

Date: December 19, 2025

From: Donald F. Greeley
Director
Department of Water Management
City of Durham
1600 Mist Lake Drive
Durham, NC 27704

Subject: Letter to Industry – Goose Creek Outfall Sanitary Sewer Basin Improvements

Durham’s continued growth and prosperity depend on a strong foundation of reliable infrastructure. As our community expands, the City is committed to ensuring that essential services like water and sewer keep pace with development. Strategic planning and proactive investment are key to maintaining this momentum, and the Department of Water Management (DWM) is taking important steps to prepare for the future. One such effort is the Goose Creek Outfall Improvement Project, which will enhance sewer capacity to support both current needs and long-term growth in the area.

DWM recently completed developing capacity hydraulic computer models for our sewer collection system. Based on extensive field and flow data collected by our consultants, the computer models were calibrated to accurately reflect the actual flow capacities in our major sewer lines. The results of the modeling efforts have allowed DWM to identify sewer lines at or near capacity. Additionally, we were then able to develop a 20-year Capital Improvement Plan to upsize and replace lines throughout our system to meet current and future development. Prior to developing the comprehensive computer models DWM determined capacity based on data from a limited number of flow gauges in our collection system and general system knowledge. The results of this modeling effort identified that the Goose Creek Outfall was at full capacity. To accommodate future growth, DWM is implementing improvements to the Goose Creek Outfall sanitary sewer basin, increasing its capacity for the service area shown in Figure 1.

The City is moving forward with the upsizing and replacement of the Goose Creek Outfall. The City is committed to expedite the Goose Creek improvements with resources and process decisions designed to deliver the project as quickly as possible. The project will be broken into two phases. Phase 1 and 2 of the Goose Creek Outfall Improvement Project have estimated completion dates of Summer 2029 and Summer 2030, respectively. These completion dates are the best reflection of current planning. DWM will be working with our design consultant and contractors to identify opportunities to help expediate the construction of both phases. These upgrades are essential to supporting development while protecting public health and the environment. While the improvements are being completed, it is necessary to maintain existing development and ensure future development opportunities continue without exceeding the available capacity of the existing infrastructure.

Effective as of the date of this letter, all initial submittals of development applications requiring new connections to water and/or sewer within, or discharging to, the Goose Creek Outfall service area will require a Utility Extension Agreement (UEA). This applies to submittals for Annexation, Rezoning, Utilities Statement Applications, Site Plans, Construction Drawings, Final Plats, Preliminary Plats, and Building Permits (collectively referred to as “development applications”). Additionally, existing homes within, or discharging to, the Goose Creek Outfall service area requesting water and/or sewer service connections will require a UEA.

These UEAs will include language stating that water service to the associated development cannot be provided until sewer service is available. New sewer service to the service areas in Figure 1 will not be available until the corresponding phase of the Goose Creek Outfall Improvement Project is complete. Certificates of Compliance cannot be issued without activated water service.

For questions concerning Utility Extension Agreements please contact Justin Weist in Planning & Development, Development Infrastructure Division at 919-560-4326 ext. 30278 or at Justin.Weist@durhamnc.gov. For questions concerning the design or construction of the Goose Creek Outfall Improvement Project please contact Paul South in Water Management at 919-560-4381 ext. 35516 or at Paul.South@durhamnc.gov. For all other questions please contact Lisa Mitchell in Water Management at 919-560-4381 ext. 35568 or at Lisa.Mitchell@durhamnc.gov.

Sincerely,



Donald F. Greeley
Director
Department of Water Management

Attachments: Figure 1 – Goose Creek Outfall Service Area

CC: W. Bowman Ferguson, City Manager
Jina B. Propst, Deputy City Manager
Robert Joyner - Assistant Director, Water Management
Lisa Mitchell - Senior Engineering Manager, Water Management
Paul South - Engineering Manager, Water Management
Sara Young - Director, Planning & Development
Bo Dobrzanski - Assistant Director, Planning & Development
John Sandor - Assistant Director, Planning & Development
Justin Weist - Engineering Manager, Planning & Development

Figure 1: Goose Creek Outfall Service Area

