Template Letter/Email for Homeowner Associations (HOA)

[***Date***]

[***HOA Address***]

RE: Rain Barrels

Dear [***Name of Contact***],

We have noticed that rain barrels and other rainwater collection systems are discouraged within our neighborhood. While we appreciate your efforts in maintaining a safe and cohesive community, we are also mindful that rain barrels are beneficial to our local environment and may further enhance the quality and value of our community.

During a precipitation event, water washes off the landscape into creeks and streams and eventually into our drinking water, depositing any chemicals and bacteria from the landscape into these water bodies. The runoff process is further expedited by impervious surfaces, such as driveways, sidewalks, and patios. Rain barrels help reduce runoff by capturing and storing water, thus mitigating the amount of water flowing off the landscape. Additionally, rain barrels provide protection against floods, keeping communities safer in the event of extreme weather.

Can you encourage residents to implement rain barrels by removing barriers to access and implementation, including any rules discouraging their use? Following are some best management practices that residents can follow to ensure their rain barrel system is safe and efficient:

- **Cover the rain barrel with a tight-fitting lid.** A lid or other tight cover will ensure insects, animals, and debris stay out of the rain barrel.
- **Use a diverter to connect the rain barrel to the downspout.** Creating a solid connection between the rain barrel and downspout ensures maximum efficiency and prevents unwanted pests.
- **Avoid ingesting rainwater**. The water collected by the rain barrel is intended for outdoor application (i.e. gardening) only, so do not use it as a source of potable water.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be happy to discuss this further or provide resources, if needed.

Sincerely,

[***Your Name***]