

APPENDIX B

EQAC RESOLUTIONS AND POSITIONS NOVEMBER 2010 THROUGH NOVEMBER 2011

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Due to formatting, the resolutions and positions may not appear precisely as they were originally transmitted.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Resolution Supporting County Purchase of the Energy Resource Recovery Facility February 9, 2011

WHEREAS, the Energy Resource Recovery Facility in Lorton is currently owned and operated by Covanta Fairfax, Inc; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has the ability to purchase the incinerator because of a clause in the existing contract; and

WHEREAS, three options regarding the long-term disposition of the facility have been identified: A “no action” alternative through which the county’s lease with Covanta would not be renewed (option 1); an option through which the county would rent the facility from Covanta (option 2); and an option through which the county would purchase the facility (option 3).

WHEREAS, the cost in relation to the benefit of option 1 (no action) and the potential for additional cost growth associated with an as yet to be determined alternative for disposal of the county’s solid waste are unacceptably high risks relative to options 2 (rent) and 3 (purchase);

WHEREAS, outsourcing a commercial facility to a contractor is appropriate when the contractor assumes risks, but in this situation, the contractor would not be accepting sufficient risk to provide an advantage to Fairfax County in renting the facility from Covanta;

WHEREAS, the rent option as currently structured would reduce the county’s share of revenues from energy sales from current levels, thereby increasing opportunity costs associated with such revenues in relation to the purchase option.

WHEREAS, underestimation of costs would increase costs to county residents most if the facility is not owned by Fairfax County;

WHEREAS, purchase of the incinerator provides flexibility on controls, which allows the county to be more responsive to neighborhood concerns and to explore options such as carbon sequestration, which should make any Renewable Energy Credits associated with the facility more attractive for sale;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the EQAC recommends that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors purchase the Energy Resource Recovery Facility.



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: EQAC support for Sierra Club recommendation regarding cable TV set-top boxes

At the March 9, 2011 meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, EQAC reviewed a draft letter that had been prepared by the Great Falls Group of the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club in regard to energy consumption by cable TV set-top boxes. The letter, which is attached in its final form, requested that the Board of Supervisors ask cable TV providers in the county to voluntarily adopt the ENERGY STAR Program for Cable Service Providers and to begin implementing this program in 2011. The request to the cable TV providers would ask them to respond back to the Board within 60 days.

At the March 9 meeting, EQAC endorsed the Sierra Club letter by a unanimous vote of the members present. EQAC feels that this recommendation from the Board could lead to a reduction in energy bills for consumers and a significant drop in county greenhouse gas emissions, at no cost to the county.

Thank you for your consideration.

SMK:nhk

cc: Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive
David Molchany, Deputy County Executive
EQAC file, March 2011

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Planning Division
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RECEIVED
MAR 17 2011
SHARON BULOVA

March 15, 2011

Sharon Bulova
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway
Suite 530
Fairfax, VA 22035-0079

Dear Chairman Bulova and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Eliminating inefficient uses of energy is one of the simplest and least costly ways to reduce the adverse impacts energy consumption has on public health, the environment and national energy security. The Sierra Club believes that Fairfax County could be acting more decisively to assist residents to use energy more efficiently and responsibly. We have an energy efficiency suggestion that would save us energy and promote the County's promise to reduce countywide greenhouse gas emissions under its Cool Counties pledge.

The standby ("vampire") electrical requirement built into the design of most proprietary cable TV set-top boxes supplied by cable providers is one of the larger examples of electrical inefficiency in our homes. When TV viewers believe they have turned the units "off", the boxes actually remain on, drawing between 10 and 47 watts. The amount used is often the same level of energy consumed when the TV is "on". This wastefulness is ignored by most cable TV providers and is hard for residential consumers to avoid. Among all appliance types, the set-top box group consumes the highest level of standby electrical current. We suggest the Board of Supervisors pass a resolution to encourage the County's cable TV franchisees such as Comcast, Verizon and Cox Communications, to voluntarily adopt the ENERGY STAR program for Cable Service Providers.

The ENERGY STAR program has developed design standards to address the inefficiencies of conventional set-top boxes by specifying a set of efficiency operating parameters. The program, now in its second iteration, sets criteria for reducing energy consumption by better than 40 percent of the amounts used by conventional boxes, and it includes criteria to assure that conventional units in the homes of current customers are scheduled for replacement within a reasonable period of time. ENERGY STAR's version 3 requirements establish a "deep sleep" standby requirement of less than 2 watts for "high functionality" boxes, defined as those with digital record capability. This standard will save nearly 200 kWhs annually for each high functionality box replaced by an ENERGY STAR unit.

Taking Cox Communications as an example, we believe the savings available through the ENERGY STAR program may average more than 100 kilowatt hours a year for every Cox customer in Fairfax with a set-top box. There are approximately 250,000 Cox customers in the County with as many as 200,000 set-top boxes supplied by Cox from Cisco's Scientific Atlanta division. Both Cox Communications and Cisco are striving to be green companies and have implemented corporate-wide GHG emissions reduction programs. However, we find no evidence that either company has publicly recognized how it may indirectly reduce energy

waste by providing their customers with ENERGY STAR compliant set-top boxes. In Virginia, about 1,200 pounds of CO2 are released for every 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity consumed, or about 6,000 tons avoided annually for every 100,000 set-top boxes made ENERGY STAR compliant. To give this figure some context, 6,000 tons of CO2 are emitted when 618,000 gallons of gasoline are consumed. Cisco and Motorola (which manufactures the boxes used by Verizon) are familiar with the program, as both have submitted comments on draft specifications.

Other companies have demonstrated that the transition to Energy Star compliant boxes can be successful. The satellite service company, Direct TV, has been an ENERGY STAR partner under the current version since January 2009, and Direct TV reports on its web site that over 10 million customers are using Direct TV's ENERGY STAR compliant boxes. ENERGY STAR estimates indicate that if every set-top box in service today were replaced with a version 3 compliant box, the annual electrical savings to our nation's consumers would exceed \$1.8 billion.

The Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Affairs has informed us that the federal Communications Act prevents the County from imposing set-top box requirements on cable franchisees in Fairfax. None of the three cable franchisees in Fairfax is currently a partner, and there is scant evidence indicating any one of them is in the process of adopting the ENERGY STAR program.

To nudge the three cable providers in the right direction, the Board of Supervisors should ask our providers to become ENERGY STAR partners under the program for cable service providers. We urge the Board to pass a resolution directing the County Executive to send a letter to the Chief Executive Officers of Cox Communications, Verizon and Comcast, asking the cable service franchisees to voluntarily adopt the ENERGY STAR Program for Cable Service Providers and to begin its implementation in Fairfax during 2011. Version 3 commences September 1, leaving ample lead-time for implementation. The letter could include as an incentive, a promise to publicly recognize the franchisee should it adopt Energy Star for Cable Service, including information on the public benefits of the franchisee's decision to join the ENERGY STAR Program for Cable Service.

We suggest that the County's letter to the providers request a response to the Board within 60 days, reporting on the corporate decision that is made.

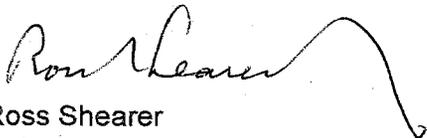
Sincerely,



Chris Koerner, Chair
Great Falls Group
Virginia Chapter Sierra Club



Steven Bruckner
Conservation Chair
Virginia Chapter Sierra Club



Ross Shearer
Set-top box contact



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 28, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: EQAC support for the advertised FY 2012 budget

EQAC would like to express support for the County Executive's proposed FY 2012 budget. Fairfax has maintained focus on the Boards Environmental Agenda throughout the recent economic troubles. The reductions over the past two years were balanced with the other county priorities and we appreciate the concern and support the Board has given to our environmental quality of life.

There are some areas of the budget that we want to support in particular. The first is the proposed 1.5 cent rate for the Stormwater Service District, which is the same rate that was adopted for the FY 2011 budget. The funding for the Service District is critical in order to provide for the implementation of the recently completed watershed plans and to accelerate the replacement of our aging infrastructure. The funding is necessary to meet the needs of both programs. We feel the Stormwater Service District will need additional funding in the future to address the significant amount of work required to modernize our infrastructure, and this is a positive step forward.

The second is the retention of a staff position and the provision of necessary funding for the county's Invasive Management Area (IMA) program, which is administered by the Fairfax County Park Authority. The invasive management coordinator leverages volunteers across the county to help remove invasives and restore native species in our valuable forest land. The IMA program's success is not simply measured by the 50 acres of forest land restored to date, but also in the vast network of some 4,620 volunteers, including adults and youth, who have contributed almost 18,000 volunteer hours to this program. We are very appreciative of the continued support for this program.

Finally we want to highlight the proposed funding for the County's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP.) The EIP specifically aligns with the Board's Environmental Agenda to create projects and programs that enhance our community. Frequently these programs pay for themselves after a few years through cost savings and better utilization of scarce resources. Just one example is the lighting retrofit at the Providence Recreation Center, which is much more attractive for swimming while also being much more energy efficient. These programs are a win-win for the county.

SMK:GWL:nhk

cc: Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive
David Molchany, Deputy County Executive
EQAC file, March 2011

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County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 4, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: EQAC opposition to a proposed Public Facilities Manual amendment addressing public street design requirements

I am writing on behalf of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council to voice our concerns about and opposition to the proposed Public Facilities Manual amendment to require an increase in public street widths. At the April 13, 2011 meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, EQAC approved, by a unanimous vote of the members present, a motion to oppose this proposed amendment.

Fairfax County has made considerable and commendable progress in recent years in support of the minimization of new impervious cover and its adverse effects, the reduction of impacts of existing impervious cover in the county, and the creation of community vitality through urban design.

We are concerned about the increased impervious cover that would result from this new requirement. Fairfax County has just finished all of its watershed plans and is moving towards modest implementation of projects. Adding more impervious cover, especially in the form of roads, where the impacts are often difficult to mitigate, will not benefit any of our stream protection efforts, support open space protection, or add to the county's quality of life.

With respect to high quality urban design, Fairfax County is focusing its efforts on revitalizing centers like Tysons Corner, Springfield and Merrifield. Development proposals in these areas are being scrutinized carefully in order to ensure that the neighborhoods that will be created will be both walkable and inviting to residents and employees. The incorporation of narrow streets within development designs will support such high quality developments, in that the provision of narrow streets will enhance the connectivity of these neighborhoods and will create a greater sense of community than would occur with wider streets. While we recognize that the Board of Supervisors could approve the use of narrower streets on a case-by-case basis during the zoning process and that urban road standards can be pursued in areas such as Tysons Corner where such standards will have been established through memoranda of understanding between the county and VDOT, we are somewhat troubled by the implication that not all

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communities in Fairfax County deserve the same consideration. Widening streets tends to increase speed through neighborhoods. At a time when we are working towards safety for all on streets and are implementing traffic calming measures, a blanket requirement to widen streets seems to be unreasonable.

We understand that a key concern driving the proposal to increase required street widths is the need to provide for sufficient mobility for fire trucks. We all have been in major cities and have seen fire trucks skillfully navigate narrow streets with cars parked on both sides. I was just up in Manhattan last month and was impressed with the skill and the tenacity of the driver of a fire truck that was being maneuvered through the flower district in Chelsea on 28th Street with cars parked on both sides of this narrow street. We are confident that the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department also has exceptionally skilled drivers and that these drivers would be able to continue to navigate our streets and the new narrower streets of an emerging Tysons Corner and other growth centers.

For the reasons noted above, EQAC does not support the proposed PFM Amendment for an increase in street width.

SMK:nhk

cc: Fairfax County Planning Commission
Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive
David Molchany, Deputy County Executive
James W. Patteson, Director, DPWES
EQAC file, April 2011



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 24, 2011

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman *Stella M. Koch*
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: EQAC opposition to a proposed Public Facilities Manual amendment addressing public street design requirements

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council has continued to consider this subject and the position that we took as stated in my letter to you on May 4th (attached). At our regular meeting on May 11th we had a lengthy discussion with Battalion Chief Carlton Burkhammer from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and Judy Cronauer from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. We continue to be impressed with our fire safety officials in the county and support their objectives that drove this proposed change. However, we reaffirm our position in my May 4th letter on this subject and urge the Board of Supervisors to consider a wider range of solutions than mandating 36 feet wide streets in new neighborhoods, with all of the associated negative impact to the environment, land use, and public safety.

We understand that there are considerable fire safety concerns associated with typical residential construction in Fairfax County. Much of our new residential construction is based on composite wood products and plastic that burn much faster and hotter than solid wood and brick of older residential construction. Fires in this type of structure require much more water to extinguish. Large townhome and apartment complexes often have multiple structures in close proximity to one another, without any barriers that would prevent the rapid spread of fire between buildings. These problems are not unique to Fairfax County, but they do highlight the need for actions to reduce the risk and severity of fires. We commend county staff for being proactive in its identification of this concern but are hopeful that a broader consideration of response options would be considered prior to seeking a solution of wider subdivision streets.

One promising option to reducing the risk and severity of fires could be through the mandating of sprinkler systems for all residential construction. A residential sprinkler system is an extremely effective fire safety feature, but Fairfax County does not require sprinklers in residential structures with heights under 50 feet. Therefore many new complexes are being built, to a height of 49 feet 11 inches, using extremely flammable material. Both Prince Georges County and Montgomery County require sprinklers in new residential construction.

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Why shouldn't similar requirements be established in Fairfax County? The argument that sprinklers would increase cost of construction doesn't make much sense considering that the cost of construction and additional land required of wider streets would substantially offset the cost of the sprinkler.

We also do not understand an approach to improved fire safety that would affect, in total, only a small proportion of the county's land area (perhaps somewhere around 10%), considering how much land is already developed. The provision of wider streets within limited areas of the county would not affect the county's ability to fight fires in the larger portion of the county that would not be developed or redeveloped with new streets in the foreseeable future; however, a more comprehensive approach affecting all residential construction (including infill residential and single-lot redevelopment) would likely have a greater impact. As we consider historic communities in the United States and in Europe with extremely narrow roads and exceptional fire safety records, we find that they have fire retardant construction and sprinklers. Large, multi-dwelling fires in these environments are rare because the fire spreads slowly and is extinguished quickly.

We understand that the recommendation is for a standard of 20 feet of clearance plus 8 feet for on-street parking on both sides, for a total of 36 feet. We believe that clearance is a good metric for establishing this dimension of a fire safety for Fairfax County. However, establishing a county policy of on-street parking on both sides of all streets is not appropriate. If adequate off-street parking is available, then establishment of no-parking for one or both sides of the street could substantially reduce the street-width requirement. Developers should also be held accountable for the cost of additional storm water management if the wider street option is chosen. The county should also consider reducing the 20 feet clearance requirement if the neighborhood development uses more fire-retardant building materials or especially if they install sprinklers. We believe that this approach would be supported by our county firefighters.

Applying these fire-safety measures are likely to be considered by insurance companies for reduced fire insurance and would be considered a desirable feature when the home is sold. Giving developers options with financial incentives that encourage a more comprehensive fire safety approach would be beneficial to everyone.

For these additional reasons noted above, EQAC does not support the proposed PFM Amendment for an increase in street width.

SMK:nhk

Attachment: As Stated

cc: Fairfax County Planning Commission
Anthony H. Griffin, County Executive
David Molchany, Deputy County Executive
James W. Patteson, Director, DPWES
Battalion Chief Carlton Burkhammer, Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
EQAC file, May 2011

POSITION STATEMENT FORM

(Completed form to be provided to the Legislative Committee)

GENERAL SUBJECT AREA -- TITLE OF PROPOSAL:

REDUCING ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION FROM PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS

PROPOSAL:

Support legislation to reduce the use of plastic disposable bags. If disposable bags are provided they should be paper with a high recycled content and with a nominal fee/deposit of a nominal amount, such as 5-10 cents. The use of reusable bags should be encouraged.

SOURCE:

Environmental Quality Advisory Council, August, 2011

BACKGROUND:

Plastic bags do not completely degrade in the environment. They present a real threat to wildlife and aquatic organisms. In the open ocean, plastic bags break up into small pieces that resemble food that fish ingest. While plastic bags may be recycled or disposed of so that they are not released to the environment, many plastic bags end up in fields, streams, lakes, rivers and the oceans. Paper bags are disposable and are expected to pose fewer environmental risks. Paper bags in Fairfax County can be recycled or disposed of as trash, where they would be incinerated. Incinerated bags will release some carbon dioxide, which is less harmful to the atmosphere than methane, a far more potent greenhouse gas. Discarding paper bags after one use is also resource intensive in terms of trees and all of the efforts to harvest trees and manufacture the paper.

The goal should be to encourage the use of reusable bags. In order to discourage the use of single use throw away bags, a nominal deposit/fee should be required for each bag. The proposal is broad so that there may be support for legislation for statewide actions, as well as legislation authorizing localities to take certain actions to meet this goal.

In past legislative sessions, legislation aimed at reducing the use of plastic and/or paper bags has been introduced; however, these bills have either been tabled or left in the committees to which they were referred.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' 2011 Legislative Program included the following position statement, which updated and reaffirmed a previous position: "Support legislation or other efforts which would encourage the use of reusable shopping bags, consistent with the County's waste reduction goals and environmental stewardship efforts. As in previous sessions, it is anticipated that

legislation to ban plastic bags or impose a fee for their use may be introduced again in 2011. Such legislation would need to be examined by the County for efficacy, cost, and ease of administration.” EQAC supports retention of this position statement in the 2012 Legislative Program.

RECOMMENDATION:

(Do not fill out-- This will be indicated by the Legislative Director and County Executive)

POSSIBLE SUPPORT OR OPPOSITION BY ORGANIZATIONS:

(List any organizations or groups, if any, which might be in favor of or against the proposed position)

Support from environmental and civic organizations is expected for bills that encourage the reuse of bags, ban plastic bags or require deposits for disposable bags. Organizations such as The Alice Ferguson Foundation, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Clean Water Action, Institute for Local Self Reliance, Surfrider Foundation-DC Chapter and other cities and towns have also supported such legislation. We expect at least some retail establishments and consumer groups may oppose such legislation.

STAFF CONTACT PERSON(S):

(Provide name and phone number of County staff person(s) best able to provide any additional research or necessary information)

Noel Kaplan (EQAC staff liaison)
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