



We are **TRU** to our customers!

# South Fork Sewer Project Phase II

STEPHANIE SCHERINGER, DIVISION MANAGER WASTEWATER TREATMENT

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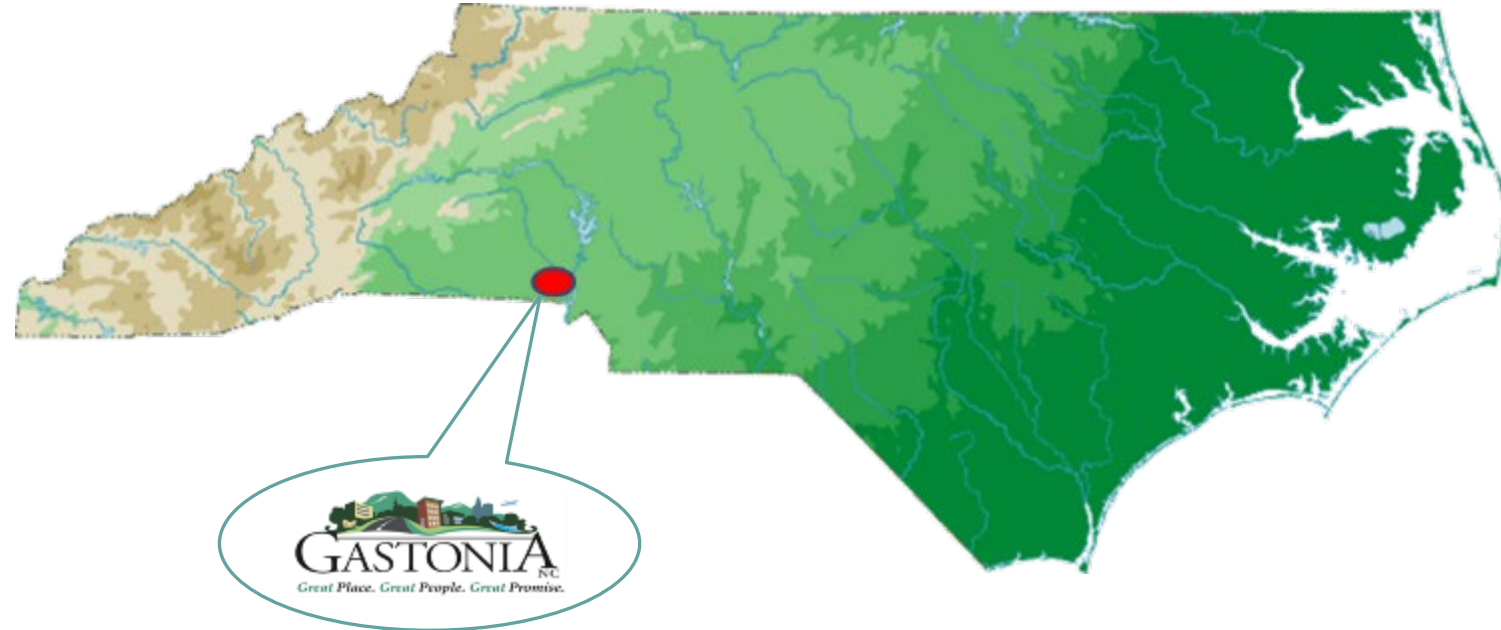




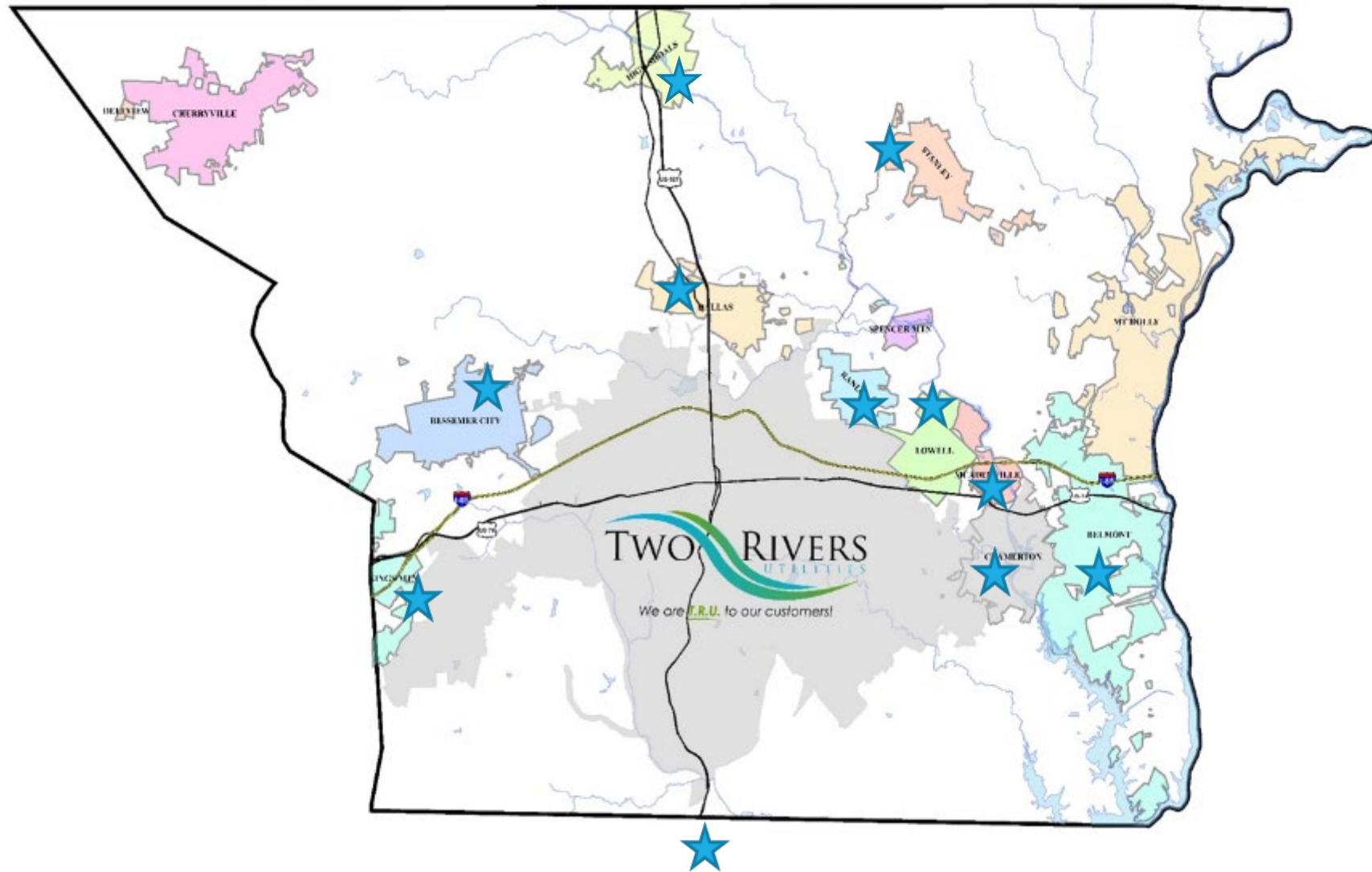
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### Sewer Utility

- 650 miles sewer line
- 3 Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Class B Biosolids Recycling Program
- \$40M Budget
- 30,608 direct customers
- Gastonia population 77,000
- Population served 107,000



# Two Rivers Utilities Service Area



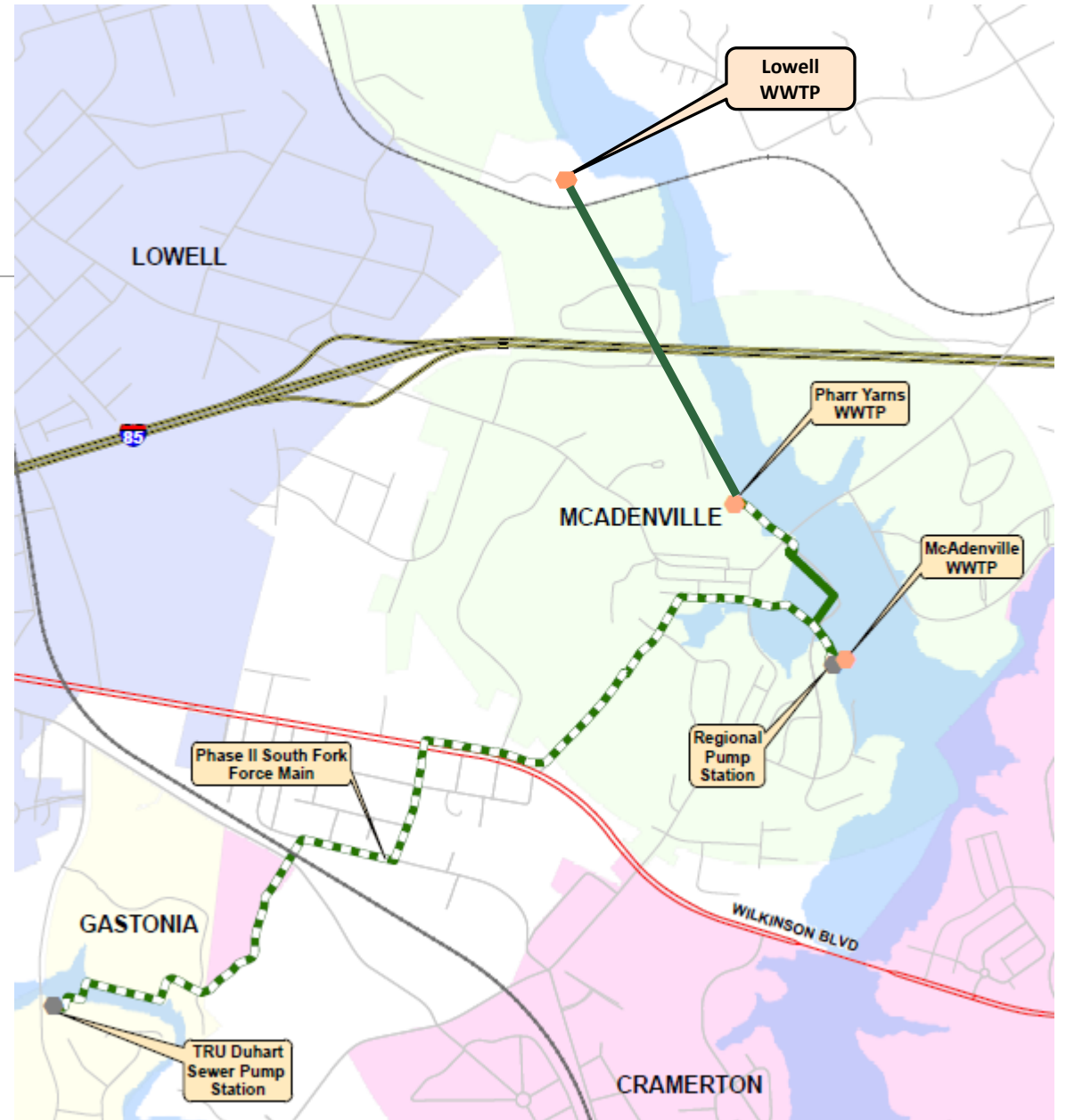
# South Fork Sewer Scope

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- 2007- Discussion began. Partner Goals:
  - Address antiquated wastewater infrastructure & lack of economy of scale
  - Improve environmental performance
  - Support future development
- Phase I
  - Eliminated a small wastewater treatment plant and a sewer pump station & treat at a modern wastewater plant
  - Completed in 2013
- Phase II
  - Eliminate antiquated wastewater treatment plants & treat at a modern wastewater plant
  - Completed in 2019

# Original Phase II Plan

- Eliminate 3 wastewater treatment plants:
  - City of Lowell
  - Pharr Yarns
  - Town of McAdenville
- Build a regional sewer pump station & 2.4 miles of sewer line
- Convey the wastewater to the most sophisticated treatment plant in Gaston County



# Project Challenges

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- Design firm abruptly closed
  - Gastonia began designing in-house
  - Ultimately hired a contract engineer to finish
  - Delayed timeline & increased cost
- City of Lowell withdrew
  - Delayed timeline
  - Redesign work
- Gastonia's project manager changed
  - Become familiar, build rapport

# But wait, there's more... Project Challenges

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- Lowest project bid was approximately 2.5 times the available funding
  - Bid negotiations with contractor
  - Value engineering
  - Each partner increased funding and/or completed portion of the project
  - Seek additional funding sources
- Excessive rainfall during construction
  - Delayed timeline
  - Funding agency extensions
- Managing project funding
  - 6 funding sources, all with different rules

# Partnership was the Cornerstone

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## Key Components:

- Regular project meetings
- Perseverance
- Commitment
- Open communication
- Cooperation
- Flexibility



# Need for Additional Partners

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- Gaston County
- Gaston County Economic Development Commission
- Additional funding agencies:
  - Golden LEAF
  - NC Department of Commerce
- Contractor
- Consulting engineer



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
Department of Commerce

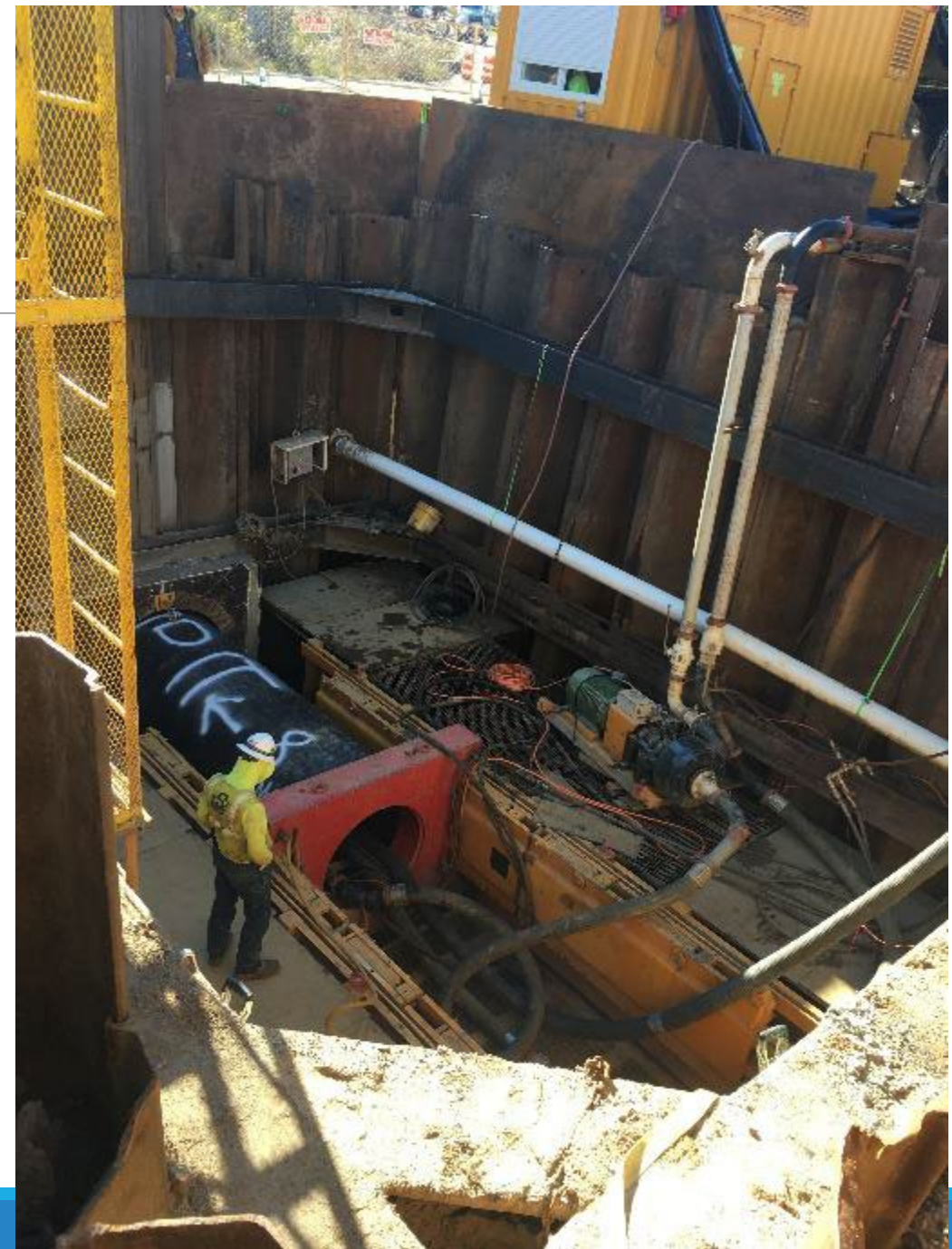
# Funding Agencies

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South Fork Sewer Phase II	
Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant	\$ 600,000
Gaston County Grant	\$ 500,000
NC Commerce Utility Account Grant	\$ 750,000
Golden LEAF Foundation Grant	\$ 858,000
NCDEQ State Revolving Loan (Gastonia)	\$ 3,000,000
NCDEQ State Revolving Loan (McAdenville)	\$ 320,494
Pharr Yarns In-Kind Services (easement donations, decommissioning & demolition of their WWTP)	
<b>Project Total:</b>	<b>\$ 6,028,494</b>

# Project Construction

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# Project Construction

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# Project Benefits

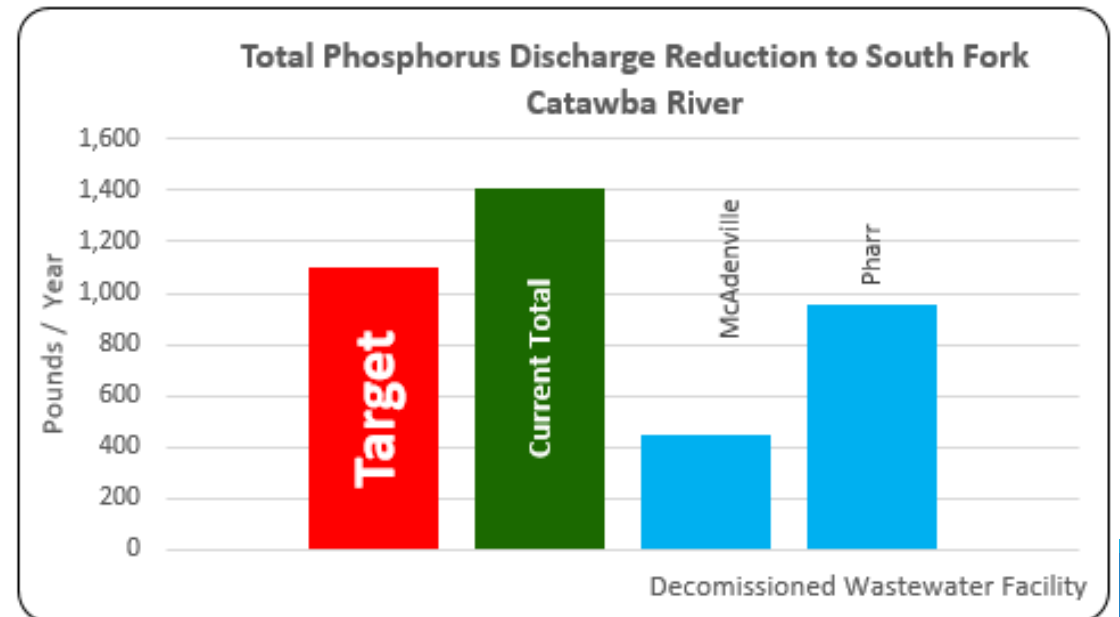
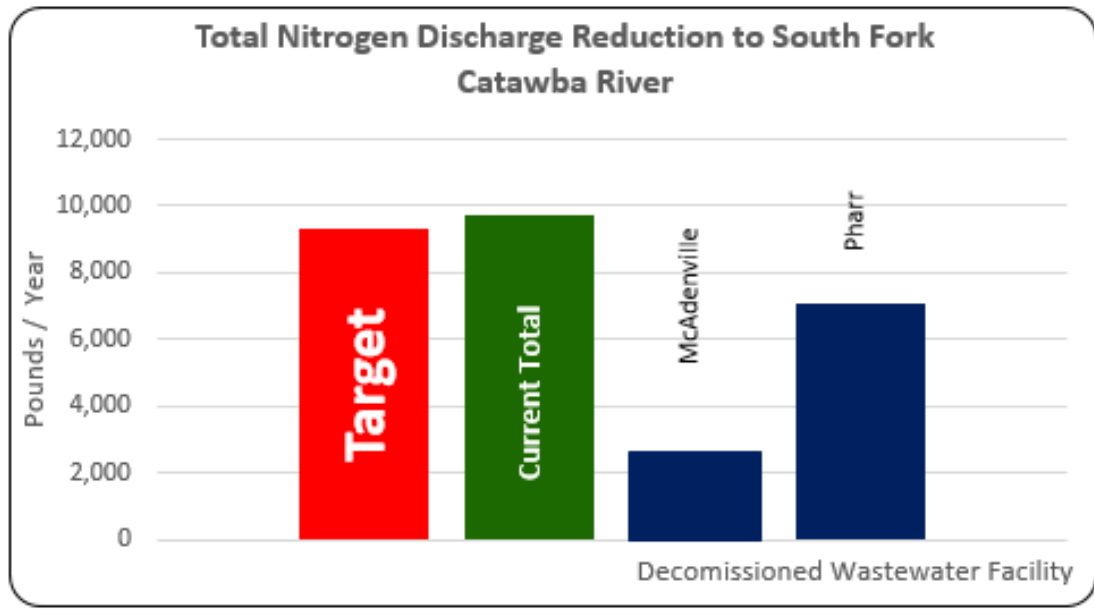
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- Consolidation of wastewater treatment
  - Utilize existing capacity at Long Creek WWTP- advanced biological nutrient removal & 20 year ESI member
  - Reduce the number of NPDES permits
- Minimize water & sewer rate increases
  - McAdenville- ~\$2.5 - \$3M to build a new WWTP
- Support development
  - 335 acres along the South Fork Catawba River now has access to sewer
- Set the stage for future wastewater utility consolidation
  - Easement is in place for the City of Lowell to tie-on in the future
  - Stepping stone to a full utility consolidation between Gastonia & McAdenville



# Project Benefits

- Environmental benefits
  - Eliminated 2 WWTPs with a history of NPDES permit violations
  - The wastewater is now treated to higher standard
  - Significant reduction in nutrients discharged to the South Fork Catawba River





**Thank You!**

**Questions?**

Stephanie Scheringer

Two Rivers Utilities

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