SC RIVERS FOREVER

October 26, 2026

Attn: Andrew Edwards
Water Quality Standards Coordinator
SC Department of Environmental Services
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201

Re: Comments on 2026 Triennial Review and proposed revisions to Regulation 61-68, *Water Classifications and Standards*, and Regulation 61-69, *Classified Waters*

Dear Mr. Edwards,

I am writing on behalf of South Carolina Rivers Forever, a network of conservation organizations, businesses, and citizens with a mission to protect the State's surface and ground waters, to submit comments on the 2026 Triennial Review and proposed revisions to Regulation 61-68 and Regulation 61-69.

Sufficient flow plays a critical role in supporting the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of streams and rivers. We support the department's proposal to adopt a narrative flow standard to ensure that designated uses of the State's freshwaters and estuaries, including aquatic life and primary and secondary contact recreation are protected. EPA has recommended the adoption of a narrative flow standard since at least 2016[1], and numerous stakeholders have been requesting it even longer.

Additionally, we continue to encourage the department to make prompt and meaningful efforts to establish in-stream nutrient standards for estuaries, rivers, and streams, and to develop water quality standards for emerging contaminants, including per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and 1,4 dioxane.

The members of South Carolina Rivers Forever look forward to working with the Department through the remainder of the triennial review process.

Sincerely,

Bill Stangler

Bill Stangler
Congaree Riverkeeper
SC Rivers Forever Co-Chair

SC Rivers Forever is a working group of the SC Conservation Coalition - a partnership of organizations working with South Carolinians to ensure that current and future generations can thrive in a safe, clean, and healthy environment.

[1] https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-12/documents/final-aquatic-life-hydrologic-alteration-report.pdf