



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –
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Gray's Creek Water & Sewer District Board Moves Forward with Bond Referendum

FAYETTEVILLE – The Cumberland County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Gray's Creek Water and Sewer District governing board, took another step toward providing a public water system in the district.

At a special meeting Sept. 20, the board gave preliminary approval for a March 15 special bond referendum not to exceed \$21 million. A bond order will be presented for adoption at a future date and a public hearing set by the board of commissioners. The bond would be for 40 years.

The board also selected the Fayetteville Public Works Commission as the water provider for the district after an engineering cost analysis determined PWC would be a more cost-effective option than bringing in water from Bladen County through the Lower Cape Fear Water and Sewer Authority.

In his cost comparison presentation to the board, engineering consultant Hiram Marziano estimated that during the project's first year, the typical Gray's Creek water customer using 4,500 gallons per month would pay an average monthly water bill of \$41, which includes debt service.

The \$21 million project would have three phases over 10 years and include 109 miles of pipe and 3,480 customers. During the first phase, 35 miles of pipe will be constructed for 1,080 customers for an estimated total of \$6 million.

Under the plan, the county would enter into a long-term bulk water purchase contract with PWC. The cost analysis used commercial bulk purchase rates provided by PWC staff. Final figures have yet to be negotiated.

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Additional information will be available during the public hearing. In the coming months, the Public Utilities Department will be sending out mailers and conducting community meetings informing the district about the referendum, construction and project costs.

For more information, call 910-678-7637 or visit http://www.co.cumberland.nc.us/public_utility.aspx.

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