

October 11, 2011

VIA CERTIFIED, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL

Charlottesville City Council
City Hall
Charlottesville, VA

RE: Council's Adoption of Documents with Out-of-Date Information

Citizens for a Sustainable Water Plan (CSWP) is a coalition of citizens who live in the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County. We are concerned about the environmental, financial, and social implications of the 2006 Community Water Plan which was developed based on what we now know is flawed and out-of-date information.

We are concerned that the Charlottesville City Council knowingly continues to adopt and approve documents that are based on flawed and out-of-date information, despite the availability of new information and studies that invalidate every assumption on which the dam-and-pipeline project was based. By continuing to take such official actions to further the dam-and-pipeline project, Council knowingly burdens its constituents and ratepayers with debt that is unnecessary and knowingly endorses unnecessary environmental damage and loss of City assets.

At the September 13, 2011 public hearing on the Regional Water Supply Plan and subsequent City Council meetings and in emails, Council heard from citizens that components of the draft Regional Water Plan use old information, despite the fact that new information was developed by the RWSA. Citizens also informed you that the RWSA did not accurately and completely summarize public comments, nor did it provide adequate responses to public comments. As a critical and specific example, by failing to include new information from the HDR dredging feasibility study regarding the actual relative volumes of sediment and usable water in the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir, which taken together lower the estimated rate of sedimentation, the Regional Water Supply Plan perpetuates faulty information about the safe yield of our water system both today and in 2055.

If City Council adopts the Regional Water Supply Plan as presented, even if amended by a "footnote" simply acknowledging the presence of the HDR results but not revising the safe yield based on those results, it will knowingly adopt old, out-of-date, and faulty information.

We call on Council to reject the Regional Water Supply Plan until it is modified with correct and up-to-date information. The citizens and ratepayers of Charlottesville deserve fact-based decisions.

Sincerely,



Rebecca C. Quinn, on behalf of
Citizens for a Sustainable Water Plan
Charlottesville, VA
(434) 296-1349

Cc: S. Craig Brown, City Attorney