

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Resolution on County Capital Facilities Projects

January 9, 2008

Whereas, in early December county staff briefed the Board of Supervisors Environment Committee on LEED/green building concepts that it plans to introduce into new county capital facilities projects; and

Whereas, green buildings and LEED principles are almost entirely concerned with the building design itself and only minimally with the site; and

Whereas, the Board has recently approved six low impact development (LID) methods for inclusion in the PFM, and county staff, in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, is developing an LID supplement to the Northern Virginia Best Management Practices (BMP) handbook which will be considered in the future for adoption, and within which five or six additional LID methods are being considered; and

Whereas, LID methods are almost entirely concerned with design and treatment of the site exclusive of buildings, particularly with the management of stormwater; and

Whereas, the Board has been very receptive to the recommendations of the Tree Commission for preservation of trees and preservation and increase of tree cover on sites subject to development; and

Whereas, as commendable as are these three broad goals individually, there are few county capital facilities projects underway or in the planning stages that adequately integrate the principles embodied in them in the designs; and

Whereas, if the county wishes to have these practices broadly adopted and utilized by the development community it must become the exemplar for them in its own facilities; now therefore

Be it resolved, that EQAC strongly urges the Board of Supervisors to mandate fully integrated application of green buildings, LEED, LID, and tree preservation practices to all of its capital facilities in the planning stages; and

Be it further resolved, that insofar as possible construction plans for capital facilities already in advanced stages of design or under construction be revised to include use of these technologies; and

Be it finally resolved, that LEED Silver certification should be adopted as the county goal for its new capital facilities, and that the County should strive for LEED Gold certification where practical.