



Legislation Text

File #: ID 19-0750, **Version:** 1

Resolution for a Special Order by Consent (SOC) Between the City of Greensboro and the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality

Council Priority: Maintain Infrastructure and Provide Sustainable Growth Opportunities

Department: Water Resources
Council District: All

Public Hearing: N/A
Advertising Date/By: N/A

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PURPOSE:

Water Resources requests approval to pursue and negotiate a Special Order By Consent (SOC) with the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to address discharges of 1,4-dioxane, an unregulated constituent, from the T. Z. Osborne Wastewater Reclamation Facility. A City Council resolution is required as part of the SOC application process.

BACKGROUND:

The T.Z. Osborne Water Reclamation Facility is a 40 million gallon per day conventional wastewater facility designed to meet all existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit limits and requirements. The permit requires monitoring for 1,4-dioxane, but does not include a discharge limit since it is an unregulated constituent. The plant is operated in an efficient manner but it does not have treatment processes designed to remove emerging constituents such as 1,4-dioxane. The T. Z. Osborne Water Reclamation Facility discharges to South Buffalo Creek, a tributary to the Haw River and Cape Fear River, which is a drinking water source for downtown communities.

The SOC will officially outline the steps that Greensboro will continue to take to protect downstream drinking water sources. 1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic industrial chemical and is often a by-product present in many goods, including paint strippers, dyes, greasers, antifreeze and aircraft deicing fluids and in some consumer and personal care products. A processing fee of \$400.00 must accompany the application for an SOC. Outside legal counsel is being used in addition to City legal staff. The final SOC may contain upfront penalties and stipulated penalties (amounts to be negotiated).

BUDGET IMPACT:

Funds in the amount of \$400.00 for the processing fee are budgeted in the Water Resources Enterprise fund account 501-7056-01.5949. No other budget impact is anticipated.

RECOMMENDATION / ACTION REQUESTED:

The Water Resources Department recommends and requests that City Council approve the resolution allowing the City of Greensboro to pursue and negotiate a Special Order By Consent with the NC Department of Environmental Quality to address 1,4-dioxane discharges from the T. Z. Osborne Water Reclamation Facility.