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W&W Realty Co., LLC Awarded \$2.7M Grant for Green Stormwater Infrastructure from the Philadelphia Water Department

Philadelphia, PA (May 23, 2014) – The Philadelphia Water Department has awarded a \$2.7M grant to W&W Realty Co., LLC, for the installation of innovative green stormwater infrastructure at its Dependable Distribution Services, Inc. warehouse facility located at 59th Street and Upland Way in the City of Philadelphia. The grant comes through PWD's Stormwater Management Incentives Program, or SMIP, which provides financial assistance to qualified non-residential property owners to install green stormwater infrastructure on their property as part of PWD's Green City, Clean Waters Plan. The Dependable Distribution warehouse facility is a 35-acre site, making it one of the largest green stormwater management projects implemented in Philadelphia to date. Once complete, the new green stormwater infrastructure will manage more than 800,000 gallons of stormwater directly on site, significantly reducing the property's burden on the City's storm sewer system.

PWD's SMIP grant program provides funding to non-residential property owners to build green infrastructure to manage stormwater runoff from their property, an issue that is particularly important for properties that contain a large amount of impervious surfaces and which are generally charged higher monthly rates under PWD's recently-enacted stormwater management fee structure. Once grant-funded green stormwater infrastructure has been installed at a non-residential property, the property owner can receive a credit on its monthly PWD stormwater fees – providing a significant cost savings to the property owner while also reducing the property's stormwater footprint on the City's overburdened stormwater system.

Harvey Weiner, President of W&W Realty and Dependable Distribution noted that, “PWD’s grant program has provided an answer to our stormwater management problem – grant funding to design and install a new PWD-approved stormwater system that will also provide me significant savings on our monthly stormwater bill.”

Howard Neukrug, Commissioner of PWD says, “The SMIP grant program is really a win-win for PWD, property owners, and local businesses. Projects like the Dependable Distribution facility showcase a successful public-private partnership that achieves an overall improvement of stormwater management in the City of Philadelphia.”

W&W Realty and Dependable Distribution have also partnered with local infrastructure design-build company, ISS Management, LLC, for the project. ISS provides stormwater auditing and feasibility analyses that are aimed at improving a property’s overall stormwater management, while also achieving compliance with PWD’s green stormwater design criteria. ISS also provides full design-build services for a number of PWD’s SMIP grant-funded stormwater infrastructure projects, including the Dependable Distribution project.

ISS President, Peter Burns, shared this, “Partnering with PWD to implement Philadelphia’s green stormwater initiative gives us the chance to do something good for the city while showcasing our design and build talent. Better still, we’re able to help W&W Realty and our other customers from start to finish. We get the maximum grant dollars available and then see the project all the way through to its ongoing maintenance – while providing significant reductions in a property’s stormwater charges. The entire process is made easier when we get to work with effective attorneys like Diana Silva.”

Diana Silva, an attorney at the environmental, energy, land use and litigation firm of Manko, Gold, Katcher & Fox, LLP, represented W&W Realty and Dependable Distribution for the project, including negotiating the related agreements with ISS and PWD*.

For more information on the SMIP grant program, contact Diana Silva at dsilva@mankogold.com or (484) 430-2347 or Peter Burns at pburns@issbuilds.com or (484) 704-7201. Additional information is also available on PWD’s website at: http://www.phillywatersheds.org/whats_in_it_for_you/reduce-your-stormwater-fees

MGKF concentrates its practice in environmental, energy, and land use law and litigation. It represents clients ranging from Fortune 100 corporations to small, privately held enterprises, both in the Mid-Atlantic region and on a national basis. For the tenth consecutive year, MGKF has been listed in the top tier for environmental law in Chambers USA—America's Leading Lawyers for Business. Offices are located at: 401 City Avenue, Suite 901, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania; 535 Route 38, Suite 145A, Cherry Hill, New Jersey; and at 25 West Third Street, Suite 303, Williamsport, Pennsylvania. For additional information, visit www.mankogold.com or call 484-430-5700, 856-317-1299, or 570-567-7325.

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