Jersey and the DEP has long recognized the value that public arts projects bring to enhancing the lives of its citizens. However, in the current austere economic times, that value is balanced with the scarcity of funds available for the repair of public art.

As you noted in your email, the Green Acres sculpture suffers from "brick cracks, chipped corners and sunken slate slabs." Be advised that in the event of emergency evacuations from the DEP headquarters, the sculpture is used as a means of passage from the courtyard and away from the building. Due to its current state of deterioration, Green Acres now poses a public safety risk to the occupants and visitors of the DEP headquarters because it impedes the safe and expeditious evacuation of the building. As a result, the Green Acres needs to be removed from the site.

The State of New Jersey is willing to accommodate your removal of the sculpture at your own expense. The sculpture will not be substantially affected until July 31, 2012 to accommodate your removal. Please contact the Office of Building Management and Operations at (609) 777-3256 to discuss the logistics of removal.

Sincerely,

Guy C. Bocage
Deputy Director and Chief of Staff

Attachment