



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 23, 2024

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Bryan J. Hill
County Executive *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Update on the Countywide Flood Risk Reduction Policy

In this memorandum, Fairfax County (County) staff provide an interim update on completed actions and on the recommended projects, programs, and policies to reduce flood risk Countywide. As summarized in the table below, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), the Department of Land Development Services (LDS), the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), and the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) worked together to identify risk reduction strategies. Risk reduction strategies are grouped into three categories: projects, programs, and policies (regulations), that complement each other to reduce flood risk. This memorandum updates the County's work to date and the recommended actions to continue to reduce flood risk to structures from the 100-year storm adjusted for climate change. The addendum at the end of this memorandum describes the supporting analyses and definitions.

Department	General Flood-Related County Responsibility
Planning and Development	Administration and updates to Comprehensive Plan, Zoning Ordinance
Public Works and Environmental Services	Flood Response, floodplain mapping, National Flood Insurance Program administration, planning and implementation of capital and maintenance projects for stormwater infrastructure including flood control devices
Land Development Services	County Floodplain Administrator, application of Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance at site-related plan submission, permitting authority
Office of Environment and Energy Coordination	Climate action and resiliency planning, including Resilient Fairfax and the Communitywide Energy and Climate Action Plan

Staff recommends discussing the following strategies with the Board of Supervisors (Board) to minimize structural flooding risk from the 100-year storm adjusted for climate change addendum to this memorandum contains the details of these recommendations:

- Continue with the current \$95 million of planned Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) projects to minimize documented structural flood risk already underway. Staff estimate of 10 years to complete.
- Staff estimate an additional \$600 million of projects beyond the existing CIP are needed to minimize existing, documented structural flood risk for all properties. At current staffing and funding, flood risk for all of these structures will not be reduced until the year 2094.
- Continue to fund and expand existing grant programs and initiate new grant programs, to meet demand. This will require funding.
- Identify program management details and funding for a sustained, voluntary property acquisition program with targeted outreach for properties most at risk.
- Identify where the County should obtain additional storm drainage easements and assume maintenance responsibility. This will require additional staff and funding.
- Enhance floodplain mapping to identify risk from rainfall adjusted for climate change, sea level rise from climate change, and ultimate buildout conditions. This will require technical analysis and policy changes.
- Update regulations to require additional flood control measures for developers. This will require the Board to adopt new regulations.
- Impervious areas increase flooding even more than changes in precipitation patterns driven by climate change.
- Solicit for entities to assist with targeted community outreach to vulnerable communities. This will require staff and funding.

If you have questions or would like additional information about the Countywide Flood Risk Reduction Program, please contact Eleanor Ku Codding, DPWES Deputy Director via email at eleanor.codding@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Attachment: Addendum

cc: Rachel Flynn, Deputy County Executive
Christopher Herrington, Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)
William D. Hicks, Director, Land Division Services (LDS)
Tracy Strunk, Director, Department of Planning Division (DPD)
John Morrill, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)
Eleanor Ku Codding, Deputy Director, DPWES
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Kirsten Munz, Division Director, LDS Permitting and Code Administration
Katherine Hermann, DPD Environmental Branch Chief
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