

**A RESOLUTION
APPROVING A LOCAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN
FOR THE CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE**

WHEREAS, the Charlottesville community has been engaged in a lengthy public process to develop consensus on a local Water Supply Plan that will ensure an adequate supply of potable water for the Charlottesville-Albemarle community for the next 50 years; and,

WHEREAS, since 2004 there have been 10 major well-attended public meetings on the alternatives for a local water supply plan; and,

WHEREAS, during the consideration of alternative strategies a strong emphasis was placed on developing a water supply (1) that would meet the needs of the community for the next 50 years; (2) that would be within a watershed area locally controlled by Albemarle County; and (3) that would represent the least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative; and,

WHEREAS, this process identified a new dam at the Ragged Mountain Reservoir as the best alternative to achieve the community's stated goals and criteria; and,

WHEREAS, the Ragged Mountain alternative provides for significant enhancement of the natural conditions in the Moormans River and optimizes the balance between human and natural needs within the South Fork Rivanna River basin; and,

WHEREAS, while the Ragged Mountain alternative does result in the loss of additional forest adjacent to the reservoir, the alternative includes a mitigation plan that provides permanent riparian protection to 75,000 linear feet of streams in the South Fork Rivanna watershed, provides for 200 acres of new riparian forest and wildlife habitat, provides 142 acres of new water surface for additional lacustrine aquatic habitat and passive recreation, relocates and lengthens existing walking trails around the reservoir, and provides for four acres of new wetlands adjacent to the southeastern boundary of the City along Moores Creek; and,

WHEREAS, the construction of a new Ragged Mountain dam would protect the public health, safety and welfare by fully correcting existing dam safety hazards with the lower and upper Ragged Mountain dams; and,

WHEREAS, the Ragged Mountain alternative also provides that old and obsolete water supply and treatment infrastructure will be replaced or updated, and where necessary expanded, in order to provide continuously reliable service; and,

WHEREAS, the expanded Ragged Mountain reservoir will allow for the replacement of the Sugar Hollow pipeline, which was built in 1927 and is prone to breaks and iron corrosion, with a new, shorter pipeline from a much larger watershed; and,

WHEREAS, the concept of the water supply plan which focused on meeting the community's need for capacity for the next 50 years through a larger Ragged Mountain dam and reservoir and a pipeline from the South Fork Rivanna reservoir was endorsed in 2005 and supported at that time by the Rivanna Conservation Society, Piedmont Environmental Council, The Nature Conservancy, Advocates for Sustainable Albemarle Population, League of Women Voters Charlottesville/Albemarle, Southern Environmental Law Center, Citizens for Albemarle, and Friends of the Moorman's River; and,

WHEREAS, in June 2006 the Charlottesville City Council endorsed this preferred alternative, as did the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors, the Albemarle County Service Authority and the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority; and,

WHEREAS, the Ragged Mountain alternative has been reviewed, approved and permitted by the Department of Environmental Quality of the Commonwealth of Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, on May 6, 2008 City Council held a work session devoted exclusively to presentations on the proposed water supply plan, followed by a public hearing at the regular City Council meeting on May 19, 2008, at which time interested members of the public provided additional input on the proposed local water supply plan; and,

WHEREAS, this Council has considered all suggested alternatives to the proposed plan, with due consideration to the financial and environmental consequences of the proposed plan and the possible alternatives that would meet the community's potable water needs for the next 50 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council for the City of Charlottesville that the local Water Supply Plan as proposed by the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority is hereby approved, with the following components:

- A new dam at the Ragged Mountain Reservoir, at a spillway height 45 feet above the existing lower dam spillway structure, at a preliminary estimated total project cost of approximately \$37,000,000;
- A new 36 inch transmission pipeline from the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir to the expanded Ragged Mountain Reservoir, at a preliminary estimated total project cost of approximately \$56,000,000, which pipeline will replace the 18 inch pipeline from the Sugar Hollow Reservoir, constructed in 1927;
- The complete replacement of the piping and pumping transmission system between the Ragged Mountain Reservoir and the Observatory Water Treatment Plant, at a preliminary estimated total project cost of approximately \$12,000,000, which will replace the two cast iron pipelines constructed in 1908 and 1949 and the very aged Royal Pump Station;
- A major overhaul of the Observatory Water Treatment Plant to advance public health by providing state-of-the-art facilities that will increase the Plant's rating

to 8 million gallons per day, at a preliminary estimated total project cost of approximately \$22,000,000;

- The expansion of the capacity of the South Fork Rivanna Water Treatment Plant to 16 million gallons per day, at a preliminary estimated total project cost of approximately \$9,000,000; and,
- The expansion of the capacity of the Observatory Water Treatment Plant to 10 million gallons per day, at a preliminary estimated total project cost of approximately \$6,000,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in addition to the specific elements of the local Water Supply Plan endorsed and approved by this Resolution, the City Council hereby requests the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority to undertake a study of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir and the viability and merits of maintenance dredging, siltation prevention and any other appropriate initiatives that could maintain and enhance the aquatic health and water quality of the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir, as a valuable water resource for the long term future benefit of the community. The Council hereby requests that Albemarle County, the Albemarle County Service Authority, the Rivanna River Basin Commission and other affected regional partners formally express their support of this study.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council hereby agrees to increase its efforts to promote water conservation and efficiency by City water consumers, and commits to engage in an active dialogue with the Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority, the County of Albemarle, the Albemarle County Service Authority, the University of Virginia and other key partners to develop stronger incentives and more effective measures for the conservation of water throughout the region.