

Cullman County Commission



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Proposed City Water Contract Does Not Meet County Needs

Statement from Cullman County Commission Chairman James Graves, Commissioner Doug Williams and Commissioner Wayne Willingham

Today, the three County Commissioners submitted a letter to City of Cullman Mayor Townson and the City Council explaining the seven reasons why the proposed new 30-year City water contract will not meet County needs and therefore, the County Commissioners must refuse to sign the contract.

A summary of the seven points include:

1. The Contract limits County water use to 160 million gallons of treated water a month for the next 30 years. The County is already at the 160 million gallon limit in 2010. The City contract, basically, prohibits all growth for county farms and homes for the next 30 years.
2. The Contract does not allow any additional, outside water sources to supplement the water provided from the City, which again, is not a sufficient amount and is especially not acceptable in case of drought or other severe water supply needs.
3. There is no limit to capital costs. This Contract is an open check book which allows the City to purchase what the City determines and pass along those costs to the County, without any say from the County.
4. The Contract does not address Disinfection By-Product (DBP) upgrades that are required by the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM). Based on the current City treatment system, the County will be out of compliance with ADEM in 2012 and this is a health issue for County water users. The County must have assurance of modification to the current and future water treatment system.
5. The Contract does not include the verbal agreement from the City that the City upgrade the main supply pipe on Golf Course Road to handle more capacity.
6. The water fee contract formula for determining the base rate is unclear. The formula should be clearly written.
7. The Contract does not allow the County to have a voice or vote in rate changes, infrastructure upgrades or water sources.

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