



May 15, 2009

City Councilors
City of Charlottesville
c/o Mr. Gary O'Connell, City Manager
605 E. Main Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902

Re: Request for Proposal (RFP) for a Dredging Feasibility Study

Dear City Councilors:

This letter is written on behalf of the Albemarle County Service Authority (ACSA) Board of Directors to address the Draft RFP for a Dredging Feasibility Study. The ACSA recognizes that all parties are committed to achieving an adequate long-term water supply to meet the needs of our community at the least economic cost and that each governmental body has different constituencies whose concerns each public body must address. With extensive projects such as the Community Water Supply Plan (CWSP), it is reasonable to assume that public bodies, during the course of the plan, may disagree.

The Scope of Services detailed in the Draft RFP for the Dredging Feasibility Study is more comprehensive and costly than is necessary for implementation of the approved CWSP and we do not believe that our rate payers should bear the cost of this study. Having said this, the ACSA recognizes that certain tasks included within the Scope of Services would provide valuable information both now and in the future and be in accordance with the permits issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for the CWSP. The bathymetric survey of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir (SFRR) will provide information related to stream flow releases. In addition, the ACSA supports the examination of the technical feasibility, effectiveness and probable cost for construction of a forebay to reduce reservoir sedimentation. The ACSA also supports efforts to obtain appropriate technical and legal advice regarding the status of present and emerging wetland areas in the SFRR. The ACSA is willing to pay for its appropriate share of these tasks.

The ACSA is aware of the City Councils' desire to complete all of the tasks outlined in the Dredging Feasibility Study RFP. While we are not willing to participate in the entire study, we do not oppose the City completing all of the Dredging Feasibility Study tasks as outlined in the RFP at the City's expense.

Should the City elect to pursue a complete Dredging Feasibility Study at its expense, and should the study prove relevant and useful for future water supply planning purposes, the ACSA would consider the extent of the City's investment in future cost allocation agreements.

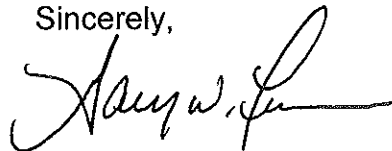
The ACSA continues to fully endorse the CWSP. We believe that the Ragged Mountain Reservoir Expansion provides for the following:

1. Remove the existing Ragged Mountain Dam which has documented structural concerns as a public safety issue.
2. Addresses the in-stream flow requirements provided in the permits.
3. Provides sufficient water supply for at least through the year 2055, while dredging of the SFRR does not provide for the necessary increase in the areas supply.
4. Provides a more cost effective method for water storage per unit, than dredging.
5. Does not jeopardize the water quality of the SFRR through increased turbidity and potential petroleum contamination.

In summary, provided that the study does not jeopardize the approved CWSP, the ACSA wishes to share in the cost of the Dredging Feasibility Study to the extent detailed in this letter, and believes that while it is not prudent to spend ACSA rate payers funds on a complete Dredging Feasibility Study will not oppose the City moving forward with such a study at their expense in order to accommodate their particular needs.

We look forward to the continuation of a cooperative relationship between all parties to meet the future water supply needs of this community.

Sincerely,



Gary W. Fern, P.E.
Executive Director

GWF/anw/dbh

cc: Mr. Robert Tucker, Executive Director
County of Albemarle
Mr. Tom Frederick, Executive Director
Rivanna Water & Sewer Authority

060501CityCouncilDredgingFeasibilityStudyLtr051509