



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Supervisors

DATE: April 11, 2019

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

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of Proposed FY 2020 Budget for the Environment

EQAC would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for its continued support of environmental services throughout the county. This is a year for more than one “thank you” on behalf of funding for environmental efforts in Fairfax County.

First of all, we appreciate your continued support for an increase in Stormwater funding, which covers a multitude of needs, from dam maintenance to stream protection, stream restoration, and infrastructure maintenance. While the county did not initiate a rate increase as requested by EQAC through the Stormwater District Rate, the goal of increased funding was met through funds generated by increased tax revenues. The concern of EQAC is not the method but the result and we thank you for meeting the needs of Stormwater programs through the budget process.

We are also appreciative of the efforts and budgetary commitments of the county in addressing Climate Change and Energy Use. We thank you for funding an Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, which will ultimately have additional staff. The office will focus on climate change and energy issues and initiatives, including overseeing funding for Energy Efficiency Measures as part of the County Operational Energy Strategy and funding for the LED Streetlight Conversion Initiative. We further urge you to add funding for the resources necessary to develop a Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), as was moved at the April 9, 2019 Board of Supervisors Meeting.

We would especially like to thank the County for the significant increase in funding for Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) projects this year. This will permit the county to greatly increase the number of projects that implement the goals of the County’s Environmental Vision.

This is a stellar year for the environment and county environmental initiatives. We once again thank you for your leadership on these issues.

SMK

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