

ROY COOPER

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ELIZABETH S. BISER

Secretary

SHADI ESKAF

Director

NORTH CAROLINA
Environmental Quality

February 2, 2024

Ms. Diane H. Miller, Town Manager
Town of Oriental
PO Box 472
Oriental, NC 28571

Subject: Letter of Intent to Fund
S.L. 2023-134 Appropriations Act Directed Project
Water System Improvements
DWI Project No.: SRP-D-134-0031

Dear Ms. Miller:

The Division of Water Infrastructure (Division) has received your *Request for Funding* for the aforementioned project for up to \$5,335,000 from the Drinking Water/Wastewater State Reserve as established in Session Law (S.L.) 2023-134. Projects funded from the State Reserve must meet applicable State laws and guidance for expenditure of these funds. The following table shows total S.L. 2023-134 appropriations for your local government, awarded projects and their funding amounts identified to date, and any remaining unobligated appropriations at the time of this letter.

S.L. 2023-134 Appropriations Act Approved Projects

S.L. 2023-134 Approved Projects for S.L. 2023-134 Section 12.2.(e) Line # 135 Appropriation		
Appropriated Funds Available for Projects		\$5,335,000
Project Name	Project Number	Maximum Funding Amount
Water System Improvements	SRP-D-134-0031	\$5,335,000
Total Appropriations requested		\$5,335,000
Total Appropriations remaining		\$0



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The first milestone for this project is the submittal of a bid-and-design package by **April 1, 2025**. Please note that this intent to fund is contingent on meeting **all** the following milestones:

Milestone	Milestone Date
Apply for all Necessary Permits*	ASAP
Bid-and-Design/Permit Package Submittal	April 1, 2025
Bid-and-Design Package Approval	August 1, 2025
Advertise Project, Receive Bids, Submit Bid Information, <u>and</u> Receive Authority to Award	December 1, 2025
Execute Construction Contract(s)	January 31, 2026

*An engineering alternatives analysis (EAA) may be required on certain projects. See: <https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-resources/water-quality-permitting/npdes-wastewater/permitting-process>

The Division will consider milestone timeline modification including extensions provided that appropriate justification for granting extension is provided.

Environmental Review Requirements

The State Environmental Policy Act exempts projects funded by the State Reserve (such as this project) from state-mandated environmental review. Federal requirements may still apply. [North Carolina General Statute (NC G.S.) 113A-12.(2).(h)]

Drought Bill Requirements

In accordance with NC G.S. 143-355.4, a project “for the purpose of extending waterlines or expanding water treatment capacity” must document numerous requirements during the review process. You can find additional information at the following link:

ncleg.net/enactedlegislation/statutes/html/bysection/chapter_143/gs_143-355.4.html

Permitting Assistance

We are offering a free, permit assistance service to address any questions you may have about potential permitting requirements, pitfalls, fees, and timelines. If interested, please complete our online form at <https://deq.nc.gov/permits-rules/permit-assistance-and-guidance/permit-assistance-request-form> and a regional environmental coordinator will contact you. When applying for a permit, attach a copy of this letter to your permit application. Additional information on DEQ permit scoping services can be found at: www.deq.nc.gov/regional-office-scoping-meeting-flyer-deacs/download

Disbursement of Funds:

These funds will be disbursed to the local government unit after relevant costs are incurred by the local government and invoices are submitted to the Division. Up to 15% of the funds available for the project may be disbursed after costs are incurred during the pre-construction stage to cover design and planning costs. The remainder will be disbursed as invoices for incurred pre-construction and construction costs are submitted by the local government during construction. Only costs eligible under NC G.S. 159G may be covered by these funds. Projects must be administered in accordance with all applicable federal law and guidance, as well as North Carolina statutes.


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Electronic Document Submittal:

Recipients should now submit all project documents via the new supporting documentation submittal form located at <https://edocs.deq.nc.gov/Forms/DW-Document-Upload-Form>. The use of this form provides more seamless document tracking, processing, filing, accessibility, and security via our electronic document repository, Laserfiche. The link and a list of frequently asked questions can also be accessed from the Division's I Have Funding page, <https://www.deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/i-have-funding>.

Upon detailed review of the project during the funding process, it may be determined that portions of your project are not eligible for funding. If you have any questions concerning this matter or require general assistance regarding your project's Division-awarded funding, please contact, Dustin Rhodes, P.E., either by telephone at 919.707.3888 or by e-mail at dustin.rhodes@deq.nc.gov.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

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Shadi Eskaf, Director
Division of Water Infrastructure

ec: Steven R. Gandy, P.E., Ph.D., TRC Engineers, Inc. (sgandy@trccompanies.com)
Kavitha Ambikadevi, P.E. (DWI, via e-mail)
Dustin Rhodes, P.E. (DWI, via e-mail)
Mark Hubbard, P.E. (DWI, via DocuSign)
LF Project File (COM – LOIF)
DWI Agreement ID: 2000073791