

MEMORANDUM

TO: Saluda Hydro Project Relicensing Stakeholders

FROM: Shane Boring

DATE: September 18, 2006

RE: September 2006 Wood Stork Aerial Survey Observations

Dear Relicensing Stakeholder:

The September 2006 Lake Murray wood stork survey was conducted on Friday, September 15th. Moderate wading bird activity was observed, with numerous great egrets foraging in the Saluda River floodplain upstream of the reservoir and in backwaters of reservoir coves. In addition, approximately 8 wood storks were observed foraging in a farm pond south of the Saluda's main channel just downstream of the Highway 121 Bridge. Approximately 4-6 (4 confirmed, 2 suspected) storks were also observed foraging and soaring above the easternmost wetland adjacent to the wood chipping plant near Silverstreet, near where storks were previously observed in 2004. Both of the sites where storks were observed were located off of the Saluda's main channel (see Figure 1). The timing of these observations suggests that these birds are likely part of the extensive post-breeding dispersal. Storks dispersing post-breeding from southern US colonies have been documented as far north as New York, Maine, and Southern Canada and as far west as Tennessee (USFWS Recovery Plan, 1997).

Thank you for your continued interest in the Lake Murray Wood Stork Study, and as always, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions.

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Figure 1. Aerial Photograph of Locations of Wood Stork Sightings During September 2006 Survey
(Circles denote locations where wood storks were observed)

