

**Discussion and Action Item 1:**

Resolution Honoring the Service of Mary Darr, P.E., to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) and the Carrboro-Chapel Hill-Orange County Community

**Background:**

Ms. Mary Darr will retire effective November 1, 2024, as Deputy Executive Director with 30 years of service at OWASA.

**Action Needed:**

Adoption of the Resolution Honoring the Service of Mary Darr, P.E., to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority and the Carrboro-Chapel Hill-Orange County Community.

September 12, 2024

**Resolution Honoring the Service of Mary Darr, P.E., to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority and the Carrboro-Chapel Hill-Orange County Community**

**Whereas**, after working more than thirty years as an OWASA professional engineer, Mary Darr will retire on November 1, 2024, from her present position as Deputy Executive Director, and the Board of Directors wishes to thank her for her work as an essential public employee in service to our community; and

**Whereas**, Mary began work for OWASA in 1994 as a Utilities Engineer where she soon became known for her willingness to undertake and complete the difficult and often complicated projects necessary to guide the operation and support the replacement and new construction of water and sewer infrastructure vital to the life of our community; she was promoted to serve as Operations Engineer, Director of Engineering and Planning, and then as General Manager of Operations, and she will retire having most recently served as Deputy Executive Director of OWASA; and

**Whereas**, Mary well and faithfully performed her responsibilities including management of OWASA's water supply, water distribution and wastewater collection systems, its water and wastewater treatment plants, its reclaimed water system, along with its laboratories and maintenance operations. She will be remembered by her colleagues for her warm smile and enthusiasm in service with all of them, and her willingness to notice and then to help those who needed a lift or a hand up or some thoughtful suggestion to help them through their day. Indeed, it is remarkable that even with so many responsibilities, Mary always found time to help whoever needed her encouragement; and

**Whereas**, throughout her career, she was instrumental in planning and executing projects such as preparation of OWASA's Sewer Use Ordinance, which today protects OWASA's sewer infrastructure from dangerous and damaging inflows; she was in charge of various award winning projects that brought national and international recognition to OWASA, including the 2005 Partnership for Safe Water Directors Award and the 2011 Excellence in Water Treatment Award; she was also Project Manager for the construction of the Operations Center, a building intended to building relationships between the Engineering and Operations staff; and

**Whereas**, Ms. Darr has earned the admiration and respect of co-workers at OWASA, our local governments, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and other professionals within the national water and sewer industry; her character and her work will now serve as her legacy to OWASA and to our community:

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved:**

1. That the Board of Directors of the Orange Water and Sewer Authority (OWASA) hereby honors and expresses its sincere appreciation for the distinguished public service of Mary Darr, P.E., to OWASA and the people of Carrboro, Chapel Hill and Orange County, and the

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Board of Directors extends its best wishes to Mary for good health and happiness in her retirement.

Adopted this 12th day of September 2024.

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Melody Kramer, Chair

ATTEST:

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Pedro Garcia, Secretary