



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation

Robert F. McDonnell  
Governor

Gordon N. Dixon  
Director

James S. Cheng  
Secretary of  
Commerce and Trade

December 17, 2012

Mr. Anthony Romanello  
County Administrator  
Stafford County  
Administration Center  
1300 Courthouse Rd.  
Stafford, VA 22554

Dear Mr. Romanello:

It has been brought to the attention of the Virginia Board for Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects (APELSCIDLA) that there has been a misconception among localities about Land Surveyor Bs' (LSB) authority to prepare plats, plans and profiles for roads, storm drainage systems, sanitary sewer extensions, and water line extensions. LSBs may perform those functions, as well as other engineering incidental to such work, for subdivisions, site plans and plans of development pursuant to §54.1-408 in the *Code of Virginia*.

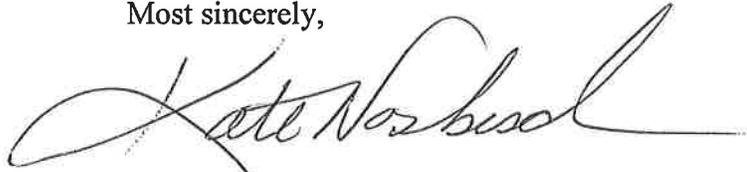
The issue of LSBs' authority to design water line extensions was recently discussed by the land surveyor (LS) section of the Board at its last meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup> and most recently discussed at the APELSCIDLA full board meeting on December 13<sup>th</sup>. In their discussion, the surveyor members explained that, according to §54.1-408 of the *Code of Virginia*, an LSB is permitted to design water line extensions. However, it also clarified that localities' authority is not limited pursuant to §54.1-410.

In summary, a land surveyor is authorized to design water line extensions within the parameters established in §54.1-408, however; the Code also specifies that the work included in §54.1-408 "shall involve the use and application of standards prescribed by local or state authorities." Further, §54.1-410.A establishes that nothing in Chapter 4 of Title 54.1 or the regulations of the Board "shall be construed to limit the authority of any public official authorized by law to approve plans, specifications or calculations in connection with improvements to real property."

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If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 804-367-8514.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kate Nobsch".

Kathleen (Kate) R. Nobsch  
Executive Director  
Virginia APELSCIDLA Board

C: Dr. Maureen Dempsey, Commissioner, Virginia Department of Health  
David K. Paylor, Director, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality  
David A. Johnson, Director, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Virginia Association of Surveyors  
James D. Campbell, CAE, Virginia Association of Counties  
R. Michael Amyx, Executive Director, Virginia Municipal League