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ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

*Quality Service Since 1977*

February 25, 2004

**HAND DELIVERED**

Mr. W. Calvin Horton  
Town Manager  
Town of Chapel Hill  
306 North Columbia Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27516

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR THE UPGRADE AND EXPANSION  
OF THE MASON FARM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

Dear Cal:

The OWASA Board of Directors will discuss and consider approval of the enclosed draft Resolution at its regular business meeting this Thursday, February 26, 2004, at 7:00 P.M. in the Chapel Hill Council Chambers. Please provide a copy of this draft Resolution to the Town Council for their information.

I expect to provide you a copy of the approved Resolution by Friday, February 27, 2004.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed Kerwin".

Ed Kerwin  
Executive Director

Enclosure

c: (w/enc.) OWASA Board of Directors



**RESOLUTION REGARDING THE TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL'S SPECIAL USE  
PERMIT FOR THE MASON FARM WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT**

**WHEREAS**, Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) seeks approval in March 2004 of a Modification of its Special Use Permit from the Town of Chapel Hill for the Upgrade and Expansion of the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant (the Project); and

**WHEREAS**, the Project will provide many important public benefits, including improved effluent quality and plant reliability, improved odor control, and opportunities for the significant use of reclaimed water, which will significantly increase the yield and reliability of the community's water supply system; and

**WHEREAS**, the OWASA Board of Directors has adopted a goal of no off-site objectionable odors, and to meet that goal, has authorized the expenditure of \$5 million to cover OWASA's four digesters to improve odor control in the current plant improvement project; and

**WHEREAS**, the OWASA Board of Directors believes that the improvements to be put in place by this expenditure will substantially eliminate objectionable off-site odors; and, the OWASA Board of Directors is committed to considering whether additional improvements may be needed to meet its goal after the present improvements are completed and evaluated; and

**WHEREAS**, OWASA has established an aggressive schedule, which includes monetary incentives and penalties for the contractor to complete the installation of the new digester covers within the first 18 months of the 36-month construction schedule; and

**WHEREAS**, OWASA will proactively manage the Project to assure on-time completion of all the work; and

**WHEREAS**, OWASA is committed to being a good neighbor and values feedback from its customers, the community, and officials from the Town of Chapel Hill regarding improved odor control and other enhancements for the Mason Farm Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE OWASA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

1. That OWASA has adopted and hereby reaffirms a goal of no off-site objectionable odors from the Mason Farm WWTP.

2. That OWASA will proactively manage the Project and seek to complete the accelerated installation of all four new digester covers to improve odor control within 18 months of notifying the contractor to proceed with the Project.

3. That OWASA will meet and work with the community to formulate a process that will keep them informed and engaged regarding progress toward the goal of no off-site objectionable odors.

4. That OWASA will retain a consultant to measure the effectiveness of the odor control improvements completed as part of the Project, and will invite the surrounding neighborhood to participate in continuing surveys to measure the effectiveness of the \$5 million of odor control improvements being completed in the Project.

5. That OWASA will implement additional odor control improvements at the plant, if the consultant's evaluation and/or community feedback indicate that the no off-site objectionable odor goal has not reasonably been met by the improvements to be completed in the current \$5 million odor control project.

6. That OWASA will complete other improvements for the Mason Farm WWTP, including:

- a. The completion of an evaluation by March 31, 2004 of opportunities to further reduce off-site noise.
- b. The completion by April 30, 2004 of an evaluation of opportunities to lessen the industrial appearance of the plant through such measures as paint colors and landscaping.

7. That OWASA respectfully requests that the Chapel Hill Town Council approve the Modification to its Special Use Permit for the Project in March 2004 so that the many important public benefits of the Project can proceed without delay.

Adopted this the 26<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2004.

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Mark Marcoplos, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Penny Rich  
Secretary-Treasurer