



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

Jul 20, 2023

Mr. Joseph J. Siemek, P.E.
Director of Public Works
Harford County
212 South Bond Street, 3rd floor
Bel Air, MD 21014

Dear Mr. Siemek:

This letter acknowledges the Maryland Department of the Environment's (Department) receipt of Harford County's 2022 Financial Assurance Plan (FAP), and 2022 Watershed Protection and Restoration Program (WPRP) Annual Report as required by the Annotated Code of Maryland. This FAP submission includes information on the cost of compliance with the impervious surface restoration plan (ISRP) requirements outlined in the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit.

The ISRP, when sufficiently funded, is essential for restoring local water quality and the Chesapeake Bay, and providing climate resiliency in the County's watersheds. The FAPs are sufficient if they demonstrate that the County has the dedicated revenues, funds, or sources of funds to meet, for the 2-year period immediately following the filing date of the FAP, 100% of the projected costs of compliance with the ISRP requirements of the County's MS4 permit.

After reviewing the County's 2022 FAP, the Department has determined that the County has demonstrated that it has sufficient funding in its FAP. The Department has provided more detailed comments in an attachment for the County's information and use. The County's next WPRP Annual Report will be due in coordination with its next MS4 Annual Report, and its FAP will be due in coordination with the 2024 MS4 Annual Report.

The Department recognizes the substantial effort required in developing these FAPs and WPRP Annual Reports, and looks forward to working with the County on this very important environmental program for improving water quality, stormwater management, and climate resiliency. If you have any questions regarding this review, please contact me at 410-537-3567 or Jennifer M. Smith at 410-537-3561, or jenniferm.smith@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,


D. Lee Currey (Jul 20, 2023 18:36 EDT)

D. Lee Currey
Director, Water and Science Administration

cc: Jennifer M. Smith, P.E., Program Manager, Stormwater, Dam Safety, and Flood Management Program
Christine Buckley, Program Manager, Watershed Protection and Restoration Office

Attachment

**Maryland Department of the Environment's (MDE) Review of
Harford County's 2022 Financial Assurance Plan (FAP)**

Plan Condition	MDE Assessment and Recommendations
<p>Demonstration of Sufficient Funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harford County submitted a draft of its FAP on December 31, 2022. • A public hearing was held for the FAP on April 4, 2023 and the County Council voted on the Resolution approving the FAP on April 11, 2023. • The FAP demonstrated sufficient funding for the projected Impervious Surface Restoration Plan (ISRP) costs for the next two-year period (i.e., FY2023-FY2024).
<p>Actions to Meet Permit Requirements</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plan included an Executive Summary. • The “All Actions” worksheet included best management practices (BMPs) and associated costs for FY2023 to FY2027. • For the next two years (FY2023-FY2024), the County reported 280 acres of replacement BMPs and 70 acres of annual programmatic BMPs to be continued from the previous permit. The County reported 725 and 538 acres in nutrient trades in FY2023 and FY2024, respectively. Restoration implementation for new permit requirements is not planned until 2026.
<p>Annual and Projected Costs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “All Actions” worksheet indicated that the projected cost for continued obligations to be implemented over the next two fiscal years (FY2023-FY2024) is \$10.0 million. • In the “ISRP Cost” worksheet, costs were reported through FY2027, and the cost for the next two years is \$21.7 million.
<p>Annual and Projected Revenues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “ISRP Revenue” worksheet included projected revenues through FY2027. • The County reported that revenue for FY2023 and FY2024 (\$24.6 million) is greater than the projected ISRP costs (\$21.7 million).
<p>Funding Sources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the “Fund Sources” worksheet, fund sources were projected through FY2027. • Sources of funds for the next two years included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General Obligation Bonds = \$17.1 million ○ Recordation Tax – Operating = \$4.8 million ○ State Grants = \$4.0 million ○ Recordation Tax – Capital = \$1.8 million ○ Recordation Tax – Interest = \$1.3 million ○ Total Funding Sources = \$28.9 million
<p>Specific Actions and Expenditures from Previous Fiscal Years</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The “Completed Actions” worksheet included BMPs and expenditures for 551.4 acres of restoration completed between FY2020 through FY2022 and 818 acres of nutrient trades in FY2022 to meet continued obligations. • The County is reminded that specific BMP types should be reported in the “Completed Actions” worksheet.