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Working for Clean Streams and Protected Natural Resources in Fairfax County

17 JAN 2022

Chairman Jeff McKay and Fairfax Board of Supervisors
2000 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, VA 22035

Dear Chairman McKay and Fairfax Board of Supervisors,

As we enter 2022, the District wants to acknowledge the Board's leadership on Climate Change and the action plan developed through the CECAP process. We know that the statistical frequency of what was previously considered a 100-year event has been changing and such events occur much more frequently than previously believed. Taking action now as a society to mitigate the effects of these events and to reduce the growth in greenhouse gas emissions is absolutely necessary.

NVSWCD has been a partner with the County since 1945, working together to support conservation and providing helpful science-based practices to the public. As a non-regulatory organization, the NVSWCD is a trusted advisor for citizens, providing them the best practices for improving the management of their land and community. The NVSWCD also has the ability to combine public and private funding sources to finance programs with many stakeholders. Over the years the District has introduced many natural and emerging practices that are now mainstream across Virginia. Some examples are stream valley restoration and native planting. These practices are now County standards and encouraged through wide adoption, policy and plan recommendations, and even regulations.

The CECAP Strategic Plan identifies important strategies for the County and citizens to meaningfully address climate change. While the District's approach of working directly with citizens to implement the best scientific practices and providing unique funding mechanisms applies to all the strategies, Strategy #12 in particular aligns with the traditional NVSWCD focus on soil and water conservation:

S12: Support preservation, restoration, and expansion of natural systems, green spaces, and soil quality.

NVSWCD stands ready to partner with the County on putting these strategies into practice. We would welcome a conversation on how we can be most helpful in that regard.

Very respectfully,

John Peterson,
Chairman