



Mr. Huckabee,

Thank you again for the continued discussion regarding the Matthews Road Water Tank Rehabilitation project. The City of Lake City looks forward to attending the May 28 Board of Trustees meeting to provide additional clarification and answer any remaining questions from the Board.

To address the Board's request regarding the annual contribution, the City proposes a defined ten-year term for the District's annual \$1,500 participation toward maintenance and upkeep associated with the tank's aesthetic and preservation components following rehabilitation.

We also want to emphasize that the City is fully committed to completing this project regardless of District participation because of the critical infrastructure and operational importance of the tank to the community's water system. The City is making the substantial capital investment necessary to rehabilitate, preserve, and maintain the structure for long-term public benefit.

Our intent in approaching Florence School District 3 was not out of necessity, but rather to offer the District a unique opportunity to participate in a highly visible and lasting community asset. For a relatively modest annual contribution, the District gains prominent community branding, enhanced visibility, and the ability to showcase school pride and partnership with the City on one of the area's most recognizable structures.

The annual contribution represents only a small fraction of the overall rehabilitation and long-term maintenance investment being undertaken by the City, while providing the District with years of visibility and positive community recognition. We believe this partnership demonstrates collaboration between local government and public education and reflects a shared commitment to the appearance, identity, and future of the Lake City community.

The City understands the importance of responsible stewardship of public funds and has structured this project with defined terms, clear maintenance obligations, and long-term planning to ensure accountability and sustainability throughout the life of the agreement.

We appreciate the Board's consideration and look forward to continuing the conversation on May 28.

Sincerely,

Malik Whitaker
City Administrator
Lake City, South Carolina