



# 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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