

RESOLUTION NO. 04-25-36

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MAURY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, SUPPORTING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE COLUMBIA DAM

WHEREAS, in 1969, The Tennessee Valley Authority started planning and eventually constructed to ninety percent (90%) completion the Columbia Dam located on the Duck River just East of Columbia, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, nearing the completion of the Columbia Dam, Environmental groups brought a Federal Court Case against the Tennessee Valley Authority in an attempt to halt dam construction; and

WHEREAS, in 1981, The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against the TVA Columbia Dam project which eventually led to a halt of construction of the dam (Pacific Legal Foundation v. Andrus, 657 F.2d 829); and

WHEREAS, after spending approximately 83 million dollars, the dam was demolished between 1999 and 2000, costing another 2.4 million dollars; and

WHEREAS, the original Columbia Dam was built after the TVA Normandy Dam was completed on the Duck River in order to work in tandem with each other to provide flood control, generation, and / or navigation which is TVA's congressional obligations; and

WHEREAS, with the dismantling of the Columbia Dam, the concept of the two dams working together in tandem was lost, presumably forever, and with no control, we experience the loss of farmland and flooding after heavy rains in the Middle Tennessee Area; and

WHEREAS, with the unexpected rapid growth of industry and residential housing in the Middle Tennessee Area, the Duck River levels run very low during our hot summers and cannot supply adequate water for current and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Normandy Reservoir no longer has the capacity to release enough water to properly dilute gray water discharged into the Duck River; and

WHEREAS, the reconstruction of the Columbia Dam aligns with the county's long-term strategic goals for water resource management, economic development, environmental stewardship, and recreational use; and

WHEREAS, the Maury County Commission recognizes the need to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing dam reconstruction, including but not limited to the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.), the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.), and any Tennessee State Dam Safety Regulations, i.e. Safe Dams Act of 1973; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Commission of Maury County, Tennessee hereby expresses its strong support for the reconstruction of the Columbia Dam Project and recognizes its as a critical priority for the County to establish an adequate water supply system for sustained growth, economic development, and recreational use.

This the 21ST day of April 2025.

Sheila K. Butt
County Mayor

ATTEST:

JOEY H. ALLEN, County Clerk