

## Proposed Amendment to Water Utilities Committee Report

### FINDING

V.4.5.15 (NEW) - Orange County has previously adopted a storm water utility fee, but never implemented it through the adoption of a rate. Testimony given by representatives of agricultural interests in East Orange County questioned the equity of the application of the storm water utility fee in its current form to agricultural properties in East Orange County and suggested that the fee would place additional pressure on owners to discontinue agricultural uses and to develop their properties. The agricultural use of property is of value to Orange County by assisting aquifer recharge, by limiting storm water runoff, by providing open space, and by retaining and promoting a rural culture.

### RECOMMENDATION

V.4.7.2 (MODIFIED) – That Orange County implement a rate for the previously-approved Storm Water Utility Fee **and, in doing so, review the equities of its impact on agricultural operations in Orange County.**

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