



ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

*Quality Service Since 1977*

February 20, 2002

Mr. Michael Neal  
Town of Chapel Hill  
Engineering Department  
306 N. Columbia St.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516-2124

**RE:** Cedar Fork Creek – Erosion and Flooding

Dear Michael:

We appreciated the opportunity to meet with you yesterday and see the problems that the property owners along Cedar Fork Creek are experiencing. We also were able to see the current condition of the OWASA easement along the northern side of the creek, which was restored after a sewer line construction project approximately three years ago. I want to briefly summarize what we saw, and OWASA's role in future actions related to this situation.

It was apparent that the portion of the Creek that we saw is experiencing changes in the flow channel, including sedimentation and streambank erosion in several areas. It was also apparent that the portion of the easement restored after construction was in overall stable condition, with well-established vegetation, and little evidence of any settlement or erosion. There are one or two minor areas in the easement where erosion from unstabilized streambank is evident, and the streambank deterioration may eventually reach the sewer line. Rip-rap has also been removed from one streambank area that was stabilized during construction. OWASA will continue to monitor the condition of the streambank areas within our easement as part of our routine sewer line maintenance. As necessary, we will take measures to stabilize the streambank if the sewer line is in imminent danger of being exposed.

Cedar Fork Creek property owners apparently have witnessed changes that are the likely result of a number of complex factors affecting the watershed. However, the current conditions that we observed do not indicate that OWASA's sewer line construction project was a significant cause.

February 20, 2002

Mr. Michael Neal

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We appreciate working with you on this issue, and please feel free to contact me at (919) 968-4421 ext. 247 if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara L. Oslund".

Barbara L. Oslund, P.E.

Engineering Manager – Capital Improvement Projects

cc: G. Small – TOCH  
I. Ahmad – OWASA  
E. Williams - OWASA