



MEDIA ADVISORY  
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## Chatham County Commissioners Unanimously Vote to Recommend Denying Western Wake Partners' Request to Condemn Chatham County Land

**Durham, NC** – The Chatham County Board of Commissioners unanimously voted on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, to recommend denying the Western Wake Partners' request to condemn Chatham County land for a pipeline to bring treated wastewater from a sewage treatment plant in New Hill to the Cape Fear River.

"If the new Board follows this recommendation, the denial will be a major victory for those of us who oppose the sewage plant. Without approval to bring the pipeline through Chatham County, the Partners may need to redesign the plant, which could set the project back several years," says Paul Barth, President of the New Hill Community Association.

The Western Wake Partners, which are Apex, Cary, and Morrisville, formed to pursue construction of regional wastewater management facilities in Wake County. The sewage treatment facility plans call for a pipeline to take treated wastewater through 8.1 miles of land in Chatham County. The Partners cannot condemn Chatham County land without the Chatham County Commissioners' consent.

"The pipeline poses significant risks to Chatham County, with little or no discernible benefits," said Chatham Commissioner George Lucier. The Commissioners unanimously recommended that the incoming Board of Commissioners reject the Partners request unless the Partners satisfy the following conditions:

- Cary must agree not to annex land in Chatham County without Chatham County's approval
- The Partners must agree to support and help secure legislation that would require Chatham County government approval before annexations across county lines
- The Partners must agree to negotiate with land owners without using eminent domain powers
- Any future annexations of land in Chatham County must involve public hearings

The Chatham Commissioners extensively reviewed the Partners' request for over a year. Chatham residents were overwhelmingly opposed to the Partners' request. "We heard what the community said, and we listened," said Sally Kost, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners made a recommendation, instead of an official decision, because they agreed that the incoming Board of Commissioners should make the final decision.

The Western Wake Partners' construction of the sewage treatment plant has generated widespread community opposition because the Partners failed to consult local communities in the planning process. The Partners have been planning the facility for the past decade, but they only sought Chatham's approval for the pipeline this year. The New Hill Community Association, represented by the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, recently filed a lawsuit protesting the Partners' placement of the sewage treatment plant in the center of the New Hill community, next to the community's two churches and its historic district. The Partners never sought New Hill community members' input before choosing the sewage plant's location.

For more information visit:

[www.SCSJ.org](http://www.SCSJ.org)

[www.NewHillCA.org](http://www.NewHillCA.org)

<http://www.indyweek.com/indyweek/dumping-on-new-hill/Content?oid=1593974>

*The Southern Coalition for Social Justice empowers low-income communities and communities of color to defend and advance their political, social and economic rights.*

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