



PIEDMONT TRIAD REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

Frequently Asked Questions

I HAVE HEARD THE PTRWA IS CONDUCTING A MASTER PLAN STUDY – WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?

Endorsed by PTRWA and its member communities of, Archdale, Jamestown, High Point, Greensboro, Randleman and Randolph County, the PTRWA Board has commissioned a Master Planning study to determine how best to meet the future water and wastewater service needs of the region.

WHY IS THIS STUDY NEEDED?

Unprecedented economic growth in the Carolina Core is a driver for this study. With more than \$20 billion in capital investments made over the past six years in the aerospace, biomedical, automotive, technology and logistic sectors, significant investments in the water and wastewater infrastructure in Guilford and Randolph Counties are needed to sustain and support this economic growth. Rough estimates to be confirmed through further study have put the needed water capacity at 135 million gallons per day and 105 million gallons per day for wastewater by 2050, which is almost double the current demand. This kind of increase is more than even the largest utilities in the area can accommodate on their own. The study will consider all the technical, regulatory, operational, organizational, and administratively feasible ways of providing this critical infrastructure in the most environmentally, operationally, and financially advantageous way, from a regional perspective.

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Though the PTRWA is leading the study, it is engaging all water and wastewater service providers in the region to ensure all ideas, concerns, and issues are heard and integrated. Once the study is completed (estimated to be in the third quarter of 2025), the region's utilities will review its findings and collaborate to determine the best course of action.

Who will benefit from this study and its recommendations?

The residents and businesses located within Guilford and Randolph Counties and the Upper Cape Fear River Basin will be the primary beneficiaries of this study.

HOW WILL THEY BENEFIT?

Though the outcome of the study is unknown right now, there are several potential benefits to having a regional solution.

Cost Savings – A regionalized approach would spread the significant investment costs over more customers, making water and wastewater service more affordable for all, while increasing opportunities for grant subsidized improvements.

Less Risk – The costs associated with the anticipated regulations will increase over time, potentially very significantly. A regional approach would enable utilities to share and reduce their risks associated with maintaining environmental compliance.

Increased Resiliency – A multi-jurisdictional model will enhance the Region's resiliency in addressing long-term water resource needs for all communities, including traditionally underserved communities, while seeking to maintain affordability to the greatest extent possible.

Enhanced Planning – Regional planning creates a stronger platform for meeting longer-range needs than local, individualized community planning does. Future capacity forecasting for both water and wastewater management is enhanced when done on a regional scale.

Who decides which plan recommendations to implement?

The PTRWA will host meetings with the region's utilities to review the study findings and collaborate to determine the best course of action for all, with a focus on sustainable water and wastewater service that meets the region's needs from the financial, social (equitable), operational, and environmental aspects.

How will the solution impact residents and businesses in the region?

It is anticipated that if a regional solution is identified, the whole region will thrive, with unlimited opportunities for economic growth and a high quality of living. In addition, residents and businesses are likely to experience the cost benefits and economies of scale that can happen when costs are spread over a larger customer base; they will benefit from a more cohesive approach to regional planning to continue to meet infrastructure needs, well into the future; and they will rest assured these critical services will be designed to withstand impacts from extreme weather events and experience fewer risks in general.

What happens if the region does not identify and start working on a solution?

If nothing is done, some areas in Guilford and Randolph County may risk considerable water and wastewater system failure; they may not meet water service demands; some may potentially violate Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act regulations; the local economy will suffer as many businesses may not be able to operate; and many people will experience significant inequities in the level of water and wastewater service they receive.

Where can I learn more? Are there opportunities to ask questions or provide input into the study?

You can learn more and stay connected to progress being made at the PTRWA website at www.triadncwater.gov.

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