



*Charlotte Water  
Annual Report on Interbasin Transfer  
Calendar Year 2023*

## **INTRODUCTION**

An interbasin transfer (IBT) Certificate was issued on March 14, 2002, that authorizes Charlotte Water (CLTWater) to transfer up to 33 million gallons per day (mgd) between the river basins.

The IBT Certificate requires CLTWater to report maximum daily IBT amounts annually to the North Carolina Division of Water Resources (NC DWR).

## **SYSTEM OVERVIEW**

CLTWater operates the water and wastewater systems that serve Charlotte, Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Mint Hill, Matthews, Pineville, and much of the unincorporated areas of Mecklenburg County. This system is divided between two river basins designated by NC General Statutes for regulation of IBT water. The western portion of the system is within the Catawba River Basin and the eastern portion is within the Rocky River Basin. Water transferred from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin that is not returned to the Catawba river basin is regulated IBT.

Water for distribution to CLTWater's customers is withdrawn from the Catawba River basin at two locations. An intake at Lake Norman sends water to the Lee S. Dukes Water Treatment Plant. A second intake at Mountain Island Lake sends water to the Walter M. Franklin Water Treatment Plant and to the Vest Water Treatment Plant. Potable water from these three plants is delivered through an interconnected distribution system to retail customers throughout CLTWater's service area in Mecklenburg County and in small areas of Iredell, Cabarrus, and Union Counties. CLTWater also provides wholesale water to municipal systems for resale including: City of Concord (NC), Town of Harrisburg (NC), Union County (NC), Lancaster County Water and Sewer District (SC), and York County (SC).

CLTWater treats wastewater at five advanced wastewater treatment plants (WWTP's) that discharge into small streams in Mecklenburg County. Four of the streams are tributary to the Catawba River Basin and one (Mallard Creek) is tributary to the Rocky River Basin. CLTWater also conveys wastewater generated in portions of Mecklenburg County to the Rocky River Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (RRRWWTP) operated by the Water and Sewer Authority of Cabarrus County (WSACC). The RRRWWTP discharges treated effluent to the Rocky River.

To help reduce future IBT, CLTWater is currently constructing a lift station that will be capable of pumping 1 mgd from Rocky River Basin, back into the Catawba Basin. This pump station is expected to be operational by January 2025 (NC DEQ Permit No. WQ0044016).



## **IBT MONITORING**

Water supplied to CLTWater's retail customers in the Rocky River Basin, that is not returned to the Catawba Basin, is included in the reported IBT amounts. Water provided to municipalities with service areas in the Rocky River Basin includes the City of Concord and the Town of Harrisburg.

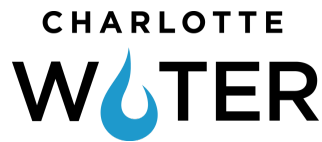
CLTWater can transfer treated potable water to the City of Concord through four metered connections to their water system. All of Concord's service area is within the Rocky River Basin; therefore, any water purchased by them becomes an IBT. Water service is only provided as an emergency back-up to Concord's routine supply, which are Lake Howell and several smaller reservoirs. CLTWater's agreement with Concord is that water will be supplied to them subject to availability and subject to regulatory constraints including IBT and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) limitations.

Concord received an IBT Certificate in January 2007 for the transfer of up to 10 mgd from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin. NC DWR advised CLTWater that water sold to Concord should not be applied to CLTWater's IBT amount. For calendar year 2022, Concord did not purchase any water.

CLTWater can transfer treated potable water to the Town of Harrisburg through three metered connections to their water system. Harrisburg's service area is entirely within the Rocky River Basin, and water sales to Harrisburg are included in CLTWater's IBT amounts. For 2023 CLTWater sold on average 0.044 mgd to Harrisburg.

Table 1 summarizes actual IBT amounts for calendar years 2002 through 2023 (all amounts were calculated using the methodology approved by NC DWR in June of 2006). The table considers the daily amounts of water transferred from the Catawba River Basin to customers within the Rocky River Basin that is not returned to the Catawba River Basin.

The maximum daily IBT for calendar year 2023 was 26.24 mgd in August, which was 79.5% of the authorized IBT of 33 mgd. The average IBT for 2023 was 20.42 mgd, 61.9% of the authorized IBT. In addition to the actual amount of IBT reported in Table 1, CLTWater has committed to provide IBT to development that has been proposed but has not yet been activated within the Rocky River Basin. As of December 31, 2023, 1.138 mgd was committed to Rocky River that have not been activated; commitments are based on maximum day estimates. The combined actual plus committed maximum day IBT for 2023 was 27.37 mgd, approximately 82.9% of the authorized IBT.



*Table 1: Actual IBT Summary*

| <b>Calendar Year</b> | <b>Avg. Annual IBT (mgd)</b> | <b>Max. Day IBT (mgd)</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2002                 | 6.74                         | 11.97                     |
| 2003                 | 6.91                         | 9.82                      |
| 2004                 | 7.79                         | 12.56                     |
| 2005                 | 8.66                         | 13.79                     |
| 2006                 | 9.56                         | 14.35                     |
| 2007                 | 9.96                         | 17.22                     |
| 2008                 | 11.39                        | 17.42                     |
| 2009                 | 12.04                        | 16.00                     |
| 2010                 | 13.33                        | 18.33                     |
| 2011                 | 13.11                        | 18.82                     |
| 2012                 | 12.18                        | 17.67                     |
| 2013                 | 12.99                        | 16.80                     |
| 2014                 | 15.02                        | 21.44                     |
| 2015                 | 16.59                        | 24.19                     |
| 2016                 | 17.32                        | 22.39                     |
| 2017                 | 16.27                        | 21.97                     |
| 2018                 | 19.13                        | 25.81                     |
| 2019                 | 18.06                        | 25.26                     |
| 2020                 | 17.74                        | 23.66                     |
| 2021                 | 20.28                        | 25.57                     |
| 2022                 | 20.39                        | 28.32                     |
| <b>2023</b>          | <b>20.42</b>                 | <b>26.24</b>              |

## **COMPLIANCE WITH CERTIFICATE CONDITIONS**

### ***Condition 1: S.W.I.M. Program Summary***

Mecklenburg County is required to annually summarize progress in implementation of watershed management approaches of the Surface Water Improvement and Management (S.W.I.M.) Program. Provided below is the summary of progress made during calendar year (CY) 2023. The Division of Water Resources shall have the authority to approve modifications to and need for continued reporting as necessary.

During CY2023, watershed management approaches continued to be implemented by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services (CMSWS) as part of Mecklenburg County’s S.W.I.M. Program. Efforts continued to focus on McDowell and Goose Creeks, as initiated in 2007, as well as on the West Branch of the Rocky River in Davidson that began in

2009. During calendar year 2023, the following work was completed in the three (3) watersheds by CMSWS:

McDowell Creek (including the Torrence Creek Tributary to McDowell Creek)

1. CMSWS in partnership with the Town of Cornelius conducted on-going design on the restoration of a portion of upper McDowell Creek West of I-77.

Goose Creek (including the Stevens Creek Tributary to Goose Creek)

1. Ongoing monitoring and inspection of the Stevens Creek Stream Restoration project, including evaluation of reintroduced freshwater mussels into the project area.

Rocky River

1. Design complete and construction services bid for the restoration of approximately 1.5 miles of the West Branch of the Rocky River.

**Condition 2: Stakeholder Process (Completed)**

A stakeholder process is required to investigate, develop, adopt, and implement storm water ordinances that control water quantity from single-family development and water quality for all development until completed. The requirements of Condition 2 were completed in 2007.

**Condition 3: Goose Creek Subbasin (Completed)**

The IBT Certificate removed the Goose Creek subbasin from the area to be served by the IBT, and imposed a moratorium on the installation of new IBT water lines (water lines crossing the ridgeline) into Goose Creek subbasin until the impacts of additional growth on the endangered species were fully evaluated.

*CLTWater submitted the final Environmental Assessment of new development in the Goose Creek Basin (Mint Hill area) to the NC Division of Water Resources (DWR) in February of 2013. The Environmental Management Commission approved the Environmental Assessment in May of 2013 and has removed the requirements under Condition 3.*

**Condition 4: Environmental Management Commission**

The IBT Certificate provides that the Environmental Management Commission may reopen the Certificate under certain circumstances. This did not occur in 2023.



### ***Condition 5: Compliance and Monitoring Plan***

The IBT Certificate requires CLTWater to develop a compliance and monitoring plan for reporting maximum daily transfer amounts, compliance with certificate conditions, and progress on mitigation measures, and drought management activities. CLTWater's monitoring plan and reporting format were approved in June of 2006 by NC DWR and continue to be used for 2023. CLTWater operated under Stage Zero drought conditions from October 2023 through January 2024.

*Charlotte Water monitored water treatment plant pump rates, streamflow and lake storage indicators, the US Drought Monitor, and other factors in accordance with the CLTWater Water Shortage Response Plan. Measurements were assessed monthly to identify designated triggers that could indicate developing drought conditions. All appropriate planning, communication and preparation were in place to respond as needed to changing conditions.*

*In coordination with 17 other utilities in the Catawba-Wataree river basin, CLTWater participated in regional drought response planning and response activities as directed by the Catawba Basin Low Inflow Protocol.*

### **SUMMARY**

The actual maximum day amount of water transferred from the Catawba River Basin to the Rocky River Basin was 26.24 mgd, which was 79.5% of the authorized maximum day value of 33 mgd. The combined total of actual and outstanding committed IBT volumes was 27.37 mgd, which was approximately 82.9% of the authorized maximum day value. CLTWater was in full compliance with IBT authorizations and compliance conditions for calendar year 2023.