

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FEDERAL, STATE AND/OR LOCAL FUNDING THROUGH GRANTS, REVOLVING FUNDS, AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS OF PUBLIC WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS IN CHATHAM COUNTY TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY DISCHARGES BY REDUCING NUTRIENT DISCHARGES**

As per the Chatham County Environmental Review Board recommendation, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners supports and pursues increased federal, state and/or local funding through grants, revolving funds, and other financial instruments of public wastewater treatment plants in Chatham County to improve water quality discharges by reducing nutrient discharges. Such plant improvements should include state-of-the-art, engineered designed systems such as constructed wetlands, reuse systems, or other technically feasible and cost-effective means of reducing nutrient loading. These designs should prove to be cost-effective and technically feasible as a means of further reducing nutrient discharges from existing conventional wastewater treatment plants in Chatham County.

**WHEREAS**, excessive discharges of phosphorus and nitrogen from wastewater treatment plants are damaging streams, rivers, and lakes in both Chatham County and other counties in the State of North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, the negative impacts on streams, rivers and lakes include excessive algal growths that (a) harm aquatic organisms by lowering dissolved oxygen levels and (b) impair drinking water supplies such as the Upper Siler City Reservoir, the Haw River, the Deep River, and Jordan Lake in Chatham County; and

**WHEREAS**, water supplies having excessive algal growth may require additional water treatment processes to meet permit requirements; and

**WHEREAS**, Chatham County has experienced a drought in recent years which contributes to a decrease in water volume and further exacerbates nutrient problems; and

**WHEREAS**, climate change in Chatham County will likely result in higher temperatures and reduced stream flows which, in turn, will likely compound the environmental and economic damage caused by excessive nutrients in our streams, rivers and lakes.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

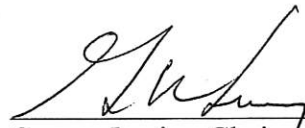
1. That the Chatham County Board of Commissioners supports increased federal, state, and/or local funding of enhanced engineering design for public wastewater treatment plants involving cost-effective and feasible designs such as constructed wetlands, reuse systems, and other technically feasible means to reduce nitrogen and phosphorus discharges from conventional wastewater treatments plants in Chatham County; and

2. That such enhanced engineering designs should comply with environmental justice principles and, wherever possible, simultaneously create open space and wildlife habitat; and

3. That any public funding consideration should initially emphasize the development and implementation of pilot-scale designed systems capable of augmenting existing public wastewater treatment plants such as the Siler City, Pittsboro and Bynum Wastewater Treatment Plants and any new systems including County projects and Goldston; and

4. That the Chatham County Board of Commissioners and state and national leaders representing Chatham County should support the development of pilot-scale designed systems for wastewater treatment plant enhancement (a) as a cost-effective and technically feasible means of reducing nutrient loadings in our streams, rivers, and lakes, and (b) as an economic development tool that promotes Chatham- and North Carolina-based green technologies.

Adopted this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2009.



George Lucier, Chairman

ATTEST:



Sandra B. Sublett, CMC, Clerk to the Board  
Chatham County Board of Commissioners