

ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY CONSERVATION COMMISSION

c/o Department of Environmental Services 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705 Arlington, VA 22201

June 27, 2017

The Honorable Jay Fisetto, Chair
Arlington County Board
2100 Clarendon Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Re: Support for Updating the Resource Protection Area (RPA) Map

Dear Chair Fisetto,

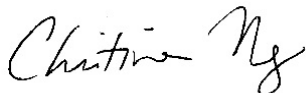
The Environment and Energy Conservation Commission (E2C2) was briefed about the proposed update to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas (CBPA) map. E2C2 supports adoption of the revised CBPA map which reflects information that was not available in 2003 when the previous map was developed. The new map will meet the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance (Chapter 61) and protect Arlington's important natural resources.

The CBPA map identifies the locations of Resource Protection Areas (RPAs) in Arlington County. RPAs include streams, rivers, and other water bodies, and the environmentally sensitive lands within 100 feet of these water resources. Over the last 10 years County Staff has completed a [Natural Resources Inventory](#) (2008) and conducted storm sewer mapping and a [stream assessment](#) for the [Stormwater Master Plan](#) (2014). As a result of this work, new stream segments were identified, while some features previously identified as streams were instead determined to be stormwater structures.

The revised CBPA map adds the RPA designation to resources that meet the definition and require environmental protection, while removing the RPA designation where it is not warranted. Development projects on RPA properties are subject to review for water quality impacts during permitting, specifically evaluating the potential for pollution from stormwater runoff, erosion on steep slopes, and impacts to existing trees and vegetation. Approximately 200 properties in Arlington will receive a new RPA designation, while approximately 275 properties will have their RPA designation removed. Overall the revised CBPA map will decrease the number of RPA properties in Arlington County.

The revised CBPA map with updated RPA locations will ensure that more accurate information about the location of RPAs is available to the public, and that projects potentially affecting water resources will be more accurately identified and referred for appropriate review. E2C2 supports adoption of the revised CBPA map.

Respectfully,



Christine Ng
Chair, Environment & Energy Conservation Committee