

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, SC 29201

February 2, 2016

Dear Governor Haley,

This letter is being re-sent to add Michael Hagins' contact information.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your support and action with efforts to rectify the flooding problems within the Kinley Creek Watershed located in Lexington County.

The October 2015 rains and related actions caused many homes to flood. My home is at the corner of Keswick Road and Lewisham Road, in the Whitehall community. Although my home did not flood, the flooding on Lewisham Road did enter into my front yard.

I am concerned that the flooding will get worse and that my home may be flooded in a future rain event if action is not taken soon to alleviate the causes of this type of flooding. I am also concerned about the health of our community and the long term effects of this situation on the community.

I have now attended three meetings on this subject, two with the Lexington County Council and another with my councilman and my state representative. I have come to understand the following:

- The flooding is caused, in part, by commercial development in and around the city of Irmo near I-26. This development is ongoing with a Costco currently under construction just off of Piney Grove Road which will exacerbate the flooding problems.
- The Costco under construction is located in Richland County.
- There is no coordination between Richland County and Lexington County by which one county's actions (permits) must minimize impact to the other county.
- There is no State level law, department, ruling, or other activity to require and ensure that the permits and other actions of one county do not negatively affect another county.
- The October 2015 flooding was partly and largely the result of SCE&G opening the spill gates at the Lake Murray Dam which in turn was affected by the situation at Lake Greenwood in Newberry, Laurens and Greenwood counties.
- A study report by the US Army Corps of Engineers was recently released to the Lexington County Council that analyzes some but not all of the causes of the related flooding and considers potential mitigating actions. This report also includes recommendations on which of the possible mitigation actions should be taken based on their cost to benefit ratio.
- These flooding problems date back to, at least, the 1970's and at least two previous studies have been made without an adequate resolution of the problem. The Lexington County council has noted repeatedly that some of these issues pre-date the existing form of the county government implying that this somehow limits their responsibility and excuses the lack of progress.

I am not well versed in such matters and request your tolerance if the above items are poorly worded. But I hope that you will get the sense that there are many stakeholders other than Lexington County involved with these problems. From the meetings that I have attended, it seems that no one is effectively "driving the boat" to get these problems actually resolved.

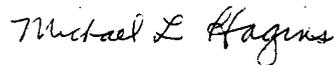
We have analysis paralysis aggravated by a lack of a State Government coordinated effort to decide what actions to take and how to get the needed funding from some combination of the Federal Government, the State Government, the various County Governments, the various City Governments, SCE&G, the commercial developers, the commercial properties themselves, the various communities, area tax payers and the homeowners.

We need your help. I request that you appoint a capable person to lead the effort from the State level to get this flooding situation resolved quickly. This person will need to be effective and build a team with members of the various stakeholders, achieve postponement of ongoing activities that will make the situation worse, decide on immediate and longer term actions to be taken and to determine how the costs will be funded.

If effective action is not taken by the State, I fear that the flooding conditions will continue to get worse and that this area of the state will ultimately experience economic distress and an increasing crime rate.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know how I can help.

Respectfully submitted,



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