



June 20, 2006

Mr. W. Calvin Horton, Town Manager  
Town of Chapel Hill  
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMENTS ON JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> REGARDING DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF THE SEWER NEEDED TO ENABLE CLOSING OF THE CLAYTON ROAD WASTEWATER PUMP STATION**

Dear Cal:

We're writing to follow up on the Town Council's discussion on June 12<sup>th</sup> regarding this sewer project. As discussed below, we believe we can accommodate the large majority of the Council's comments.

As previously discussed, the closing of our Clayton Road pump station through installation of a gravity sewer will result in more reliable sewer service in the area, will have environmental protection benefits in reducing the potential for wastewater spills, and is in keeping with our sustainability objectives regarding energy conservation, etc.

### **Town Council's Comments and OWASA's Responses**

Bruce Heflin, Assistant Town Manager, very helpfully provided the list of items discussed below.

Town Council's Comment: Use less than the full width of the 30 foot easement; meaning clear as little as possible for as much of the length of the project as possible. Identify the areas where that is possible or not in the field. Council Member Ward believes it may be possible in some places to clear as little as 15 feet.

*We will minimize clearing as much as practical, and we anticipate there will be circumstances where clearing can be limited to 20 feet. The extent to which clearing can be further reduced to minimize disturbance will depend on site conditions.*

*For future maintenance and repair purposes, we are requesting a deded easement width of 30 feet so that OWASA personnel will be able to work safely in an emergency as well as normal conditions, but the actual clearing within the easement will be limited as discussed above. Sufficient areas around a trench for work crews and equipment must be afforded otherwise, cave-ins are possible. There must also be room to pile dirt or materials on the easement until work is complete.*

Town Council's Comment: Erect meaningful physical barriers along those areas to enforce the notion of reduced clearing and maximum tree protection (more substantial than the usual tree protection fencing).

*We will have the contractor install temporary chain link fencing, or an acceptable alternative, to protect trees and root zones where needed for areas identified by the Town's Urban Forester.*

Town Council's Comment: Identify specific areas where nearby trees, outside the immediate clearing area, would likely suffer associated root damage from the clearing and avoid them, where practicable.

*We look forward to working with the Town's Urban Forester to address this need through the design, bidding and construction inspections/management.*

Town Council's Comment: Refer to OWASA's efforts at the NC Botanical Gardens for tree and stream protection as a model for this project.

*We will do so. We will include mitigation of environmental impacts from this project to the extent practical and taking into account the specific conditions and needs for this project location.*

Town Council's Comment: Provide as much room as possible between the routing of the sewer line and the stream.

*The currently planned route of the sewer was developed with the benefit of comments from Town staff about the need for greater separation from the stream bank. It is also best to have the sewer where both the installation and future maintenance and repair work will not be complicated by limitations of working around a stream. In relatively flat areas, it is possible to shift sewers horizontally without increasing the depth of the sewer pipe. Deep sewers are more difficult to maintain and they cost more to install.*

Town Council's Comment: Work with the Urban Forester on re-vegetation to reduce the likelihood of introducing invasive exotic plants.

*We appreciate the opportunity to work with the Town's Urban Forester to plan the re-vegetation of work areas with plant selections that will be:*

- ✓ *non-invasive,*
- ✓ *non-exotic,*
- ✓ *consistent with waterwise landscaping principles, and*
- ✓ *to keep roots from growing into and blocking sewers.*

*We note that some non-native invasive species are already present in some areas of the easement.*

### **Conclusion**

We are committed to planning, designing and managing capital projects so that they will benefit the community; minimize adverse environmental impacts; and increase the sustainability, quality and reliability of our services and facilities. We will work to minimize the disruption of the easement and to minimize environmental impacts as discussed above.

Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Kerwin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line extending from the end.

Ed Kerwin  
Executive Director

c: Board of Directors  
Stuart Carson  
Todd Spencer