



Howard County

Internal Memorandum

Subject: Testimony on SAO 3 Fiscal Year 2017

To: Lonnie R. Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: James M. Irvin, Director
Department of Public Works

Date: February 21, 2017

Enhance Nutrient Removal-(ENR) Grant

By the passage of Senate Bill 320 in 2004, funding was provided to the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund to fund the construction of Enhance Nutrient Removal, (ENR) at various wastewater treatment plants. The Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant was included. The County has built such enhancements and almost all of the funding for construction was provided by the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Fund, funds that have been collected from County Residents on the water and sewer bill.

House Bill 466 was passed during the 2012 General Assembly session and doubled the fee. HB 466 also created opportunities for grant awards to utilities that operated ENR to cover operations and maintenance costs that meet certain performance goals. The County has met those goals and submitted grant requests.

Operating the Little Patuxent Water Reclamation Plant at the high performance levels necessary for receiving the grant is challenging and not knowing if and when the State would actually award such grants we do not budget for the grant. We were successful in meeting the high performance standards necessary for the grant and have been awarded two grants, each for \$300,000 for a total of \$600,000.