A RESOLUTION BY 02-R-1362

CITY UTILITIES COMMITTEE

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SEEK FEDERAL AND STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE AND TO REQUEST THE ASSISTANCE OF THE GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES AND OTHER SUCH ORGANIZATIONS IN BUILDING PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S INITIATIVE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta operates several Water Reclamation Facilities for the purpose of cleaning its waste and storm water for deposit back into the Chattahoochee River and other tributaries; and

WHEREAS, the City of Atlanta Sewer System touches five Congressional Districts (3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and the newly created 13th) and only the Atlanta rate payers are being asked to bear the cost of this enormous project; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Atlanta (rate payers) will be faced with a rate increase of roughly 163% to pay for this un-funded mandate with the average bill going from $46.00 to $121.00 and continue to increase based on the information provided in a rate analysis which assumes no Federal and State assistance; and

WHEREAS, the average citizen of Atlanta cannot afford this type of increase, since roughly 24.4% of Atlanta households have annual incomes of less than $15,000.00 compared with the national average of 15.9%; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have implement a public awareness campaign to seek public support to encourage citizens to contact their Federal and State representatives via telephone, e-mail, fax, letters, petition, postcards, etc. letting them know they support the City of Atlanta effort to seek federal and state assistance for their Clean Water Initiative; and

WHEREAS, the Federal and State Governments are requiring these upgrades and no funds are available from either entity to shift this awesome burden away from the rate payers of Atlanta that have experienced a 101% sewer increase from 1997 to 2002 and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Atlanta are keenly aware of the problems the City faces with its water issues as mandated by the Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act and the 1998 and 1999 Consent Decree Orders; however, they are also concerned with providing for their families, paying taxes and just trying to survive in a slowing economy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ATLANTA, GEORGIA; that the Mayor or her designee contact all State and Federal Congressmen, Senators and lobbyists including the Georgia Municipal Association and the National League of Cities to solicit their support and commitment to identify funding sources to assist the City of Atlanta in eliminating its storm and wastewater problems through its Clean Water Initiative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council urge Congress to appropriate

$150,000,000. 00 to fund the Nancy Creek Basin Project in Fiscal Year 2003.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that all resolutions in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.