

*County of Brunswick*  
*Office of the County Commissioners*



**RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CAPE FEAR RIVER LOCK & DAM SYSTEM TO BE  
MANAGED PRIMARILY FOR WATER SUPPLY USES AND TO SUPPORT THE SUBMITTAL  
OF A LETTER OF INTENT BY THE FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION TO  
ACQUIRE THE CAPE FEAR LOCKS AND DAMS**

**WHEREAS**, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers has recently completed the Cape Fear River Locks And Dams Bladen County, North Carolina Section 216 Disposition Study Draft Integrated Report And Environmental Assessment and submitted it for its final public comment period; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cape Fear River Locks And Dams Bladen County, North Carolina Section 216 Disposition Study Draft Integrated Report And Environmental Assessment indicates that the Cape Fear Locks and Dams are no longer needed for commercial navigation; and

**WHEREAS**, the report developed three options related to the Locks and Dams including the Corps retaining ownership with limited maintenance, removal of the Locks and Dams, or transfer to an interested third party; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County's primary source of raw water is the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority raw water intake located upstream of Lock and Dam No. 1; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County has invested millions of dollars in the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority raw water system as well as the County's Northwest Water Treatment Plant and associated potable water transmission systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the short-term and long-term raw water supply would be adversely impacted by any changes to Lock and Dam No. 1 since the raw water intake relies on its height to create the pool of water the raw water intake relies on; and

**WHEREAS**, there are no reasonable alternatives capable of supplying the 106 million gallons per day (mgd) of raw water to the water treatment plants in Brunswick, New Hanover, and Pender Counties that rely on the intake structures located upstream of Lock and Dam No. 1; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 500,000 residents and visitors rely on the potable water from the treatment plants located in Brunswick, New Hanover and Pender Counties and the public health of those residents and visitors would be undesirably impacted if the raw water supply was adversely impacted in some manner; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority must take all steps necessary to protect its water supply in the Cape Fear River and has determined that transfer of the Locks and Dams to a third party is in the Authority's best interest toward the goal of protecting its water supply in the Cape Fear River; and

**WHEREAS**, the NC DEQ has expressed an interest in acquiring the Locks and Dams from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but has indicated that water supply would not be its top priority in operating the Locks and Dams and would instead be equal to other potential uses in the river; and

**WHEREAS**, Brunswick County believes that access to potable water should be the first priority of the operator of Lock and Dam No. 1 to protect the public health of the residents and visitors in the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the industrial and commercial sectors that provide economic stability to the region rely on a reliable source of potable water; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corps of Engineers has indicated that it desires to transfer all of the Locks and Dams to one entity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fayetteville PWC has expressed a willingness to be the lead agency in dealing with the transfer of all three Locks and Dams in the Cape Fear River with the understanding that they would immediately transfer Lock and Dam No. 1 to the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority should they be successful in acquiring the Locks and Dams in the Cape Fear River.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Chairman and Brunswick County Board of Commissioners hereby express their desire that water supply be the pre-eminent use for the Cape Fear River Lock & Dam System, for it to be managed accordingly on an ongoing basis, and that the important uses for recreation, fish passage, water quality, and aquatic environment be given due consideration in a management plan.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Brunswick County Board of Commissioners express their support for the Fayetteville Public Works Commission to submit a nonbinding Letter of Support to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to be included in the Cape Fear River Locks And Dams Bladen County, North Carolina Section 216 Disposition Study Draft Integrated Report And Environmental Assessment. The Chairman and Board of Directors also express their appreciation to the Fayetteville Public Works Commission Board and their staff for their willingness to take the lead in this important issue to protect public water supply in the southeastern region of the State of North Carolina.

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the Chairman and Brunswick County Board of Commissioners will work with whatever entity acquires the locks and dams to prioritize and protect the public water supply in the southeastern region of the State of North Carolina.

This Resolution Adopted this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020.

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Frank L. Williams, Chair  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

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Andrea White, NCCCC  
Clerk to the Board