

Subject: Nutrient Pollution of Jordan Lake
From: "Cecelia Vassar" <cavassar@gmail.com>
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To: Rich.Gannon@ncmail.net

Rich Gannon
DENR-Division of Water Quality, Planning Section

Members of the Environmental Management Commission:

I support the proposed rules to reduce nutrient pollution in Jordan Lake. . Jordan Lake has too much algae due to nutrient pollution (nitrogen and phosphorus) that comes from our wastewater and runoff from the whole watershed, including Greensboro, Reidsville, Burlington, Chapel Hill, Pittsboro, and part of Durham, Wake and Chatham counties. Nearly a million people live in the Jordan Lake/Haw River watershed. Everytime we take a shower, flush the toilet, water the garden, or drive the car we impact the lake. This nutrient pollution has seriously damaged streams in every town in the Haw River watershed, as well as Jordan Lake itself. These new rules will help clean up the water in the Haw River and the creeks where I live, as well as in Jordan Lake.

Jordan Lake and 25 creeks and sections of the Haw River that feed it have become so polluted that they had to be listed on the Federal 'Impaired Waters' list. This listing and an earlier state law, the 1997 Clean Water Responsibility Act, mandate that the lake be cleaned up by reducing nutrients –the nitrogen and phosphorus that have 'overfertilized' the lake. Algae blooms and even fish kills in the lake and upstream show that we're running out of time. And cleanup efforts have already lagged 10 years behind schedule because of disputes over who's responsible and how to get the lake cleaned up.

We're all responsible--the pollution comes from sewage treatment plants and runoff from streets and buildings and farms where we all live..

It is the responsibility of the state to enact these new rules for Jordan Lake. Those of us who live in the watershed share responsibility to make sure the waters we discharge through runoff and wastewater are not polluting others downstream.

We should require that wastewater treatment plants upstream from the lake reduce nitrogen by 2011. The proposed rules would allow water treatment plants to wait until 2016 to make the needed reductions in nitrogen - and that's far too slow. The Lake is already impaired – it can't wait until 2016 for less nitrogen pollution

We need strong rules now, and no more delays. We need to get on with the job of cleaning up Jordan Lake

Respectfully,

Ms. Cecelia A. Vassar
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