

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
HENDERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: February 6, 2023

SUBJECT: Public Hearing on Draft Environmental Assessment
Project: Clear Creek Sewer Discharge Permit Application

PRESENTER: Marcus Jones, PE
County Engineer

ATTACHMENTS: None

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

During the Board's April 4, 2022 meeting, WGLA Engineering was contracted to develop the permit application for a wastewater treatment discharge into Clear Creek. This is the first step in implementing the proposed Clear Creek Sewer System to serve Edneyville Elementary school, the NC Justice Academy, and surrounding areas. A draft Environmental Assessment has been completed with comments received from State agencies. The permit process requires the applicant, Henderson County, conduct this public hearing. A copy of the draft Environmental Assessment can be found at the following link:

<https://www.hendersoncountync.gov/engineering/page/draft-environmental-assessment-clear-creek-sewer-discharge-permit>

PUBLIC NOTICE:

The public hearing notice was advertised in the Tribune Papers every Thursday starting January 26th through February 16, 2023. It was sent to the Hendersonville Times News with confirmation at the time this memo was submitted but dates had not been confirmed.

The content of the notice follows:

Title: Notice of Public Hearing Henderson County Clear Creek Sewer System

Henderson County is conducting a Public Hearing for the proposed Clear Creek Sewer System project. The meeting will present the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project and is scheduled for 5:30 PM, February 6, 2023 at 1 Historic Courthouse Square, Hendersonville NC 28792.

The County proposes constructing a new sewer system to provide public sanitary sewer and wastewater treatment facilities to the Edneyville community area. This area currently has no publicly available wastewater treatment system but is expected to have ongoing population growth and commercial, industrial, and residential development. The project would result in an overall better and more efficient wastewater treatment process and improve the resiliency of the County's current wastewater treatment infrastructure. Funding is being provided by the American Rescue Plan (ARP), as distributed by the NC General Assembly's Drinking Water or Wastewater Reserve.

The sewer system would include a new wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), a pump station, and approximately 36,800 linear feet (6.9 miles) of new gravity and forced sewer line. The WWTP would treat up to 200,000 gallons of wastewater per day to accommodate the expected 20-year population growth rate, which is estimated to be approximately 2.5% per year. This includes a 50,000 gpd allocation for future commercial and industrial growth. The plant would be designed for future expansions.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), the EA is being conducted to evaluate and disclose the anticipated impacts to the natural and human environments associated with the project. The outcomes of this EA will be used to apply for a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit by December 2023.

All persons interested in the project are encouraged and invited to appear at the public hearing and to express their views. It is requested that insofar as possible, any person desirous of offering lengthy comments and discussion regarding the proposed project be prepared at the Public Hearing to offer a written statement to be included in the record of the public hearing. The EA report will be available for public inspection at the Henderson County Engineering Department (1 Historic Courthouse Square, Hendersonville, NC) and on the County's website at www.hendersoncountync.gov. The County encourages your participation and welcomes your comments on the proposed Clear Creek Sewer System project.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please submit your comments by February 24, 2023 to Mr. Eric Romaniszyn at 145 7th Ave. West, Suite B, Hendersonville NC, 28792, or electronically to eromaniszyn@enviroscienceinc.com. If you have any questions regarding this public comment meeting, please contact Mr. Romaniszyn at (828) 698-9800.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

No further action needed at this time.

SUGGESTED MOTION:

None provided.