

September 20, 2021

Gordon Hargrove
City Manager
1029 N. Howe St.
Southport, NC 28461

Re: Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant Program

Dear City Manager Hargrove:

Brunswick County is pleased to receive your request to partner with the City of Southport for the purposes of applying for funding from the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) from the Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant program. As noted in your request, Brunswick County has a history of working with the City of Southport as the provider of wholesale treatment for the City of Southport water distribution and wastewater collection systems. Brunswick County understands that a study performed through the Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant program will evaluate the viability of all systems involved in the potential merger of the utility systems.

Brunswick County is prepared to partner with the City of Southport by providing cooperation necessary for the completion of the grant program application and completion of a merger/regionalization feasibility grant funded study, if awarded. Please find the enclosed resolution by the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners to support exploring the potential merger of the utility systems by authorizing county staff to coordinate with the City of Southport.

Brunswick County acknowledges that recommendations made by the Merger/Regionalization Feasibility Grant study regarding the merger of the systems will not constitute a commitment by Brunswick County to act on the findings of the study.

Sincerely,

John Nichols, PE, CPESC
Utilities Director