

**Agenda Item: 15-29 Request Approval of the Tar-Pamlico Phase IV Agreement**

**Explanation:**

The Phase IV Agreement is the next iteration of a nutrient control Agreement for point source discharges in the Tar-Pamlico River Basin. The first phase of the Agreement was initiated in 1990 in response to nutrient-driven water quality impairments in the Pamlico River estuary and its Nutrient Sensitive Water designation. The Agreement launched and remains an important part of the overall Tar-Pamlico nutrient management strategy. It establishes the performance goals for the nutrient strategy of 30 percent reduction in nitrogen loading from a baseline year of 1991 and no increase in loading of phosphorus from that baseline. An association of point source dischargers, the Tar-Pamlico Basin Association, receives collective annual end-of-pipe nitrogen and phosphorus loading caps. In the event that either cap is exceeded, the Association will fund agricultural practices at a predetermined cost-effectiveness rate to offset those exceedances through the NC Agriculture Cost Share Program. Phase IV incorporates modifications negotiated during Phase III including updates to the Association membership and inclusion of individual load allocations in member's NPDES permits.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the EMC approve the Tar-Pamlico Phase IV Agreement.