

FACT SHEET

WESTERN WAKE REGIONAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT FACILITIES PROJECT

The towns of Apex, Cary, Morrisville, and Holly Springs formed the Western Wake Partners (Partners) to develop the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facilities Project (Project). The Project will provide wastewater service for regional planned development as well as meet a regulatory requirement issued by the North Carolina Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NC DENR). The towns of Apex, Cary and Morrisville, along with Wake County, are required by their Interbasin Transfer Certificate to return treated wastewater to the Cape Fear River by January 1, 2011.

Description of the Project

The Project is comprised of the facilities listed below, which are shown on Figure 1:

- ?? West Cary Pump Station
- ?? Force Main – West Cary to Reedy Branch Gravity Sewer
- ?? Reedy Branch Gravity Sewer – West Cary to Beaver Creek Pump Station
- ?? Beaver Creek Pump Station
- ?? Force Main – Beaver Creek to Western Wake Water Reclamation Facility
- ?? Western Wake Water Reclamation Facility
- ?? Effluent Pump Station, Pipeline, and Outfall to Cape Fear River

The Project will be implemented in two phases. The Phase 1 facilities, which must be operational by January 1, 2011, will provide for a discharge capacity of 24 mgd to the Cape Fear River below Buckhorn Dam. The capacity of these facilities will meet the needs of the Project Partners until 2020. The estimated cost for these facilities is \$250 million. The Phase 2 facilities, which are projected to be online by July 1, 2020, will provide for a discharge capacity of 38 mgd to the Cape Fear River below Buckhorn Dam. The capacity of these facilities will meet the planned needs of the Project Partners until 2030. The estimated cost for these facilities is \$120 million.

The Regulatory Review and Environmental Permit Application Process

Given the scope and scale of the Project, the Partners are preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to address the full range of environmental impacts associated with the proposed Project. The EIS process is being executed by the Partners and NC DENR in accordance with the North Carolina State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and the successful conclusion of the EIS process will be documented in the form of a Record of Decision (ROD) issued by NC DENR. The Partners must complete the EIS process prior to submitting applications for environmental permits related to water quality, air quality and wetlands and stream protection. Together, the EIS process and the environmental permitting process will require the Partners to examine potential impacts on, and proposed mitigation measures for, floodplains, soils, land use, wetlands, prime farmlands, public lands, cultural resources, air quality, noise, water resources, forest resources, shellfish and fish, and wildlife and natural vegetation.

During the initial review of the EIS by federal and state resource agencies and initial comments received during public meetings, three areas of concern were identified for the Project: (1) raw wastewater pipeline alignments; (2) impacts to federal lands owned by the United States Army

Corps of Engineers (US ACE), and (3) proximity of facilities to properties in New Hill Historic District. In consultations with the appropriate federal and state agencies, additional information and data has been prepared for the EIS. Specifically:

- ?? **Raw wastewater pipeline alignment:** The Partners worked closely with representatives from North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT), Wildlife Resources Commission, US ACE, Progress Energy and NC DENR to identify, review and evaluate additional pipeline corridor alternatives. The objective of this additional work was to identify alternatives that minimize or avoid impacts to the American Tobacco Trail and minimize impacts to streams, wetlands and other wildlife habitat. The revised draft EIS presents a preferred alignment for raw wastewater pipelines that avoids the American Tobacco Trail, and reduces impacts to streams, wetlands and other wildlife habitat.
- ?? **Impacts to federal lands owned by the US ACE at Jordan Lake:** The Partners worked closely with representatives from the US ACE to identify, review and evaluate alternatives to reduce, minimize and eliminate impacts to federal lands owned by the US ACE at Jordan Lake. The revised draft EIS presents a preferred alignment that will utilize micro-tunneling or similar technology to avoid disturbances to federal lands, and the Partners propose to apply for a categorical exclusion from the US ACE.
- ?? **Proximity of facilities to properties in New Hill Historic District:** The Partners have consulted with representatives from North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources to identify mitigation measures to address possible impacts associated with the Western Wake Water Reclamation Facility. The revised draft EIS presents additional information regarding the mitigation measures that will be implemented by the Partners to minimize or eliminate possible visual, traffic, noise, odor and light impacts on properties in the New Hill Historic District.

Through extensive consultation with federal and state resource agencies, the Partners believe they have evaluated all feasible and reasonable alternatives, and have selected a Project that appropriately minimizes environmental impacts to the greatest extent practicable. In addition, the environmental permitting application and review process will ensure that the Project complies with all regulatory requirements.

Public Comment

In accordance with North Carolina General Statutes and Administrative Code, the draft and final EIS and the environmental permit applications will be circulated for public review and comment. It is anticipated that one or more public hearings will be conducted during the public comment periods to provide interested individuals and groups the opportunity to present oral and written comments on the Project, the EIS, and the environmental permit applications. Comments from the public, federal agencies and state agencies will be evaluated and considered for incorporation into the final EIS, the final environmental permits, and the final plans and specifications for the facilities.

Schedule

A preliminary draft EIS was submitted to federal and state resource agencies in August 2005, and the Partners have been working with the agencies to provide clarification and additional information, and to conduct additional environmental impact analyses. The Partners anticipate that the preliminary draft EIS will be available for public review and comment in April 2006 and that a public hearing will be conducted in May 2006. The final draft EIS is expected to be

submitted to the State Clearinghouse in July 2006. Once all public comments have been received and addressed, the Partners plan to submit the final EIS to NC DENR in September 2006 and anticipate a Record of Decision will be rendered in October 2006.

View current information for the project at www.westernwakepartners.org. If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Robert K. (Kim) Fisher, P.E., who serves as the Project Manager for the Partners at (919) 469-4090.