

Sanford + Partners – Water Treatment and Transmission Project

January 2022

PARTNERS:	County of Chatham, NC	Town of Fuquay-Varina, NC
	City of Sanford, NC	Town of Holly Springs, NC
	Town of Pittsboro, NC	

To become more resilient, strategic and maximize economies of scale, the County of Chatham, the City of Sanford, the Town of Fuquay-Varina, the Town of Holly Springs and the Town of Pittsboro (Partners) have executed an Interlocal Agreement to:

- Expand Sanford’s Water Treatment Plant
- Construct needed transmission systems

One of the primary drivers for this partnership is the tremendous amount of growth currently underway and planned, which includes residential and significant non-residential projects, such as research and manufacturing, among others. The Partners have discussed options and opportunities for many years now and are ready to move forward with the development of a **regional water treatment facility and transmission system that will sustain these communities water needs for years to come.**

Resiliency & Water Quality: Ideally, **public water supply systems should have redundant sources of treated water available**, as may be needed in emergencies like hurricanes or significant equipment failure. Sanford currently does not have redundant water sources. The development of the transmission system to connect with Pittsboro will allow Sanford to have an emergency water interconnection, once the Western Intake Partners’ system is completed in 2031. Currently, Fuquay-Varina and Holly Springs do not operate water treatment plants but purchase water from neighboring systems. The transmission system from Sanford will provide both Towns with redundant water supplies and the additional water needed to accommodate growth. Chatham County does not have an adequate water supply to serve the project needs of the Triangle Innovation Point, an economic development “megasite” located in Moncure.

Pittsboro currently operates a small water treatment plant located on the Haw River, producing 1.0 MGD on average. Unfortunately, the Haw River has experienced significant water quality issues related to unregulated emerging contaminants (in particular PFAS and 1-4 Dioxane). Similar to Sanford, Pittsboro currently has no other water sources but is also a partner in the Western Intake Partners project on Jordan Lake that will provide additional water supply by approximately 2031. However, Pittsboro is projected to need an additional water supply to meet growing demands by 2025. The interconnection with Sanford will provide the redundancy needed, plus allowing the Town to meet its 2025 demands for the growing community.

Estimated Project Costs: Sharing in the construction and operation of the water treatment plant and transmission systems will **reduce the financial burden on the respective rate payers** of these five utilities. Also, it is unlikely these projects could have been undertaken as independent projects from both a financial, operational and permitting perspective.

PARTNERS	NEEDED CAPACITY (MGD)
Chatham County	1.0
Fuquay-Varina	6.0
Holly Springs	4.0
Sanford	4.0
Pittsboro	3.0
TOTAL	18.0

Water Treatment Plant Expansion from 12 MGD to 30 MGD	\$168,914,000
Transmission and System Improvements to Fuquay-Varina/Holly Springs	\$90,153,000
Transmission and System Improvements to Chatham County/Pittsboro	\$36,827,000
TOTAL	\$295,894,000