Phase 7 Land Use Forecasts: Approvals and Review Timeline			
Month	**Date(s)**	**Workgroup Meetings**	**Description**
June 2026	6/16	USWG	CBLCM briefing
	6/17	LUWG	CBLCM briefing
July 2026	7/10		Run #1 posted for review on public web viewer
	7/15	USWG, LUWG, CWGT	Office Hours Part I
	7/22	LUWG	CBLCM briefing
	7/27	CWGT	CBLCM briefing
August 2026	8/12	USWG, LUWG, CWGT	Office Hours Part II
	8/10		Run #2 posted for review on public web viewer
	8/27	LUWG (USWG & WWTWG invited)	CBLCM and P7 LU conversion rules briefing
September 2026	9/14		Run #3 posted for review on public web viewer
	9/16	USWG, LUWG, CWGT	Office Hours Part III
	9/23	LUWG, USWG (AMT invited)	CBLCM and P7 LU conversion rules briefing
	9/23		Run #3.1 posted for review on public web viewer
	9/28	CWGT	CBLCM briefing
October 2026	10/1 - 10/16	LUWG, USWG	LUWG/USWG approvals requested via email
	10/20	USWG	Confirmation of decision item with updates
	10/26	CWGT	CWGT approval requested

Acronyms
AMT: Agricultural Modeling Team
CWGT: Clean Water Goal Team
CBLCM: Chesapeake Bay Land Change Model
LU: Land Use
LUWG: Land Use Workgroup
USWG: Urban Stormwater Workgroup
WWTWG: Wastewater Treatment Workgroup

Decision: The Urban Stormwater Workgroup (USWG) is asked to approve the final forecast of utility scale solar for the "Business as Usual" scenario for Phase 7.

Urban Stormwater Signatory Members			**Vote**	**Notes**
Affiliation	*Primary*	*Alternate*		
Delaware	Elaine Webb (DNREC)	Bonnie Arvay (DNREC)	4	
District of Columbia	Andrea Krug (DOEE)	Cecilia Lane (DOEE)	5	
Maryland	Gillian Adkins (MDE)	Sophia Grossweiler (MDE)	5	
New York	Cassandra Davis (NYS DEC)	N/A	4	
Pennsylvania	Jamie Eberl (PA DEP)	Matt Williard (PA DEP)	4	
Virginia	Jaime Robb (VA DEQ)	Owen Dingman (VA DEQ)	4	
West Virginia	Scott Settle (WV DEP)	N/A	4	UPDATE: Concerns about the solar demand percentage have been addressed - inclusion of Jackson County, WV solar field has reduced the proportion of solar megawatts in the Bay watershed from 87% to 61%.
CBC	Maggie Woodward (CBC)	N/A	5	
EPA	Auston Smith (EPA)	Liz Ottinger (EPA)	3	
Urban Stormwater At-large Members			**Vote**	**Notes**
Affiliation	*Name*	*Term*		
At-large	Ginny Snead (AMT)	2026-2027	3	I do a fair amount of solar compliance work in Virginia and the data used to estimate solar has too much uncertainty in it for me. The current projections are likely a large overestimation. For example, even if a potential solar is approved by a locality, it isn't necessarily going to go forward for construction – the site sometimes isn't even yet attached to a final utility company and developer and may never be. Also, additional permits as well as growing local citizen reluctance for solar are all things that can derail a project.
At-large	Rebecca Winer-Skonovd (Biohabitats)	2026-2027	4	
Urban Stormwater Local Government Implementers			**Vote**	**Notes**
Affiliation	*Name*	*Term*		
Local Gov't (VA)	Camille Liebnitzky (City of Alexandria)	2026-2027	3	
Local Gov't (MD)	Heather Gewandter (City of Rockville)	2026-2027	5	
Local Gov't (PA)	Jeff Colella (WVSA)	2026-2027	4	
Additional Notes from USWG Non-Voting Members				
Local Gov't (VA) / Chair	KC Filippino (HRPDC)	As an USWG co-chair I don't have a vote on this issue. I just wanted to note that the forecast for solar actually starts at 2025 and goes through 2040, which is atypical for the remaining land uses. The solar footprint between 2021/22 – 2025 is 'burned in' to the data set with the actual footprints of the utility-scale solar facilities because the information is available. I missed this in the FAQ but it's in there, "USS solar fields built between 2021/22 and 2025 (SOL_25) are mapped as polygons in the National Photovoltaic Database and will be incorporated explicitly in all forecasts. New USS solar fields needed to meet future solar energy demands (SOL_30, SOL_35, and SOL_40) will be stochastically simulated by county in areas suitable for development and informed by spatially explicit solar probabilities."		

Decision: The Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) is asked to approve the final urban (residential and commercial) land use forecast for the "Business as Usual" scenario for Phase 7.

Land Use Workgroup Signatory Members				
Jurisdiction (if applicable)	**Name**	**Affiliation**	**Vote**	**Notes**
New York	**Cassie Davis (primary)** N/A	NYSDEC N/A	4	
West Virginia	VACANT	N/A	N/A	N/A
Delaware	**Lori Brown (primary)** Rachel Owrutsky (alt)	DNREC DNREC	4	I feel this this is as good as it is going to get – the forecasts have been cleaned up extensively since the first versions we saw and have toned down and tightened the development.
Maryland	**Deborah Herr Cornwell (primary)** Shannon McKenrick (alt.)	MDP MDE	4	
Virginia	**Arianna Johns (primary)** N/A	VA DEQ N/A	3	Provided the "Business as usual" forecast does not contain the proposed data centers Virginia votes a 3. The burning in of solar data is not a precedent we want set, but due to time constraints involved with undoing this particular effort, that is already done, we understand why it must proceed.
Pennsylvania	**Scott Heidel (primary)** N/A	PA DEP N/A	3	
DC	**George Onyullo (primary)** Young Tsuei (alt.)	DOEE DOEE	5	
Federal	**Tom Butler (primary)** N/A	EPA N/A	3	EPA has seen progress regarding the conversion of acres which, in previous iterations, seemingly weighted agriculture more heavily for development. It is potentially worth looking into in the future if the Land Use forecast is weighted to heavily towards the sampling of model outputs compared to observed data
CBC	**Marel King (primary)** Maggie Woodward (alt.)	CBC CBC	4	
Land Use Workgroup At-large Members				
Role	**Name**	**Affiliation**	**Vote**	**Notes**
Planning District Commission	**KC Filippino (primary)** Norm Goulet (alt.)	HRPDC NVRC	3	Procedurally this all depends on how the USWG votes on the solar forecasts. I'm not comfortable with solar setting the precedent of 'burning in' parcels, as this isn't done for any other dataset in the CBLCM. However, I recognize that the data is accurate and available at the parcel scale (unlike all of the other data sets), there is a separate loading rate for solar, and removing these data w/ forecasted data would cause a significant delay in model development.
Land Conservancy	**Owen Bailey (primary)**	ESLC	5	
NGO	**Elliot Kurtz (primary)**	CIC		
NGO	**Rosa Hance (primary)**	CCWC		

Decision: The Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) is asked to approve the "burning in" of existing and proposed data centers in the 2021/22 land use/land cover for the "Business as Usual" scenario for Phase 7. In this approach, data centers would not be mapped as a separate land use class, but rather, each data center would add up to 11 acres of impervious surface to the commercial land use footprint in the simulated forecasts.
Default: If the LUWG does not approve this approach, the data center footprint will be accounted for, as all other impervious surface is, in the next available high-resolution land use/land cover update developed using 2025/26 imagery and available in 2029. Please see the decision item below to indicate your support for the inclusion of this information in a CAST update in 2029.

Land Use Workgroup Signatory Members				
Jurisdiction (if applicable)	**Name**	**Affiliation**	**Vote**	**Notes**
	Cassie Davis (primary)	NYSDEC	3	
New York	N/A	N/A		As this dataset is being developed, there is an increasing number of moratoriums, permitting delays, and/or additional requirements for datacenter development being implemented by local and state governments. I think it would be best to treat this land use like other impervious surface buildings and not use the proposed data, but will leave it to the group to decide.
West Virginia	VACANT	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Lori Brown (primary)	DNREC	1	
Delaware	Rachel Owrutsky (alt.)	DNREC		There isn't an authoritative dataset for data centers like there is for solar and it doesn't make sense to burn in proposed since there is so much up in the air. Data centers do not have their own loading and land use like solar does either. If LUWG doesn't approve, data centers are counted as all other impervious surfaces, and that seems to make the most sense to me at this time.
	Deborah Herr Cornwell (primary)	MDP	1	
Maryland	Shannon McKenrick (alt.)	MDE		The primary use of this model is to calculate loads and data centers will be included in the existing 'impervious surface' land use class using the 2025/2026 imagery which will be available in 2029. 'Burning in' data centers sets a precedent and could allow future actions that impact the model's integrity. Concerns about data centers is valid and information could be useful for local jurisdictions. This type of information could be provided in a potential scenario that is policy based by each of the jurisdictions. We can consider scenarios in the coming months as we develop the management strategy workplan.
	Arianna Johns (primary)	VA DEQ	1	
Virginia	N/A			There is no authoritative dataset of which to draw on. These are a matter of local planning and just because ones are proposed does not mean they will become permitted and constructed projects. We do not feel it is right to track a type of business via Bay Program land use data. There are no other business types that are bounded and burnt into the impervious surface land use/land cover data. This would set a precedent we feel that would be detrimental. One could argue that solar could be classified as a business type, but from aerial imagery solar panels are obviously a different type of land use where as data centers are simply warehouses and would not be readily identifiable from aerial imagery. Governor Spanberger recently implemented executive order 22. This executive order sets forth measures the state is taking in order to answer some of the concerns the citizens of Virginia have raised around data centers and their rapid growth. The introduction of this EO is expected to change the pace and placement of data centers that we are currently seeing.
	Scott Heidel (primary)	PA DEP	2	
Pennsylvania	N/A	N/A		
	George Onyullo (primary)	DOEE	5	
DC	Young Tsuei (alt.)	DOEE		
	Tom Butler (primary)	EPA	1	
Federal	N/A	N/A		EPA feels that this is inappropriate to for this situation. No other land uses are "burned in" at this time and doing so for this single item seems unjustifiable. Additionally, there do not seem to be robust data sets providing the level of information that other elements of the Land Use change model have.
	Marel King (primary)	CBC	2	
CBC	Maggie Woodward (alt.)	CBC		

Land Use Workgroup At-large Members				
Role	**Name**	**Affiliation**	**Vote**	**Notes**
	KC Filippino (primary)	HRPDC	1	
Planning District Commission	Norm Goulet (alt.)	NVRC		Data centers do not have a unique loading rate and shouldn't be treated any differently than warehouses or large impervious structures, the data isn't accurate or complete at the parcel scale (see the FAQ pg. 17 "Unfortunately, there does not exist a single authoritative source of information on data centers (Table 6)."), and we shouldn't be picking and choosing what we 'burn in' to the model at this late stage. This doesn't mean the LUWG can't request alternative future scenarios that incorporate existing data centers to use to inform the WIP process. Alternative future scenarios have been done in the past. This would allow for more time to ensure the data provided is accurate and complete.
Land Conservancy	**Owen Bailey (primary)**	ESLC	3	While I recognize there is uncertainty regarding future data center development and the evolving regulatory environment in many jurisdictions, I believe data centers have become a significant land use trend that should be reflected in our understanding of future development patterns. From a land use planning perspective, it is important that forecasts account for major development pressures to the extent practical using the best available information. Future updates and refinements can continue as additional data become available.
NGO	**Elliot Kurtz (primary)**	CIC		
NGO	**Rosa Hance (primary)**	CCWC		

Decision: As a follow up to the discussion about the land use forecasts and the Clean Water Goal Team discussions about periodic model updates, the Land Use Workgroup (LUWG) is asked to indicate their level of support for incorporating critical, foundational datasets -- such as the high-resolution land use/land cover data, Census of Agriculture, and updated land use forecasts -- in CAST, as they become available, starting in 2029. This will ensure the most up to date information is used in the model to evaluate Watershed Implementation Plans and progress towards the TMDL.

Land Use Workgroup Signatory Members				
Jurisdiction (if applicable)	**Name**	**Affiliation**	**Vote**	**Notes**
	Cassie Davis (primary)	NYSDEC	5	
New York	N/A	N/A		
West Virginia	VACANT	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Lori Brown (primary)	DNREC	5	
Delaware	Rachel Owrutsky (alt)	DNREC		I think this makes sense incorporating the most current and accurate data will help the accuracy of the model and hopefully us.
	Deborah Herr Cornwell (primary)	MDP	3	
Maryland	Shannon McKenrick (alt.)	MDE		What does 'as they become available' mean? This has been discussed at WTWG and there is a domino effect on model frequency of data updates to WIP3 progress and BMP accounting. This wording is vague and clarification is needed on what is being endorsed
	Arianna Johns (primary)	VA DEQ	5	
Virginia	N/A	N/A		
	Scott Heidel (primary)	PA DEP		
Pennsylvania	N/A	N/A	4	
	George Onyullo (primary)	DOEE	5	
DC	Young Tsuei (alt.)	DOEE		
	Tom Butler (primary)	EPA		
Federal	N/A	N/A	1	EPA does not feel that it is within this groups purview to decide on the data update frequency for modeling tools. The Watershed Technical Workgroup has been working on recommendations to send to the Clean Water Goal Team for a decision. Given the importance of this topic streamlined communication would be a better idea. It is also of concern that the dates provided with this decision would directly conflict with the duration in which jurisdictions are scheduled to produce Watershed Implementation Plans. Such a data update would require updating the model at a time when its outputs would inherently be required to stay fixed for the purposes of creating Planning Targets and WIP development.
	Marel King (primary)	CBC	5	
CBC	Maggie Woodward (alt.)	CBC		

Land Use Workgroup At-large Members				
Role	**Name**	**Affiliation**	**Vote**	**Notes**
	KC Filippino (primary)	HRPDC	5	
Planning District Commission	Norm Goulet (alt.)	NVRC		The best available data should be included into the model as soon as it is available through imagery and the processes that have been established to date to incorporate this data.
Land Conservancy	**Owen Bailey (primary)**	ESLC	5	I support the use of the best available land use, agricultural, and forecasting information as it becomes available to ensure the model reflects current conditions and provides the best possible basis for evaluating progress and future planning decisions.
NGO	**Elliot Kurtz (primary)**	CIC		
NGO	**Rosa Hance (primary)**	CCWC		
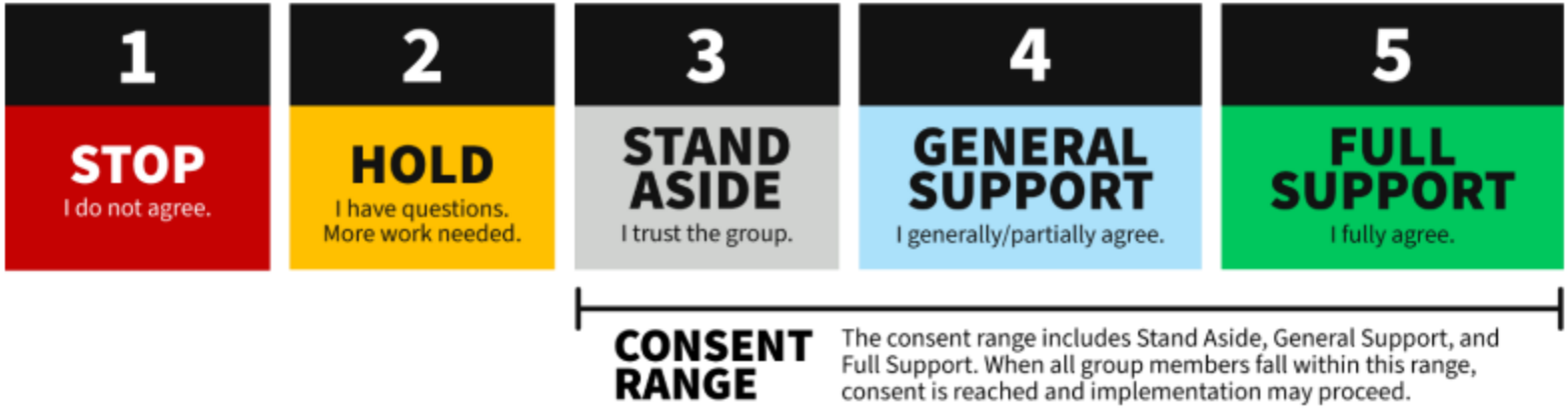
Figure 2. Chesapeake Bay Program's Decision-Making Continuum. Based on the University of Maryland's Center for Leadership and Organizational Change Consensus Continuum.