

Masthead

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## **With a region's economy at stake, wastewater plant is essential**

Your Nov. 22 editorial "Chatham's say-so," regarding the proposed sewage treatment plant in New Hill to serve Apex, Cary and Morrisville, clearly begs a response to set the record straight about this essential project.

Ensuring roads, water, sewer and power are in place to support jobs is the responsibility of governments, which often have to work across jurisdictional lines and through political differences to achieve success. Large projects almost always require buying land or easements from private citizens and putting something for the greater public good in their backyard. Without question our neighbors will be treated fairly and with respect in this effort.

So what if the Western Wake Regional Wastewater Management Facilities went down the drain as your editorial suggested?

Dozens who live near the plant site won't get relief from their failed wells and septic tanks with the project's clean water and working sewer.

Sanford, Fayetteville, Wilmington and other communities along the Cape Fear River won't have tens of millions of gallons of water each day for drinking, manufacturing, construction, cooling and processing. [A sewer line from the plant would traverse part of Chatham County to reach the river.]

Because of interbasin transfer rules, there won't be additional water for and, therefore, no new businesses in RTP South and little to no expansion of existing ones. Same in Morrisville and Cary (including the part that's in Chatham). As for Apex, we're out of sewer capacity. Never mind new businesses, the existing ones can't expand.

What do you think is going to happen when businesses can't expand? They're going to leave and take their jobs with them.

Personally, I choose meeting the responsibility of my elected office by working through the challenges and getting the job done rather than throwing the future economic vitality of central and southeastern North Carolina down the drain.

Keith Weatherly

Mayor of Apex

Chair, Policy Advisory Committee, Western Wake Partners

Apex

Editor's note: The length limit was waived to permit a fuller response. The editorial concluded by stating, "But this project as now conceived has so many issues, it might be better if it just went down the drain."