

To: Brian Matthews, County Manager

From: Christopher Clark, UCW, Director of Water & Wastewater Division *CBC*

CC: Corey Brooks, Interim Director of Procurement & Contract Management

Date: October 13th, 2025

Re: Sole Source Exception for Calgon Carbon Filtrasorb® 820 Filter Media

At the newly constructed Yadkin River Water Treatment Plant, Union County Water operates four filters that utilize granular activated carbon (GAC) as part of the water treatment process. These filters became operational in 2023 and were initially equipped with Filtrasorb 820, a high-activity GAC product manufactured by Calgon Carbon Corporation, as specified by the design-builder. Following several months of operation and thorough evaluation, Union County Water, Water and Wastewater Division, Water Treatment Department recommends standardizing the use of Filtrasorb 820 for continued operations.

Filtrasorb 820 is specifically engineered for potable water treatment applications and is under NSF/ANSI Standard 61 and AWWA B604. Based on operational experience and laboratory performance data collected over the past 2½ years, Filtrasorb 820 has proven to be an effective solution for maintaining regulatory compliance and treatment efficiency across all four filters. It has consistently demonstrated reliable performance removing organic contaminants, taste and odor compounds, and disinfection byproduct precursors. Furthermore, Iodine Adsorption Number (IAN) testing, which measures the adsorption capacity of GAC, when compared with percent total organic carbon (TOC) removal data, indicates little to no reduction in organic removal efficiency, even as the Filtrasorb 820 "ages".

Calgon Carbon Corporation is the sole manufacturer and authorized distributor of Filtrasorb 820. Using an alternative GAC product would introduce risks of performance variability, require time intensive testing and requalification and could potentially impact treatment reliability. The use of a single vendor who manufactures their product and is responsible for both media performance and installation simplifies troubleshooting and warranty related concerns.

We are requesting approval to submit a request to the BOCC to standardize Filtrasorb 820 from Calgon Carbon as a sole-source product in accordance with Section 3.8, *Sole Source Exemption Process*, of the UC Procurement Policy. Please let us know if any additional information is needed to assist with processing this request.

Brian Matthews, County Manager: Brian Matthews Date: 10/20/25