

# City of Graham

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I would like to submit my comments on the proposed Lake Jordan Nutrient Rules. I am David Lawson, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor, for the City of Graham. First, I would like to say that I am an environmentalist which is why I got into this field to start with. I was a college freshman when the Clean Water Act of 1972 was passed. Today, as an environmentalist, I totally support the goal of cleaner water in Lake Jordan or elsewhere. However, I must oppose these rules for the following reasons:

After attending the public hearings on these rules, I left them wondering about the various environmental groups that spoke in favor their enactment. Numerous speakers described our region in North Carolina as being wealthy and easily able to pay for the estimated cost of up to \$1.4 billion. The sad part of this idea is that many of our citizens do not have the ability to pay for such a plan. The expense for this plan does not just apply to millionaire developers but on all of us; including young couples trying to get into their first homes or our seniors trying to enjoy their remaining years on limited resources.

Our elected local leaders who all desire and support a cleaner environment and annually fund various clean earth projects will be forced to reduce, delay, or eliminate funding for these projects – many that would have far greater impact on a cleaner environment. One example of this would be upgrading wastewater biosolids from Class B to Class A. Remember, water and sewer rates can only be raised so much!

The Science does not support the cost of the rules. Limited data was used for the model and valid data from USGS and the Haw River Clean Water Agencies have never been included in it.

A true Adaptive Management Strategy would require less severe starting impact on our region; tightening would be required as needed to

meet ultimate goals. You would not have the starting point as the most restrictive rules of any watershed in the state.

Funding for an Adaptive Management Program does not appear to be available and needs to be addressed. DWQ staffers have noted in the past a lack of funds for sampling, analyses, model updating, and study of atmospheric deposition of nitrogen and algal speciation.

The Phase II Stormwater rules which will reduce nutrients just went into effect on July 1, 2007. Obviously, their impact on Lake Jordan will take time and should be included in the model as data becomes available.

My proposal:

- a. Re-run the current model with data from USGS and the Haw River Clean Water Agencies.
- b. Exempt current municipalities that are Phase I or Phase II Stormwater permit holders from the non-point discharge section of the rules. Plan and assist local governments on how they can adapt to these draft rules or Phase II rules.
- c. Require point source facilities to add nitrogen removal processes at the time of their next major upgrade or expansion.
- d. Determine cost level needed and how to fund a true Adaptive Management Strategy program.

Thank-you,

David Lawson

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Lawson", with a stylized, flowing script.