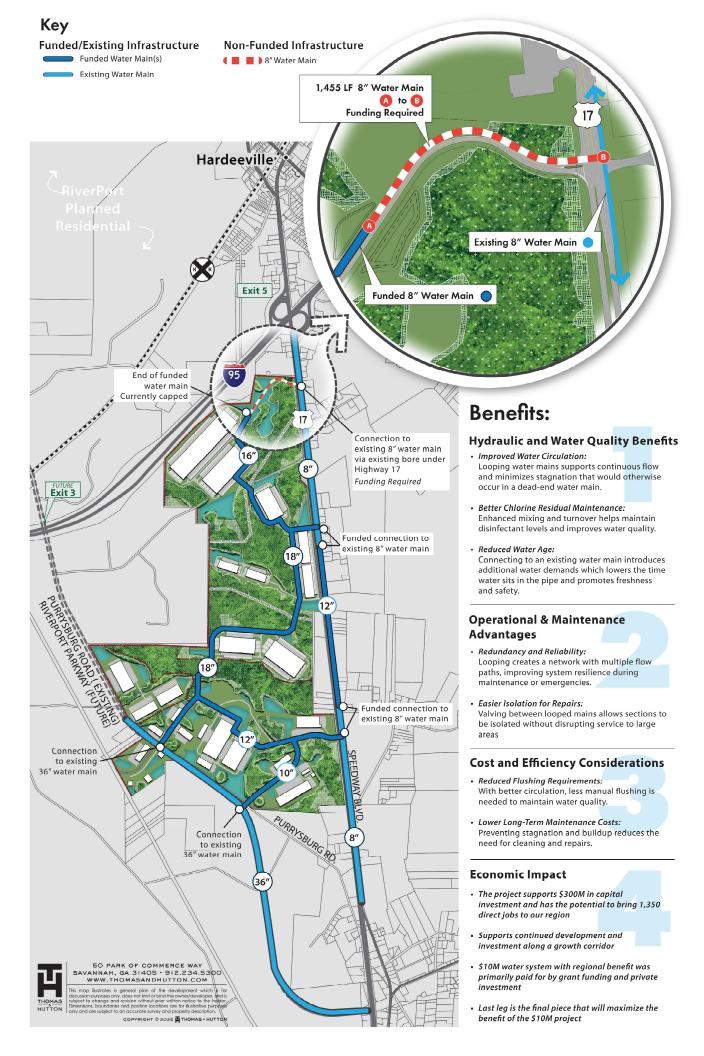
AGENDA ITEM # 6



AGENDA ITEM: Chairman's Comments



ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 21707 • Columbia, SC 29221 • PHONE: (803) 896-8800 • FAX: (803) 798-8097 • WEBSITE: scfc.gov

November 6th, 2025

John Kemp Chairman of Jasper County Council 358 Third Avenue Ridgeland, SC 29924

Re: Jasper County Council Letter of Support

Mr. Kemp,

The South Carolina Forestry Commission is seeking approval for our Buckfield project from the SC Department of Administration. One of the state requirements to obtain approval for this project is that we a have a letter of support from the Jasper County Council. Your support for our project would be deeply appreciated.

The Buckfield property is in Hampton (545acres), Jasper (534 acres), and Beaufort County (1742) near the town of Yemassee and consists of approximately 2,821 acres. This is a working forest tract that the SCFC has identified as priority for conserving working forest land. This property is adjacent to the new Coosawhatchie HP WMA and other private owned protected land that extends down into the ACE Basin. This property and surrounding area are in eminent danger of being lost to develop with proximity to I-95, Hwy 17, and Hwy 21. When acquired the property will become a new state forest that will be protected and managed by the South Carolina Forestry Commission for multiple-use and sustain-yield. Multiple use management includes enhancing timber production, fish and wildlife habitat, air and water quality, soil conservation, scenic beauty, scientific research, and recreational opportunities. Sustained yield means assuring that the renewable resources of the forest will always be available without impairing the productivity of the land.

This project will utilize funds combined from South Carolina Office of Resilience, Open Space Institute, South Carolina Conservation Bank, and Beaufort County.

Per South Carolina Code of Laws Section 48-23-260 the Commission pays 25% of the gross revenue generated from the State Forests to the counties in which they are located to be used for general school purposes. The Commission is the only state agency that currently does this.

We would ask that you recognize this letter as our formal request for that letter of support from the Jasper County Council. If possible, we would ask that you consider this at your earliest convenience. Please feel free to contact me with any of your questions or concerns about this. Thanks for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

David P. Owen

Construction & Property Manager SC Forestry Commission 5500 Broad River Rd. Columbia, SC 29212

803-896-8829 O dowen@scfc.gov