

Potential Merger Between Chatham County Utilities and TriRiver Water

Background

- Purchased water from Sanford for years for Asbury and Southwest water systems in Chatham
- ILA with Sanford for water and wastewater service in Moncure for the TIP site since 2016. Key partner for Vinfast and Plan Moncure
- Chatham currently conveys 1 mgd from Sanford to Siler City
- Sanford partnered with Pittsboro, Chatham, Fuquay Varina, and Holly Springs on a water plant expansion

Background (cont)

- Sanford changes the name of their utility to TriRiver Water to better reflect the regional nature of their service areas
- Pittsboro merger with TriRiver Water – Complete July 2024
- Siler City negotiating an agreement with TriRiver Water to merge utilities. Expected in October 2024 with full transition by July 2025
- NC Legislature directed a 421 corridor study to explore regional water and wastewater services – Finalized May 1, 2024
 - Collaboration and regionalization among neighboring water/wastewater providers is essential.

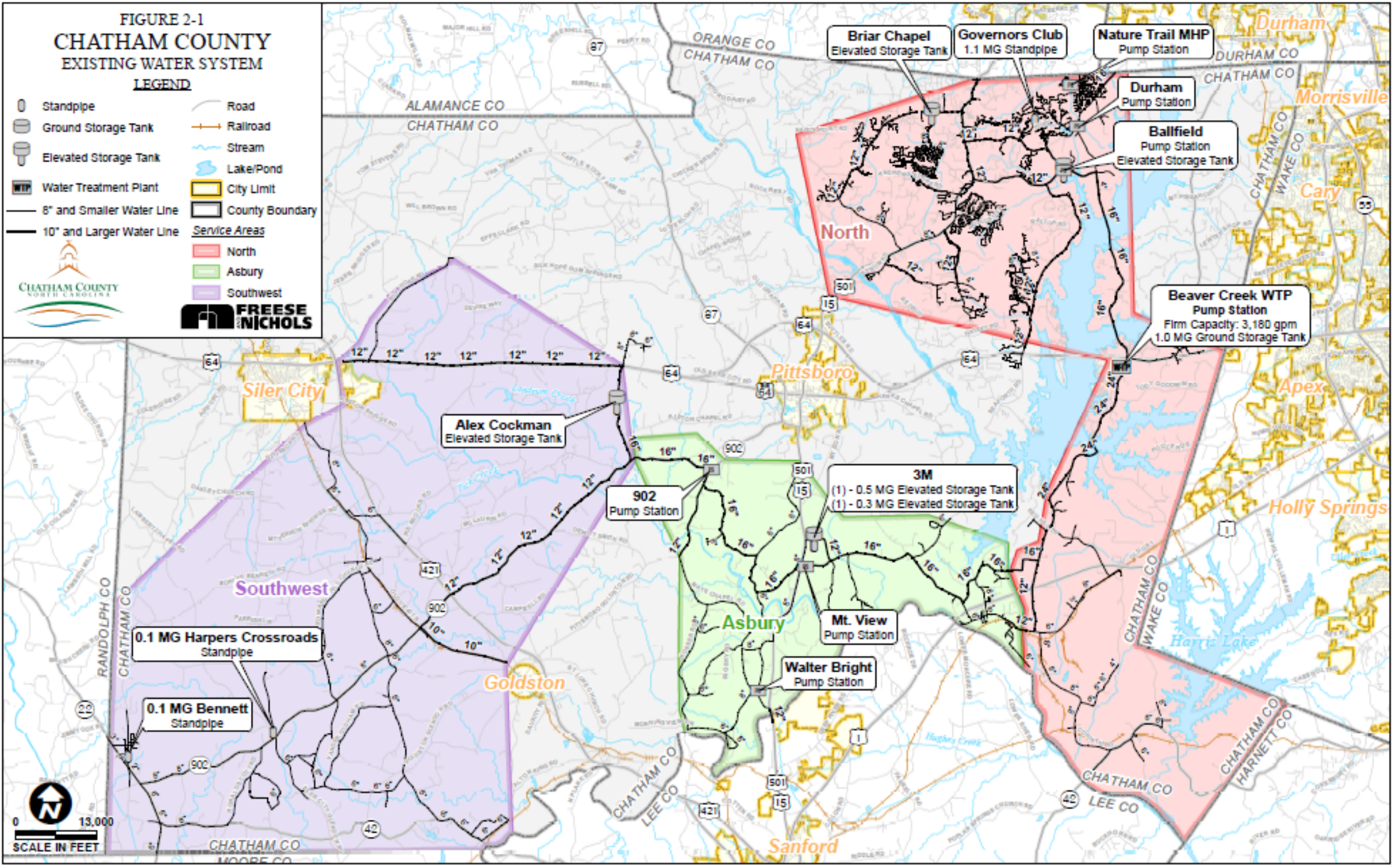
**FIGURE 2-1
CHATHAM COUNTY
EXISTING WATER SYSTEM**

LEGEND

- Standpipe
- Ground Storage Tank
- Elevated Storage Tank
- Water Treatment Plant
- 8" and Smaller Water Line
- 10" and Larger Water Line
- Road
- Railroad
- Stream
- Lake/Pond
- City Limit
- County Boundary

Service Areas

- North
- Asbury
- Southwest



Benefits of Merger

Regionalization:

- System resiliency/sustainability
- Future capital projects
- Hwy 421 Plan alignment
- DEQ/Legislature support
- Goldston support

Strategic Value:

- Plan Moncure alignment
- Plan Moncure alignment

Economic:

- Economies of scale
- Efficient systems
- Grant funding

Interests to Ensure

- Ensure staff are supported
- Eventual rate parity
- Adherence with Chatham UDO
- Preserve the rural character
- Retain land use authority
- No impact on General Fund

Recommendation

- Direct staff to explore merger with TriRiver Water
- Come back to the BOC with recommendations for a merger agreement