

Environmental Review Commission

January 15, 2014

NC Association of County Commissioners

Local Environmental Ordinances Study

S.L. 2013-413 Section 10.2



Why Local Control?

- Efficiency – larger units of government set performance standards, smaller units determine how to meet standards
- Local geography, climate, topography, soil conditions, population size and density, culture vary greatly
- When appropriate, keep as much decision-making at local level as possible



Ordinances to Meet State or Federal Requirements

- Communities in violation or near exceedance of federal health standards
- Specific requirements to meet general state/federal stormwater standards and water quality permit requirements
- NPDES permit requirements; coordinate w/erosion control requirements



Ordinances to Address Local Conditions

- Respond to local complaints and concerns
- Steep slopes – density limits, smaller acreage thresholds, PE involvement
- Broader buffer regulations to protect wildlife (recommended by USFW, NCWRC)
- Urban areas with more contaminated sites and greater access to public water supplies



Ordinances to Address Local Conditions

- Areas with rapid development
- Federal floodplain maps not adequate for level of development
- Water bodies that are drinking water source
- Tourism major part of local economy
- Sensitive natural resources



Ordinances for Efficiency & Cost Savings

- Local personnel on site, quick response
- State programs do not have enough staff
- Additional inspections for health protections, reduce complaints



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