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# Maryland

Department of  
the Environment

Larry Hogan  
Governor  
  
Boyd Rutherford  
Lieutenant Governor  
  
Ben Grumbles  
Secretary

AUG 24 2016

The Honorable Calvin Ball  
Chairperson  
Howard County Council  
3430 Courthouse Drive  
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043

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RECEIVED  
HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

Dear Chairperson Ball:

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) has completed its review of the **2015 Howard County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage (Plan)**. The Plan was adopted by the Howard County Council on May 2, 2016 by County **Resolution No. 36-2016**.

During MDE's review of the 2015 Plan, the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) advised MDE that the Plan update is consistent with the 2030 Plan Howard Comprehensive Plan (see enclosed comments). The Department's Water Supply Program had comments on several aspects of Chapter 3 that should be addressed in the County's next Amendment to the Water and Sewer Plan (see enclosed comments). The Department hereby approves the 2015 Howard County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage.

This action completes MDE's review, as required by §9-507 of the Environment Article, Annotated Code of Maryland. If you need further assistance on these matters, please contact Virginia F. Kearney, Deputy Director, at (410) 537-3512, toll free at (800) 633-6101, or by e-mail at [virginia.kearney@maryland.gov](mailto:virginia.kearney@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Lynn Buhl, Director  
Water Management Administration

Enclosures

cc: Don Campbell, Senior Engineer, Bureau of Utilities, Howard County  
Jeffrey K. Welty, P.E., Deputy Chief, Bureau of Utilities, Howard County  
Charles Boyd, Deputy Director, Planning Services, MDP  
Saeid Kasraei, Water Supply Program, WMA, MDE  
Virginia F. Kearney, Deputy Director, WMA, MDE



Larry Hogan, Governor  
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Wendi W. Peters, Acting Secretary

July 21, 2016

Mrs. Janice Outen  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
Water Management Administration  
1800 Washington Boulevard  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Subject: 2015 Amendments to the Howard County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage

Dear Mrs. Outen:

The Maryland Department of Planning has reviewed the 2015 Amendments to the Howard County Master Plan for Water and Sewerage in accordance with the Maryland Economic Growth, Resource Protection and Planning Act of 1992 and the Smart Growth Priority Funding Areas Act of 1997.

We find the amendments to be consistent with our programs and policies and the 2030 PlanHoward Comprehensive Plan.

If you have any questions please call Steve Allan, regional planner for Howard County at 410-767-4572.

Sincerely,

Charles Boyd, AICP  
Deputy Director of Planning Coordination

Cc: Greg Golden, DNR  
Dwight Dotterer, MDA  
Steve Allan, Planning  
John Leocha, Planning

**STATE OF MARYLAND  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
WATER MANAGEMENT ADMINISTRATION  
WATER SUPPLY PROGRAM**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Daniel Laird  
**THROUGH:** Saeid Kasraei *Saeid*  
**FROM:** Zoë Goodson *ZG*  
**DATE:** August 17, 2016  
**SUBJECT:** Howard County 2015 plan

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The Water Supply Program has the following comments for the subject plan:

Specific projects to add more elevated water storage, in addition to the proposed 2.0 MG Guilford elevated tank described on page 3-21, should be considered. The importance of more elevated water storage has been noted in past sanitary surveys of the Howard County DPW system. Table 8 "Immediate, 5 Year, 10 Year, and Comprehensive Priorities for Water System Development" itemizes a project to improve system redundancy-- does this include more elevated water storage? Additionally, Table 6A "Public Water Storage Facilities" lists the proposed Guilford elevated tank capacity as 2.5 MG. Please address this discrepancy.

Page 3-13: Under "Groundwater Supply," please explain the reasoning behind not allowing future community water systems with groundwater supplies within Howard County. Given the nature of groundwater quality in Howard County, as described in this section, a regulated community water supply with appropriate treatment has potential public health benefits over individual private wells.

Page 3-17: Under "Other Supply," Fort Meade no longer withdrawals from the Little Patuxent River for its water treatment facility; rather, it strictly withdraws groundwater. The surface water Appropriation Permit AA1969S021 has been inactivated.

Page 3-29: It was mentioned that increased tank turnover models showed positive results on reducing water age. Are there planned projects to add tank mixers in the elevated storage tanks? Are chlorine booster stations being considered for zones with the highest water age, such as the 730 and 630 South zones? Low chlorine residuals at these zones were noted in past sanitary surveys. Additionally, adding backfeed lines with pressure reducing valves from the 630 South zone to the 550 II zone, and from the 730 zone to the 630 West zone (similar to the setup at Whiskey Bottom), could be considered to help with water age in the 630 South and 730 zones and allow for more system-wide elevated storage capacity.