

**FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC COMMISSION RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE
FUQUAY-VARINA INTERBASIN TRANSFER AND REQUEST FOR
ADDITIONAL COMMENT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Fuquay-Varina has submitted an Interbasin Transfer (IBT) request to withdraw up to 6.17 million gallons of water a day from the Cape Fear River Basin and transfer it to the Neuse River Basin, an action that may negatively affect river levels, water quality, and the availability of water supply for downstream users, including more than a third of the state's population and 250,000 Cumberland County area residents and businesses;

WHEREAS, protecting our community's access to safe and reliable drinking water is the top priority for the Fayetteville Public Works Commission (PWC), and sustaining the Cape Fear River Basin is essential for over 900,000 downstream residents, the economic vitality of our region, and the operational security of Fort Bragg;

WHEREAS Interbasin Transfers can adversely impact not only our community's economic growth but also that of the entire region; consistent access to safe, clean, and affordable water is fundamental for supporting local businesses, attracting new industries, and sustaining job creation. Any reduction in water supply jeopardizes opportunities for economic expansion throughout the region, making it more difficult to draw new investments, foster development, and ensure continued prosperity for all communities that depend on the Cape Fear River Basin;

WHEREAS failure to return treated wastewater to the Cape Fear River Basin in a timely manner could exacerbate existing low flow challenges, increase concentrations of contaminants, and force downstream communities, including PWC customers to spend millions of dollars expanding water treatment capabilities to maintain drinking water safety;

WHEREAS, state law (G.S. 143-215.22L(t)) prioritizes donor basins over receiving basins and requires the impacts of permanent removals, such as Fuquay-Varina's request to be thoroughly evaluated, yet the technical documents supporting this application were not shared with affected communities until the week before the start of the 90-day comment period, limiting meaningful public engagement;

WHEREAS PWC supports downstream communities' calls in Wilmington, Pender, and Brunswick Counties to extend the public comment period by 60 days and to host accessible public hearings, ensuring residents do not need to travel hours simply to voice their concerns;

WHEREAS approval of the Fuquay-Varina IBT could compel PWC to implement Drought Level 1 water conservation measures immediately and threaten the ability to meet local and national security obligations;

WHEREAS, it is difficult to predict future river flows, but it remains crucial to carefully review and understand the long-term effects of any Interbasin Transfer on the Cape Fear River Basin, especially as once a transfer is approved, it becomes harder to prevent further diversions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

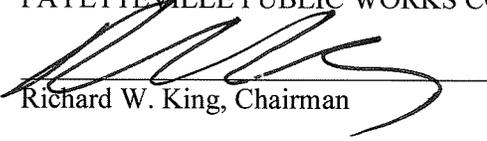
THAT the Fayetteville Public Works Commission formally opposes the Fuquay-Varina Interbasin Transfer request.

THAT, we urge decision-makers and relevant authorities to reconsider or decline approval of this measure. While PWC does not object to Fuquay-Varina utilizing water from the Cape Fear River Basin, it is essential that treated wastewater be returned promptly to the Cape Fear River to maintain sufficient resources for downstream communities.

THAT we call for a transparent, inclusive process with an extended public comment period and additional hearings to safeguard the Cape Fear River Basin, its communities, and the region's economic future.

ADOPTED this 10th day of December 2025

FAYETTEVILLE PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION


Richard W. King, Chairman

ATTEST:


Donald L. Porter, Secretary