

Dear Chatham County Commissioners:

I am pleased to hear about the great environmental work in Chatham County. I used to live there and value the beauty of that area. I now live in southwestern Orange County. As you heard at the last Sierra Club meeting you attended, there is concern that the Haw Watershed in Orange County never received protected status. I can think of no reason why except that the water runs into Chatham rather than Orange. A line on a map got in the way!

Of greater concern is that Orange County, against all reason, is poised to build an industrial waste transfer facility directly on top of the Haw Watershed. It would be directly on the headwaters of Collins Creek (see attached document & map from NC Natural Heritage Program) and up stream from numerous protected aquatic species. The land that is being pursued does not perk, meaning run-off into tributaries is normal. Constant truck traffic and oil runoff, and whatever water and leachate systems are created (still an unknown as we have no water and sewer here), are all likely contaminants of the ground water. This on top of an active wetlands. It doesn't make any sense.

Orange CO commissioners do not really like the sight much either but committed to this path in December. Fortunately there have been numerous delays on the purchase, so our community group (Orange County Voice) has been offering numerous viable options. Though I am sure you try not to meddle in each other's affairs, this item directly affects the quality of water that flows into Chatham County, to the Haw River and Jordan Lake. I would think it would be in your best interest to request that they move to immediately protect the Haw Watershed, and reconsider their plan to build in the watershed area.

I also heard through Barry Jacobs you had discussed cooperative work on waste. Perhaps a waste-to-energy facility in our future? That would be great (in an adequate setting!).

A response is greatly requested to this urgent issue. Please reply all. Thank you, and keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Virginia Leslie

P.S. More information available on request. The EA was done by GIS (long story, and completely misses these difficulties). Our website with environmental report about this is at: <http://www.orangecountyvoice.org/hottopics/wastetransferstation.html>