

PROPOSED POLICY
For
COUNTY FINANCIAL PARTICIPATION IN
WATER AND/OR SEWER LINE EXTENSIONS

It is the policy of the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners to consider financial assistance in projects to provide for the extension of water and/or sewer utility lines based on the following project classifications. However, in locations that are near or are located within a Municipal Influence Area (MIA), the County will encourage the municipality to extend its service to the area requesting water and/or sewer service.

PROJECT CLASSIFICATIONS

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT BY PETITION (WATER AND/OR SEWER)

This policy allows for property owners to request assistance from the Board of Commissioners to undertake a project to provide the requested services. Special Assessments for water and/or sewer extension projects are authorized by State Statute (§ 153A-185) to allow for the County to finance the project. If petitioned to do so by a majority of the property owners, the County Board of Commissioners may authorize loaning County funds, if available, to finance the project on behalf of the property owners. If the loan is authorized, the majority of the property owners in the project area must agree to a special assessment levied on their property for a term and interest rate to be set by the Board of Commissioners prior to initiating the project. For this type of project, the entire cost of the project is to be paid for by the property owners with no financial participation from the County other than to provide the loan. The Commissioners may consider County participation on a case-by-case basis, when the assessments pose an undue burden on the property owners.

PROJECTS IN COMMUNITIES WITH CONTAMINATED WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS (WATER)

In communities where water supply systems have been identified as being contaminated to the extent that the water is not safe to use, it is the policy of the Board of Commissioners to attempt to locate grant or program funds to assist the property owners to obtain public water. In the absence of grants and/or loans from other funding agencies, the County may consider participating in the project cost on a case-by-case basis.

SEWER PROJECTS IN COMMUNITIES WITH FAILED SEPTIC TANK SYSTEMS (SEWER)

Sewer Projects due to failed septic tank systems, as determined by the Cumberland County Health Department, will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. In the event this is an isolated case

or that sewer service is not readily available, there will be no financial participation by the County to remedy or repair the failed system. In the event the Health Department has proceeded with actions declaring multiple properties in the same area uninhabitable, the County will attempt to secure grants and low-interest loans from State and Federal programs to extend public sewer. Financial participation in these projects by the County will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNER REQUEST (WATER AND/OR SEWER)

It is the policy of the Board of Commissioners not to participate in individual property owners' requests for assistance other than in projects outlined above.

Recommended Approval by the Safe Water Task Force - November 4, 2009

Recommended Approval by the Board of Commissioners Policy Committee – December 3, 2009

Approved by the Board of Commissioners – December 21, 2009