



Orange Water and Sewer Authority

OWASA is Carrboro-Chapel Hill's not-for-profit public service agency delivering high quality water, wastewater, and reclaimed water services.

To: Town of Chapel Hill Environmental Stewardship Advisory Board

From: Mary Tiger, Strategic Initiatives Manager

Date: May 2, 2022

Subject: OWASA's Long-Range Water Supply Plan Update

We look forward to presenting information about our Long-Range Water Supply Plan and receiving your feedback at your meeting on May 10, 2022. This memorandum provides some brief background information to include in your agenda package. If you have any questions about this information, please contact Mary Tiger, our Strategic Initiatives Manager at mtiger@owasa.org or at 919-537-4241.

Ensuring our community has ample water supply for generations to come requires advanced planning. OWASA is committed to providing high quality drinking water to the community, and the planning, permitting, and partnerships required for new supply development can take decades to develop and secure. That is why we are planning for the water needs of our community two generations ahead through 2070.

After completing a methodical, inclusive analysis of alternatives, the OWASA Board of Directors has determined that augmenting our local supplies (Cane Creek Reservoir, University Lake, and the Quarry Reservoir) with treated Jordan Lake water is the most viable alternative for providing resilient, high quality, and cost-effective drinking water for years to come. We considered other alternatives, but they did not perform as well against evaluation criteria that considered drinking water quality, the ability to improve the resilience and reliability of our water supply, cost, environmental impacts, and social impacts. These alternatives included demand-side management, potable reuse, and a strategy to deepen an expanded Quarry Reservoir.

There is a group of local water utilities which is moving forward to design and build a new intake and water treatment plant on the western side of Jordan Lake. OWASA faces a near-term decision on our involvement with them to access our allocation of water in Jordan Lake.

We are currently engaging with the community before finalizing the Long-Range Water Supply Plan. More information on our planning efforts can be found on our website at <https://www.owasa.org/plans/owasa-long-range-water-supply-plan/>.

