



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 9, 2013

TO: Edward L. Long, Jr.
County Executive

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

SUBJECT: EQAC input on the FY 2014 budget

This memorandum is in response to your December 4 request for input and guidance from members of boards, authorities and commissions regarding the FY 2014 budget. Specifically, you asked for guidance "on the types of investments we will need to make over the next two years to get us through this difficult time and to ensure the integrity of our infrastructure and core government services." EQAC appreciates the opportunity to provide input at this time as well as for your continued communications and coordination with EQAC.

As you are aware, we have provided a number of recommendations in our Annual Report on the Environment, and our priority recommendations have been highlighted in the Chairman's letter, which can be found toward the beginning of the report. In response to your request, we reiterate these priorities. We also note the following statement from the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Agenda and feel that, in order to prioritize decisions in these difficult budget times, the county should build on this statement in its budget decisions:

"... everyone has a need and a right to breathe clean air, to drink clean water, and to live and work in clean surroundings. A healthy environment enhances our quality of life and preserves the vitality that makes Fairfax a special place to live and work."

We believe that these goals are not only important to county residents but are also critical for growth and redevelopment. We also note that, in pursuing efforts to achieve these goals, the county has opportunities to undertake work that maximizes environmental protection and minimizes cost through better integration of management practices. One example would be an increased focus on the many examples of the county's efforts to retrofit buildings with energy-saving technologies that have led to substantial cost savings in annual operating costs. Funding for such efforts should be provided through the environmental improvement program.

In recognition of the continuing budget challenges that the county is facing, we want to assure you that we will commit ourselves to the examination of the combination of environmental

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Edward L. Long, Jr.
Page 2

benefits and cost as we develop future recommendations relating to environmental policies, projects and initiatives.

We again appreciate and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critical issue and look forward to supporting you on this and other issues.

SMK:LJZ:nhk

cc: Susan Datta, Chief Financial Officer and Director, Department of Management and Budget
David J. Molchany, Deputy County Executive