



ORANGE WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY

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May 27, 2009

Mr. Roger Stancil
Chapel Hill Town Manager
405 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard
Chapel Hill, NC 27514

Subject: Request for Additional Sewer Easement Area from Town of Chapel Hill for Installation of Bolin Creek Interceptor Sewer

Dear Roger:

Orange Water and Sewer Authority hereby requests that the Town of Chapel Hill grant OWASA additional sewer easements necessary to install, operate and maintain the new Bolin Creek Interceptor Sewer that will be in the vicinity of Bolin Creek between Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Boulevard and Estes Drive. Information in support of our request is provided below.

Enclosed is a schematic showing the general location of the planned sewer line. This project is located in a very constrained and sensitive area. The planned route has been selected following a detailed assessment of the environmental impacts, facility and utility conflicts, costs, and other factors. The selected route has the highest construction cost of the four alternatives; however, it is the most environmentally acceptable option as construction would be away from Bolin Creek and the steeper wooded slopes along the creek. This option involves the least amount of tree clearing.

Enclosed are draft exhibit plats showing the three areas of Town property where we need to have additional easements, based on the final design for the project. These new easement areas total 27,550 square feet. We have discussed the project and requested easement areas with Mike Taylor and Bill Webster of your staff, and Mr. Webster has walked these requested easement areas to determine the impact on the Town's parks and recreation facilities.

We are pursuing substantial federal funding support for the Bolin Creek Interceptor sewer project through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. If we are successful, this would greatly reduce the cost of this project to our community. However, to be eligible for the grant and interest-free loan funding support, we must obtain all of the required sewer easements and permits for the project by August 3, 2009. Therefore, we request the Town's approval of the needed easements before that date.

The project timetable will depend in part on the availability of federal funding support. If we receive the requested grant funding, we expect that installation of the sewer would begin in the spring of 2010 and be completed about 15 to 18 months later (around Fall 2011).

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This project is needed to accommodate Chapel Hill and Carrboro's planned growth and development anticipated for the upper Bolin Creek drainage basin, including a portion of the University's Carolina North project. It will also replace old, undersized and deteriorated sewer lines, thereby minimizing the potential for inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the sewer line, as well as the potential for wastewater overflows from the line.

The project includes the installation of about 6,200 feet of sewer line (30-inch diameter), about 3,000 feet of which will be in Umstead Drive. The contractor's crew will dig a trench several feet deep in a work area that ranges up to a few hundred feet long, install the pipes, fill the trench and then progress to the next work area along the sewer route.

Traffic flow will be affected during work hours where the sewer is installed along or across a street. Where possible, one vehicle lane will normally be kept open to enable access for residents, emergency and service vehicles, etc. It will be necessary to temporarily close a portion of Umstead Drive to install the sewer in the road.

A Zoning Compliance Permit will be required from the Town for this project. We will submit that permit application very soon, and OWASA staff will provide whatever information and assistance is needed for the Town to approve that permit by August 3rd. We very much appreciate the initial guidance and assistance provided by Mr. Taylor and Mr. Webster regarding the next steps.

Thank you very much for your understanding of the important public need for this project, and of our need for additional easement area from the Town of Chapel Hill. We look forward to working with you to obtain the easements as soon as possible. Please let us know if you need any additional information relating to this request.

Sincerely,



Ed Kerwin
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: F. Stuart Carson, Engineering Manager for Capital Improvement Projects
Patrick Davis, Sustainability Manager