



HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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Subject: County Council Resolution Approving the 2011
Amendments to the Howard County Master Plan
For Water and Sewerage- Testimony

Memo to: Lonnie Robbins
Chief Administrative Officer

From: James M. Irvin
Director

Presented below is our testimony on the County Council resolution for approval of the 2011 Amendments to the Master Plan for Water and Sewerage.

In accordance with State law, each County in the State of Maryland must develop a Master Plan, at least triennially, which provides for the orderly expansion of the local public water and sewerage systems. A major Master Plan Amendment was last adopted by the County Council in 2008. The 2011 Amendment will replace the 2008 Master Plan in its entirety.

The 2011 Amendment was submitted to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) in Nov. 2011, the submission date set by MDE. MDE reviewed the Amendment and sent comments to the County in February, 2012. The County responded to MDE's comment in March 2012, and MDE subsequently approved the Amendment. The 2011 Amendment to the Master Plan was recommended for submission to the County Council on May 8, 2012 by the Public Works Board; was recommended for approval by the Planning Board on June 7, 2012; and was approved by the Maryland Department of the Environment on June 25, 2012.

State Regulations require that the Master Plan be prepared as a tool for implementation of County development policy. Preparation of the 2011 Amendment was coordinated with staff from the Department of Planning and Zoning and based on population and commercial development projections from the updates to the 2000 General Plan. Also, specific areas were placed in the Planned Service Area to match amendments to the Planned Service Area in the General Plan as amended through April, 2011. Service priorities for the remainder of the Planned Service Area were revised when appropriate to reflect new development since the last Plan update.

The Plan text was also updated to reflect the progress of projects for future water supply and sewage treatment needs within the County and outside of the County including improvements to the Western Third Zone water supply and expansion of the Patapsco Wastewater Treatment Plant being built in coordination with Baltimore County and City.

As part of the preparation process, the Master Plan has been reviewed by the Department of Planning and Zoning, County Health Department, and other Bureau's within the Department of Public Works. The comments received from these agencies have been incorporated into the plan.

cc : Stephen Gerwin
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