Agenda Item: **13-16** **Request to Hold a Public Hearing to Receive Comment on Brunswick County Public Utilities' Petition for an Interbasin Transfer Certificate**

Explanation: Brunswick County Public Utilities (the County) provides water to more than 34,000 retail customers and 11 wholesale customers located throughout the County service area. The County is currently in the process of requesting an interbasin transfer certificate from the Environmental Management Commission to meet future water demands.

The County has an existing grandfathered capacity to transfer 10.5 MGD from the Cape Fear River Basin to the Shallotte and Waccamaw River Basins. The County is requesting an IBT certificate from the EMC for an increase of 7.8 MGD over the grandfathered transfer, with all the increase going to the Shallotte IBT River Basin. This would result in a maximum transfer from the Cape Fear IBT River Basin of 18.3 MGD. This increase is based on water demand projections and need through approximately 2042, representing nearly a 30-year period for the IBT certificate.

This certificate request currently falls under the requirements of NCGS 143-215.22I, which requires that the applicant develop an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Petition to support its request. The County developed an EA which received a FONSI from the Division of Water Resources in April 2013. The statute also requires that the EMC hold a public hearing to receive comment on the Petition.

Recommendations: The Division of Water Resources recommend that the EMC hold a public hearing to receive comments on the County's Petition for an interbasin transfer certificate.