



SUSTAINABLE WATER PLAN Dredge First – Dam Later

Background

Business and development interests have conducted a misinformation campaign that obscures the facts.

We now know the truth. The fundamental assumptions that underpin the 2006 “Community Water Supply Plan” have been invalidated by new information.

We now know that a Sustainable Water Plan based on dredging is cheaper, better for the environment, increases stream flows, and meets the long-term needs of our growing community.

In 2002, local officials approved a \$30 million sustainable conservation and dredging-based strategy with a modest increase in dam height to meet future water needs. Water rates were raised in 2003, but then.....

In 2005, special interests co-opted the plan. The 2006 “Community Water Supply Plan” abandons what we already own to build a large new dam and uphill pipeline, estimated to cost more than \$140 million. What this will do to your water bill has not been disclosed.

What You Need To Know

2006 “COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PLAN”

- Abandon South Fork Rivanna Reservoir and repurpose Sugar Hollow Reservoir – we’ll lose half of our water reserves and the highest quality water we have today
- Build a large new dam that cannot fill or distribute water to the majority of the service area until a \$63 million pipeline is constructed 20 years from now
- Clear cut and flood 200 acres of forest at a city-owned park; destroy wetlands and streams
- Release unnatural volumes of water to the Moormans River

BENEFITS WHEN? Jeopardizes water security for at least 20 years

COST: \$6.6 million/year (dam and pipeline)

OVER-SIZED: Assumes we’ll need 18.7 million gallons per day for drought protection by 2055

SUSTAINABLE WATER PLAN

- Dredge the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir, maintain Sugar Hollow Reservoir, and upgrade the Ragged Mountain dam, preserving 1.5 billion gallons of existing water reserves
- Provides flexibility to respond to changing population and actual water use by phasing increases in water storage at Ragged Mountain Reservoir
- Preserves 200 acres of parkland, acres of wetlands, and miles of streams
- Enables natural flows to the Moormans and Rivanna Rivers during dry periods

BENEFITS NOW! Immediately increases the capacity of our most productive reservoir

COST: \$2.5 mil/year (dredge and dam repair)

RIGHT-SIZED: Using current data, 2011 study estimates we’ll need 16.2 million gallons per day by 2055

To see what **they said** compared to what **we now know**, go to www.cvillewater.info

GALLONS TO GALLONS COMPARISON MISLEADING

A gallon of storage in the South Fork Rivanna Reservoir is not the same as a gallon behind the proposed large dam at Ragged Mountain Natural Area.

Supporters of the dam-and-pipeline plan say dredging would give us only another 15 days of water. This is misleading. What they’re not saying is that whether a water system satisfies a community’s needs is about efficiency, not just about size. Water systems are dynamic. A reservoir, no matter how big, is only as efficient as how quickly it fills.

Dredging to restore the capacity at South Fork begins to increase water storage immediately. And when dry spells are broken by rain South Fork reservoir re-fills very quickly.

But when the proposed dam at Ragged Mountain is drawn down during droughts, there will be only two ways it can fill – slowly from Sugar Hollow or, after 20 years when the pipeline is built, it can be filled by pumping water uphill from South Fork.

The South Fork reservoir and the whole urban water system have more water than they’re telling us. They’re not accounting for the results of the 2009 dredging study that documented there is much less sediment in South Fork and the rate of siltation is much slower than previously estimated. They’re not accounting for water available in Beaver Creek, Lake Albemarle and Chris Greene Lake, which could be used in the event of a serious drought.

They don’t mention the total cost of the dam-and-pipeline plan. They’re reluctant to recognize the significant and permanent drop in water use over the past decade. And they’re careful not to mention how much could be done today to improve streamflows in the Moormans, including increasing the capacity of the discharge pipe which is required by the State permit.

Home owners, renters, and business owners who get water from RWSA and ACSA deserve fact-based decisions. A public hearing on the state environmental permit will be held at 6pm, Thursday, September 29, Lane Auditorium, County Office Building.

The Community Water Supply Plan Is Over-Sized And Over-Priced.