

**FY 2014 Fairfax County budget**  
**Testimony from the Environmental Quality Advisory Council—Stella Koch, Chairman**  
**April 9, 2014**

My name is Stella Koch and I am speaking on behalf of the Fairfax County Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

EQAC thanks the board for its continued strong support of environmental programs. We understand that although budget constraints lessened again this year they continue to impact all programs within the county.

EQAC asks that you continue to support the environmental programs you have established. These programs are important if we are to maintain the high quality of life we have in Fairfax County and the high standards we have set for ourselves. We note that, for Fairfax County residents, quality of life is not just about good schools and jobs but also about having a clean and healthy environment in which to live and recreate.

EQAC's priority recommendations this year focus on the need for continuing long-term financial support to sustain these environmental programs:

1. EQAC supports continued efforts by Fairfax County to adequately fund and implement its ongoing stormwater program, which includes dam maintenance, infrastructure replacement, watershed restoration and educational stewardship programs. EQAC realizes the funding for the stormwater program will come entirely from funds generated through the Stormwater Service District rates.

**Therefore EQAC supports the Stormwater Service District rate increase in FY 2015 by at least one-quarter penny, from a rate of 2.0 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 2.25 cents per \$100. As we have noted in our Annual Report, EQAC understands that this increase would not fully meet stormwater management needs and therefore suggests that additional increases be continued each fiscal year until adequate funding to support the program is achieved.** This would, once again, result in more funding for modest watershed improvement programs and a somewhat more realistic infrastructure replacement timeline.

2. EQAC recommends **support of funding for the Environmental Improvement Program for the upcoming fiscal year.** This year's advertised budget identifies a total of \$535,000 for a variety of non-stormwater programs, including continuation of the Invasive Plant Removal Program, Energy Action Fairfax, energy-efficient lighting retrofits and upgrades at county park facilities, water-conserving web-based irrigation controllers at park facilities and other county sustainability initiatives. We note that these EIP projects were identified through a rigorous competitive project selection process and feel that their funding is necessary to support the Environmental Agenda adopted by the board for this county.

Thank you for your time today.

Stella Koch  
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