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News Release

Water Allocation Policy Rescinded

September 18, 2012, Monroe, NC – The Union County Board of Commissioners on Monday rescinded the County’s Short-term Water Allocation Policy initially approved in October 2008.

The policy was amended in September 2009 to define and set forth allocation of the limited remaining water treatment capacity in Union County’s Catawba River Water Treatment Plant (CRWTP) service area. When the initial policy was established, water demand within the CRWTP service area had exceeded the plant capacity on several days in 2007 and 2008. In addition, the County had identified new projects that would potentially require more than 4 million gallons per day (MGD) of capacity. To meet this demand for new capacity, water use restrictions were implemented to reduce the peak-day demand and the allocation policy was begun to set a structure for the allocation of the limited capacity created through the water use restrictions.

In March 2011, commissioners amended the policy to allocate an additional 300,000 gallons per day (GPD) of water treatment capacity for a non-residential and government facility reserve and established criteria for the allocation for non-residential projects based on readiness to move forward with construction.

Several factors allowed for amendment to the policy including completion of the Anson County water distribution system service area project that permits additional water to be moved into the Union County water system and offsets demand in the CRWTP service area; design and permitting progress associated with the CRWTP raw water reservoir project; success with water conservation and water use restrictions; slower growth of private development and recovery of capacity from projects that have failed to move forward along stipulated schedules.

The plan was further amended in July 2011 to allow phasing of commercial projects and in March 2012 to allocate water capacity to projects with allocated sewer capacity. Other action which provides sufficient capacity to meet the growth needs of Union County for the next five to seven years are the interim temporary transfer of allocated capacity agreement with the Lancaster County Water & Sewer District (LCW&SD) which increased the County’s capacity within the Catawba River Water and Sewer Plant from 18 MGD to 21 MGD through February 2017; the adoption of Union County’s Comprehensive Water and Wastewater Master Plan which developed water and sewer demand projections for the next 20 years; the increase of capacity from Anson County from 2 to 4 MGD and the adoption of the Water and Sewer Line Extension

Ordinance in February which creates the framework for working with the development community for the construction of new water and sewer infrastructure and commitment of capacity for new developments.

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