



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 15, 2021

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Stella Koch, Chairman
Environmental Quality Advisory Council

SUBJECT: EQAC support of proposed CBPA draft regulations

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) is pleased to support the Virginia Water Quality Control Board draft regulations to amend the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area (CBPA) Designation and Management Regulations¹. These regulations would encourage and promote: 1) the preservation of mature trees, or planting of trees, as a water quality protection tool and 2) coastal resilience and adaptation to sea-level rise and climate change.

EQAC provides the following three comments:

- EQAC recommends the Board of Supervisors submit comments to DEQ in support of these amendments prior to the May 3, 2021 deadline. While staff has identified areas which could benefit from clarification, the overall regulations demonstrate a significant step forward in planning for and mitigating of climate change effects.
- As Fairfax County LDS staff joins DEQ's Stakeholder Advisory Group to discuss the proposed regulations, EQAC supports the inclusion of staff from both the Urban Forest Management Division and also more broadly from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services as active partners.
- If the proposed regulations are approved, Fairfax County will also be required to update its Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance (CBPO). Similarly, EQAC supports the inclusion of staff from both the Urban Forest Management Division and also more broadly from the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services as active partners in updating the County's CPBO.

The proposed changes to the ordinance would provide both a more consistent and a higher level of protection of our Resource Protection Areas to ensure better climate resilience in the face of

¹ <https://townhall.virginia.gov/l/viewmandate.cfm?mandateid=1154>

more frequent and more intense storms. These proposed changes would also help to clean our own drinking water, ensuring a cleaner and more resilient Chesapeake Bay watershed, and improve habitat in our local ecosystem.

These proposed changes are in direct support of the Board of Supervisors Environmental Vision for Land Use: “The county will continue to refine and implement land use policies and regulations that accommodate anticipated growth and change in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable and equitable manner...Policies and regulations will result, throughout the county, in ...a healthy environment, ensuring the protection, enhancement and restoration of natural resources...”²

Recognizing the urgency of protecting our most vulnerable natural resources in the face of climate change, EQAC supports these proposed changes and looks forward to staff’s support of these regulations as well.

Thank you for your support of our important Resource Protection Areas and stream valleys.

cc: Jerry Stonefield, Site Code Research and Development Branch,
Permitting and Code Administration Division, Land Development Services
Ellie Coddling, Deputy Director, Stormwater and Wastewater Divisions, DPWES
Brian Keightley, Director, Urban Forest Management Division, DPWES
Kambiz Agazi, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

² <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment/sites/environment/files/assets/documents/pdf/environmental-vision-2017.pdf#page=12>