<u>AGENDA</u>

Meeting Type:	SPECIAL
Date:	05/20/1997
STORMWAT	ER VUBLIC HEARING

City of Charlotte, City Clerk's Office

May 20,1997

Thank you all for allowing us to speak before the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners and City Council on Storm Water increase.

I want to make it clear I understand the importance of the storm water drainage, run-offs and buffers. I have been caught in a flash flood, immediately water rising to the car door handles. It's frightening. We have been riding through Charlotte-Mecklenburg suddenly it was as if someone picked up the Catawba River, and emptied it on top of our car. I have watched the storm water like a mighty river rushing down the streets, taking thousands of gallons of water and anything in it path. I have thank God for the drainages, run-offs and the buffers and thought about the damages it could cause if they were not there.

What I don't understand and feel is so unfair, unjust and dishonest is to charge the innocent taxpayers this tax-fee on the giant that was created. The fee-tax should be charged to the Planning and Zoning Board's Members, Inspectors, Mayors, City Councils, County Commissioners, Landscape Architects, Developers and Contractors who has caused and allowed these problems to develop. You have stated it wasn't right to go back and charge the fines to the Developers and etc.. Instead of "fining" the guilty, you tax the innocent, elderly, the poor and everybody.

When you cut down almost all the trees in a large subdivision, or etc. building house to house on at least 1/4 acre, 3/8 acres, and they have paved patios, driveways, walkways and streets, common sense teaches us, that we are causing a storm water problem. The water has no where to go, nothing to absorb it, and the problem is created.

I realize now why the Lord condemns joining building house to house in:

KJV Isaiah 5:8-- Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth.

If you take all the minds of ever man, woman, boy and girl in the world and they come up with a plan for a buffer, it would not be compared to one of the old oak trees that Commissioners Joel Carter and James fought to save on Beatties Ford Road, April 15,1997, and it was voted down. Instead you voted to come up later with an amendment to preserve the old trees in the county. (It's always later.) ONE OAK TREE IS BETTER THAN ALL MAN-MADE BUFFERS YOU CAN ERECT.

Now you are planning to increase the storm water fee-tax another \$.46.

This is the most despised tax that I have witnessed in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. It makes people angry everytime it is mentioned.

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I was alarmed to read that there are 1,239 families in our city and county that are forced to take out flood insurance.

I know 12 to 15 years ago, more or lest, Charlotte-Mecklenburg began to realize they had a major problem. Until you stop the ones that's causing the problems with "fines" and "punishments" the problems will never be solved.

Approximately 25 to 30 years ago some people bought homes and soon there after they were troubled with termites. My mother stated, that if you cut trees out of season before the sap went down it would cause a problem _____ termites. This storm water problem is the same principle. "You are going against the grain of nature". We the ordinary citizens should not have to pay for other people's greediness and what the officials call growth.

Why should the thousands of narrow-minded conservatives like Commissioner Joel Carter and myself be forced to pay for what the broad-minded liberals created?

Cora Mullis
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393-9485

Thank you

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