



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Isiah Leggett  
*County Executive*

Lisa Feldt  
*Director*

April 30, 2015

Mr. Nicholas DiPasquale, Director  
Chesapeake Bay Program Office  
410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109  
Annapolis, Maryland 21403

Dear Mr. DiPasquale:

Thank you for your letter regarding the twenty-nine draft management strategies developed under the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The draft management strategies provide plans for monitoring, assessing and reporting progress toward overall Bay goals and outcomes, and are designed to escalate the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

The Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) supports the Chesapeake Bay Program goals for restoration of the Bay. In 2011, DEP developed a Countywide Implementation Strategy showing how Montgomery County would meet its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit requirements, including restoration of 20% of County impervious area not already controlled to the maximum extent practicable, meeting County wasteload allocations assigned in approved TMDLs, and achieving Chesapeake Bay pollutant reduction goals. DEP continues unprecedented watershed restoration and protection efforts that will result in important benefits to local water quality, and, ultimately, the Chesapeake Bay. The County's watershed restoration and protection progress is reported annually in the MS4 Permit Annual reports, which can be found on the DEP website.

A summary of progress in meeting the MS4 permit requirements over the County's five year permit cycle can be found here:

<https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/DEP/Resources/Files/downloads/water-reports/npdes/permit-in-review-summary-2014.pdf>.

Overall, DEP supports continued development of the Chesapeake Bay Program's broad based draft management strategies to monitor, assess and report progress towards achieving the goals of abundant life, clean waters, engaged communities, conserved lands and climate change resilience.

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Mr. Nicholas DiPasquale  
April 30, 2015  
Page 2

DEP supports the focus to broaden engagement with citizen watershed stewards and minority stakeholders, increase watershed education programs in schools and engage local leadership in water quality issues. DEP also supports the strategies to improve local watershed health and stream quality, and to facilitate increasing forest buffers, and tree canopy.

We encourage the Chesapeake Bay Program to recognize that many of the draft strategies have important local components. For example, Montgomery County already has a robust holistic watershed restoration program designed to enhance water resources in the County as well as meeting its MS4 Permit requirements. Montgomery County also developed outreach programs that develop organizational capacity within local watershed groups, and increase citizen stewardship. Further development of the Chesapeake Bay management strategies should support existing local programs.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the draft management strategies. DEP looks forward to working with our partners to achieve real and lasting improvements to our local waters and the Bay.

Sincerely,



Lisa Feldt  
Director

LF:kdm

c: Mr. Mark Belton, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor  
Mark J. Belton, Secretary  
Frank W. Dawson, III, Deputy Secretary

April 3, 2015

Dear County Executive/County Council member:

As a member of the Chesapeake Executive Council, in 2014 Maryland signed the new Chesapeake Bay Watershed Agreement committing to specific goals and outcomes to escalate the restoration of the Bay and its tributaries, and to protect its surrounding landscapes. Our watershed partners - the Federal government, the Chesapeake Bay Commission, the States of Pennsylvania, Delaware, West Virginia, New York and Virginia, and the District of Columbia - will join in signing the landmark pledge.

This agreement differs from its predecessors in that 29 specific draft management strategies have been developed, providing specific plans for monitoring, assessing and reporting progress toward the overall goals and outcomes. In Maryland we have just begun a statewide effort to encourage interested parties to review and comment on the draft management strategies before they are presented this summer to the Executive Council.

I am writing to ask that you and your constituents help inform and guide our responses to these strategies to ensure our commitments are meaningful and effective, and represent the interests of all our citizens. As a strong leader in your community, your participation - and that of your constituents - will support our continuing leadership role in providing a stronger, cleaner, healthier and prosperous Maryland, starting with our most important and vulnerable natural resources.

Please take this opportunity to learn more about the agreement and comment on the strategies via the Chesapeake Bay Program website, <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/managementstrategies>, by **April 30, 2015**. In addition, if your schedule permits, we would be pleased to host you at our **April 7 open house, here at our Annapolis headquarters from 12pm - 2pm, and again from 5pm - 7pm**, where you will have the chance to meet and talk with subject area experts. We are also planning to schedule another meeting this month for local government. We will be notifying you a week in advance.

Thank you in advance for your time and commitment to this significant endeavor. We look forward to hearing from you and others in your community. If you have any questions or would like a briefing on the New Bay Agreement and the draft management strategies, please feel free to call my Deputy, Frank Dawson, at 401-260-8102 or [frank.dawson@maryland.gov](mailto:frank.dawson@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

Mark J. Belton  
Secretary