



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April [Day], 2023

TO: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Larry Zaragoza, DEnv, Chair
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: Budget Recommendations from the Environmental Quality Advisory Council

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) appreciates the opportunity to offer comment on the FY 2024 Advertised Budget. We thank the Board for continuing to recognize the importance of the environment in the budget. We would also like to take this opportunity to provide you with a few high-level comments on the budget.

Climate and Energy

EQAC believes that we are in a critical growth phase in implementation of both the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and Resilient Fairfax. In this area we have three comments:

- We thank the Board for incorporating this work into the budget.
- We support funding for the three positions requested for CECAP and Resilient Fairfax.
- We recognize that the County is in a pilot phase for much of this work and that future needs are expected to significantly increase.

Public Works and Environmental Services

EQAC is aware of some critical needs that the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) has today or will have in the future. These are:

- DPWES is significantly understaffed for sanitary sewer staffing and waste collection staffing, which is important for the protection of the water environment and litter control.
- DPWES needs resources to better understand both Per-and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) and increasing salinity issues in the County's waters. Significantly more resources will likely be needed in the future to protect health and compliance with standards.

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Park Authority

EQAC continues to ask that the county increase General Fund investments in the Park Authority to better support equitable access to park amenities and ecological stewardship. We appreciate one-time funds through the Third Quarter Review proposal, the additional \$500k in baseline funding to keep park fees stable, and nominal increases in the forestry and Invasive Management Area (IMA) budget, but our parks do not have the funds necessary to support One Fairfax programs, taking care of what we have and a park ranger program to improve park safety. Finally, personnel pay increases, performance and longevity increases and benefits adjustments were reduced by 19% from the ask, which makes it hard to maintain quality staff.

cc: Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive
Christina Jackson, Chief Financial Officer
Christopher Leonard, Deputy County Executive
John Morrill, Acting Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Christopher Herrington, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)
Eleanor Ku Coddling, P.E., Deputy Director, Stormwater and Wastewater Divisions, DPWES
Jai Cole, Executive Director, Fairfax County Park Authority
Philip Hagen, Director, Department of Management and Budget
EQAC