



**CITY OF GAINESVILLE
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

Post Office Box 2496
Gainesville, Georgia 30503-2496
Telephone: 770 . 535 . 6865
Fax: 770 . 535 . 6896
Web Site: www.gainesville.org

GAINESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

C. Danny Dunagan, Jr.
Ward One

Robert L. (Bob) Hamrick
Ward Two

Myrtle W. Figueras
Ward Three

George Wangemann
Ward Four

Ruth Bruner
Ward Five

May 25, 2010

Chairman Tom Oliver
Hall County Commission
Post Office Drawer 1435
Gainesville, Georgia 30503

Re: Glades Farm Reservoir

Dear Chairman Oliver:

This letter is in response to your letter to me dated May 24, 2010. Your letter gave us 15 days to recommit to utilizing the Glades Farm Reservoir. Further, you state if we miss your deadline the County is going to move forward with reservoir permitting without reservation of capacity for the businesses and citizens of Hall County who are provided water by Gainesville Utilities Department.

Frankly, we are surprised. We have been nothing but supportive of your efforts to develop the Glades Farm Reservoir as evidenced by Myrtle Figueras' letter dated September 24, 2009 and my letter dated January 11, 2010 to you. Additionally, we have publicly stated our support many times as well as provided positive comments for the project at the Army Corps Public Hearing held last August 6, 2009. It seems if you had wanted an additional letter such as Forsyth sent, you would have let us know without the demand and deadline.

Be that as it may, the City of Gainesville does support your efforts to develop the Glades Farm Reservoir. As stated in our previously referenced letters, if reauthorization of Lake Lanier is not realized the citizens of our community (Hall County and its municipalities) will be dependant on alternative sources of water. Glades Farm being the obvious choice, we certainly hope you wouldn't proceed without taking our community's needs into consideration.

On a related note, the City of Gainesville has asked on several occasions to see the business or financial plan the County has developed to fund the reservoir. To date, we have received no information. We believe by working together a plan could be developed that protects the interests of our water customers. The estimated costs we have heard appear to be staggering and we must all be cognizant of what passing those costs on to our citizens, businesses and industries would do to their bottom line and thus our community.

Lastly, as previously stated, we applaud the County's efforts to develop a "Plan B" in case Lake Lanier is not reallocated, and further, we applaud your effort to ensure the long term water needs of our community are met. Glades Farm will certainly be necessary to meet long range needs. However, of more immediate concern is the provision of water during FY13 when Judge Magnuson's ruling takes affect. Though we have continued to move forward with obtaining an Engineer to design and permit construction of the Cedar Creek Water treatment Plant, we believe the two Governments working together will help to expedite the process. We believe the

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County has had adequate time to determine that the construction of a treatment plant at Cedar Creek in no way jeopardizes future Glades Farm plans.

Cedar Creek should move forward as quickly as possible to ensure adequate water supply in the event Judge Magnuson's ruling is not lifted. To that end, we again request the County provide a letter indicating to GaEPD your wishes for the Withdrawal Permits in the Oconee Basin be transferred to Gainesville.

Finally, on a last note, we understood the staffs to be working together to come to an amiable solution as both Governments directed. We understood through those talks the County had requested a "commitment letter" from Gainesville. A suggested draft of that letter was provided to staff by your staff last Friday, May 21st. Obviously our staff had no time to bring it to our attention by Monday the 24th.

I note this because if the staffs are to meet and discuss the issues in order to make recommendations to the elected bodies, their efforts shouldn't be undermined by us, the Elected Officials. Let's give them a chance to do what we (both elected bodies) have asked of them.

I trust this letter will serve as our intent to support the Glades Reservoir construction as you requested. Please let us know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Ruth Bruner, Mayor
City of Gainesville

cc: Gainesville City Council
Hall County Board of Commissioners
Charley Nix, County Administrator
Phil Sutton, Assistant County Administrator
Kip Padgett, Gainesville City Manager