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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CITIZENS GET A RARE GLIMPSE INTO THEIR FUTURE...AND A PICNIC IN THE PARK!**

Will Castle Hayne Be The Future Home of a Cement Plant? And What Will That Be Like? Hear the Compelling Stories of Those Who Already Know....

Join Cape Fear River Watch and Pender Watch & Conservancy for a **Picnic in the Park** and learn why living in a cement town is “no picnic” on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:00p-5:00pm at Riverside Park in Castle Hayne, 6710 Old Bridge Site Road, Castle Hayne. Guests from Texas and Kansas will talk to our local community about their real-life experiences living near cement plants. Community members will have an opportunity to better understand what their *own* future could look like if New Hanover County becomes the home of one of the largest cement plants in the country.

Over the past four years the citizens here have heard opposing views about whether a cement plant would be good or bad for our community. Now they can hear what those already living this experience have to say. Alex Allred from Midlothian TX, author, Olympian athlete and mother of three says: “I am so grateful for this opportunity to come speak to the citizens of Wilmington. I wish I had been given the chance to weigh the pros and cons of having a cement plant in my backyard... I don't know what your decision will be but at least I know you will have been given the chance to see the future.”

Sponsored by Cape Fear River Watch in New Hanover County and Pender Watch in Pender County, Picnic in the Park will be a fun, family-friendly gathering for all who want a glimpse into their potential future. Free food and live music will be provided, as well as kids’ activities and boat rides on the river. But the focus will be the speakers. As Kemp Burdette, Cape Fear Riverkeeper explains: “Bringing a new industry to our area is a lot like an individual buying an expensive new product. Savvy shoppers don’t just believe everything the salesman tells them-they ask around to other people who have experience with that product. The Picnic in the Park is a chance for our community to hear from others who are living with the reality of a cement manufacturing operation in their community.”

Please join your friends and neighbors for this fun, informative event while enjoying free BBQ, great live music with Big Al’s Band in a beautiful setting on the Cape Fear River. How often do you get to glimpse into the future and decide if it’s the future YOU want for your children, your grandchildren and your community?

**WHAT:** Picnic in the Park

**WHEN:** Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 1:00pm- 5:00pm

**WHERE:** Riverside Park

6710 Old Bridge Site Road, Castle Hayne

**WHY:** An opportunity to hear the compelling stories of folks living near cement plants in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere.

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For more information or questions, please contact: Kemp Burdette at [kemp@cfrw.us](mailto:kemp@cfrw.us) or 910-264-8036 or Jen Cole at [jen@cfrw.us](mailto:jen@cfrw.us) or 910-762-5606.