



April 18, 2006

Mr. Dan Blaisdell, Assistant Chief  
Engineering Branch  
Construction Grants & Loans  
Division of Water Quality  
1633 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-1633

Subject: Draft EIS for Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facilities  
Project

Dear Mr. Blaisdell:

On behalf of the Towns of Apex, Cary, Holly Springs and Morrisville (Partners), the consulting team of CDM, CH2M HILL, and Hazen and Sawyer have prepared the attached draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facilities Project (Project). As per your request, 14 copies of the documents and one CD have been prepared for distribution to government agencies.

### **DEIS Purpose**

The Project is being implemented by the Partners to provide wastewater service for planned growth and development and to comply with regulatory mandates issued by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC). In accordance with the regulatory mandates, the proposed Project must be operational and discharging effluent to the Cape Fear River by January 1, 2011.

In addition to this EIS, the Towns finalized individual Secondary and Cumulative Impact (SCI) Master Mitigation Plans in October 2005 to address the growth-related impacts associated with each local government's planned and future infrastructure projects, including these proposed wastewater facilities. The entire service area for the Project was addressed in the SCI Master Mitigation Plans. Thus, the SCI Master Mitigation Plans address secondary and cumulative indirect impacts associated with the proposed Project. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) was completed between NC DENR and each Partner in July 2005 that outlines how the SCI Master Mitigation Plans will be used and specifies that environmental documents for each Partner will focus on direct impacts. Thus, this DEIS focuses on direct impacts; additional mitigation may be implemented through the permits required for this Project.

### **DEIS Conclusions**

The DEIS concludes that given the scope, scale and schedule of the regulatory mandates issued by the EMC and NC DENR, the Partners have evaluated all feasible and reasonable

alternatives, and have selected a Project that minimizes direct impacts to the greatest extent practicable and demonstrates fiscal responsibility. The Project will continue to be planned, designed and constructed to avoid impacts to environmental resources, and where avoidance is not feasible, impacts will be minimized to the greatest extent practicable and mitigation measures will be implemented.

### **Public Participation**

Given the scope and scale of the Project, many groups and individuals have expressed an interest in the public participation process associated with the EIS. The Partners believe that the EIS process, which is governed by North Carolina General Statutes and Administrative Code, will ensure that all interested individuals and groups receive a fair and balanced opportunity to comment on the alternatives analysis, the direct impact analyses, the reasoning for selecting the proposed Project, and the proposed mitigation measures.

In accordance with our discussions during February and March 2006, a public hearing will be conducted on, or about, the week of May 15, 2006 to provide an opportunity for the general public and other interested parties to comment on the document prior to the Clearinghouse review. It is critical that the public hearing occur on, or about, the week of May 15, 2006 so the Partners can comply with the January 1, 2011 deadline for returning wastewater to the Cape Fear River Basin as stipulated by the EMC in the IBT certificate.

### **Closing Comments**

The Partners would like to extend their sincere appreciation to the staff members of Construction Grants & Loan for the guidance, effort, and time offered during the preparation of the DEIS. The project consultants appreciate all the agency comments on the DEIS and their time provided in follow-up meetings and phone calls.

Please distribute this DEIS to the appropriate agencies. If you have any questions, please contact me as the Project Manager at (919)875-4311, ext. 16 or Tommy Esqueda as the Project Director at (919)325-3554.

Sincerely,

Ruth C. Swanek  
Project Manager

Cc: Tommy Esqueda, PE, CDM  
Tim Donnelly, PE, Town of Apex  
Kim Fisher, PE, Town of Cary  
Stephanie Sudano, PE, Town of Holly Springs  
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