

City of Alexandria, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: APRIL 11, 2003
TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL
FROM: PHILIP SUNDERLAND, CITY MANAGER
SUBJECT: BUDGET MEMO '24 : UPDATE OF THE CITY'S EFFORT TO INITIATE A STREAM VALLEY STUDY (COUNCILMAN SPECK'S REQUEST)

This memorandum is in response to Councilman Speck's request for staff to provide information regarding the City's ongoing efforts to initiate a Stream Survey and Assessment. This assessment will assist the City to comply with Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase II Permit, help prioritize stream and floodway maintenance activities, identify opportunities for stream restoration and collect data to help evaluate the health of streams in the City.

DISCUSSION: At the April 2, 2003 Budget hearing, Ellen Pickering recommended the City conduct a stream valley study. The Department of Transportation & Environmental Services Division of Environmental Quality intends to initiate a Stream Survey and Assessment Project in the summer of 2003. This project will involve compiling a database of the City's streams, channels, lakes, and ponds. Stream surveys will be undertaken to identify storm sewer outfall locations, structures (such as weirs) and stream maintenance needs, and to collect data to evaluate the health of City streams. This information will support the following City programs:

- Article XIII (Environmental Management) of the City's Zoning Ordinance, which regulates storm water discharges from development sites in order to comply with Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act, including updating the City's Chesapeake Bay Ordinance;
Alexandria's NPDES MS4 Phase II Permit from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality;
Stream restoration and other environmental restoration opportunities; and
Identification and prioritization of stream and floodway maintenance needs.

Since this Stream Survey and Assessment Project will directly support several existing City programs, funding for this effort will be achieved by compiling funds from the following existing capital improvement projects: the NPDES MS4 Phase II Project; the Environmental Restoration Project; and the Channel Restoration Project. No additional funding beyond what is already proposed in the FY 2004 - FY 2009 Capital Improvement Program is needed to implement this project.

STAFF:

Mark Jinks, Assistant City Manager

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Tom Culpepper, Deputy Director, T&ES