

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION
c/o Department of Environmental Services
2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705
Arlington, VA 22201

July 23, 2013

The Honorable Walter Tejada, Chairman
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: New Elementary School #1 at Williamsburg Campus

Dear Chairman Tejada:

The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) reviewed the design of the new elementary school (ES1) on the Williamsburg Middle School (WMS) campus located at 3600 N. Harrison St. E2C2 is very pleased with Arlington Public Schools' (APS) commitment to sustainability as reflected in the design of the new ES1.

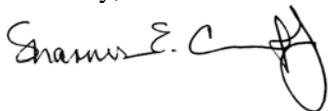
E2C2 applauds APS for committing resources to minimizing the energy and environmental impact of the new ES1. The architecture firm hired by APS, VMDO Architects, is aggressively working to reduce the energy intensity of the school and aspires to meet any residual energy requirements with a solar panel array. VMDO Architects partnered with CMTA Consulting Engineers, who designed the first net zero energy school in the nation. Collectively, they are striving to make the ES1 net zero energy ready. APS's commitment to a net zero energy ready ES1 supports achieving Arlington County's Community Energy Plan (CEP) goals and objectives. E2C2 hopes that the new ES1 will serve as a model for future Arlington County buildings in regard to design for net zero energy.

E2C2 also appreciates that the newest revision of the ES1 Environmental Assessment (EA) includes language for proactive stormwater management practices and longer-term maintenance of the corresponding infrastructure. E2C2 acknowledges that APS and VMDO Architects are designing the ES1 to preserve as many trees as possible in addition to planting many new trees. Furthermore, lighting included in the ES1 design is Dark Sky compliant. It is clear that the new ES1 is being planned with thoughtful consideration to achieve sustainability, minimize resource use, and decrease operating costs. E2C2 is also pleased to hear that the ES1 building will be used to incorporate principles of sustainability and environmental science into the school curriculum.

While E2C2 is encouraged by plans for the new ES1, E2C2 is concerned about the environmental impacts of potential new synthetic turf soccer fields and associated lighting. The turf field and lighting were brought to our attention by the public and were not included in the EA or project design. If Arlington County decides to move forward with plans for synthetic turf soccer fields adjacent to ES1 and WMS, E2C2 expects:

1. To be informed of plans for synthetic turf soccer fields and associated lighting in the Williamsburg neighborhood; and
2. To receive a draft EA for review.

Sincerely,



Shannon E. Cunniff
Chair