RESOLUTION

06-2024

RESOLUTION TO OPPOSE THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE INTERBASIN TRANSFER REQUEST

WHEREAS, North Carolina Environmental Management officials are currently reviewing a request from the City of Charlotte to modify their certificate increase their current transfer of 33 million gallons per day to 63 million gallons of water per day from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin; and

WHEREAS, this latest request is a trend of additional interbasin transfer water usage from the Catawba River as evidenced by the following:

> Charlotte/Mecklenburg's previously approved certificate of 33 million gallons per day interbasin transfer to the Rocky River in 2002; and
>
> Concord and Kannapolis's previously approved certificate of 10 million gallons per day interbasin transfer to the Rocky River in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the net effect of the aforementioned actions will result in a total increased usage of 73 million gallons per day from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Catawba River and its tributaries are not an unlimited supply of water as evidenced by previous years of drought conditions experienced most notably by the Upper Catawba Basin and the entire State of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Caldwell County and the Western Piedmont Region is considered a growth area for the North Carolina with additional water needs in the future; and that there's a valid concern that interbasin transfers of this magnitude may effectively subsidize growth in receiving areas using the limited water resources of the Catawba River Basin; and

WHEREAS, issues of equity and sustainability are in question, as it involves one region bearing the environmental and infrastructural costs of supporting growth in another region, and it is essential to consider the long-term implications and fairness of such resource allocations; and

WHEREAS, reducing the flow of the Catawba River by transferring water could lead to greater concentrations of pollutants in the river, a reduced flow rate diminishing the river's natural ability to dilute and transport pollutants, and have detrimental effects on aquatic ecosystems, recreational activities, and public health within the Catawba River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners is concerned the proposed interbasin transfer will limit the amount of water available for withdraw to support growth in our area due to regulation limits under state and federal laws; and

WHEREAS, the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners does hereby express its concern about the long-

term availability of water within the Catawba River Basin and believes transferring water from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin could indeed limit future growth opportunities for local communities in the Catawba River Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Catawba Wateree Water Resource Management Group is actively working to update its water supply master plan for the entire river basin and Charlotte should wait until that process is complete; and

WHEREAS, previous studies for the Catawba River called for the elimination of interbasin transfers as a strategy to protect the river and water supplies during drought conditions and an IBT should be a temporary measure to accommodate growth and not a permanent solution; and

WHEREAS, the 2015 Water Supply Master Plan for the Catawba River projected Charlotte's current IBT would be sufficient through 2065 and that Charlotte should not increase its IBT for its growth needs over the next 30 years; and

WHEREAS, Charlotte should instead use that time to implement water infrastructure and policies to eliminate its current IBT certificate issued in 2002; and

WHEREAS, water availability is crucial for sustaining economic development, agriculture, and quality of life in growing communities and if water is diverted elsewhere, it may constrain the ability of communities within the Catawba River Basin to support their own development and population growth; and

WHEREAS, our region should not be forced to give up its potential growth opportunities to subsidize Charlotte growth with our water resources; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Caldwell County Board of Commissioners requests that the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission deny the City of Charlotte interbasin transfer request to modify their certificate to transfer 63 million gallons of water per day from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin.

Adopted this 13th day of May, 2024.

Randy Church, Chairman of the Board
Caldwell County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Abby Rich, NCCCC
County Clerk