

CHATHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WORLD WATER DAY PROCLAMATION, March 22, 2022

WHEREAS, the United Nations (UN) has declared March 22nd as World Water Day and has invited governments around the world to devote the Day to the promotion of public awareness of the importance of freshwater and the sustainable management of groundwater resources; and

WHEREAS the intended goal of World Water Day 2022 is to reflect on the various ways that different people value groundwater around the globe and in Chatham County as it relates to their health, hygiene, dignity, and productivity at home, at work, and in recreation; and

WHEREAS, today, water around the world is under extreme threat from a growing population, increasing demands of agriculture and industry, and the worsening impacts of climate change; and

WHEREAS, according to UN estimates, 2 .2 billion people around the world are living without access to safe water; and

WHEREAS, 1.4 million people in North Carolina are experiencing clean drinking water shortages; and

WHEREAS, 55% of the 5.9 million people in N.C. rely on groundwater for their water supply; and

WHEREAS, climate change is and will continue to strain the availability, quality, and quantity of water for the basic human needs of potentially billions of people; and

WHEREAS, the UN Sustainable Development Goals provide the clear goal of providing safe water and sanitation for all people by 2030; and

WHEREAS, the United States uses 82.3 billion gallons per day of fresh groundwater for public supply, private supply, irrigation, livestock, manufacturing, mining, thermoelectric power, and other purposes, according to the U.S. Geological Survey; and

WHEREAS the average North Carolina resident uses **70 gallons per day** in and around their home; and

WHEREAS, water use has a direct link to overall monthly housing affordability when considering that ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County recognizes that water and sanitation measures are key to poverty reduction, economic growth, and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, people around the world and in Chatham County value water for its cultural, religious and spiritual meanings; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County is situated in the heart of the **Cape Fear River Basin** and includes the Rocky River, the Haw River, the Deep River and the Cape Fear River; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County and its municipalities draw drinking water from all these rivers and the B. Everett Jordan Lake that additionally serves residents of four neighboring counties; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County continues to value programs and Watershed Protection that monitor and preserve water quality and quantity for residents; and

WHEREAS, Chatham County residents are helping to protect water quality and quantity by practicing and supporting responsible agricultural practices, wetland protection and restoration, and innovative wastewater management and reuse programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Chatham County Board of Commissioners, do proclaim March 22, 2022 as "WORLD WATER DAY" in Chatham County and challenge residents to better understand and respect our groundwater and become good partners and protectors of our water resources.

THIS THE 21st DAY FEBRUARY, 2022.

Karen Howard, Chair

Chatham County Board of Commissioners