



## COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM UPDATES

(As of 3/16/17)

### General Water Resources:

Updates on work supported by COG's RWQM Work Program and other water-related activities supported by COG's Department of Environmental Programs

Water Quality	COG Contact
<p>COG staff will be assessing the District and Virginia 2016 Water Quality Assessment Integrated reports once they have been finalized.</p> <p>Virginia just finished approving the 2014 version last year (with 2014 data) and is currently working on the 2016 report:  <a href="http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/WaterQualityAssessments/2014305(b)303(d)IntegratedReport.aspx">http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterQualityInformationTMDLs/WaterQualityAssessments/2014305(b)303(d)IntegratedReport.aspx</a></p> <p>District's 2016 version has been finalized:  <a href="https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/publication/attachments/2016%20Final%20IR.pdf">https://doee.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ddoe/publication/attachments/2016%20Final%20IR.pdf</a></p> <p>Note that Maryland's Draft Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality – 2016 is available to download:  <a href="http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/2016IR.aspx">http://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Water/TMDL/Integrated303dReports/Pages/2016IR.aspx</a></p>	<p>Christine Howard            (202) 962-3366  <a href="mailto:cdhoward@mwkog.org">cdhoward@mwkog.org</a></p>
<p><b>Water Infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>DC Water Leverages Their AAA Bond Rating and GB1 Green Bond Rating to Issue \$300 Million in Bonds</b></p> <p>On February 1, DC Water announced that due to its strong credit rating, it will be issuing \$300 Million in tax-exempt, fixed rate bonds. A portion of the proceeds from the bonds will be used to finance the DC Clean Rivers Project, and the remaining proceeds will assist DC Water with critical capital investment projects at a low cost. For more information:  <a href="https://www.dewater.com/whats-going-on/news/dc-water-leverages-stellar-aaa-credit-rating-and-gb1-green-bond-rating-300">https://www.dewater.com/whats-going-on/news/dc-water-leverages-stellar-aaa-credit-rating-and-gb1-green-bond-rating-300</a></p>	<p>Tanya Spano            (202) 962-3776  <a href="mailto:tspano@mwkog.org">tspano@mwkog.org</a></p>
<p><b>RWFFM &amp; Round 9.0 Updates</b></p> <p>In November of 2016, COG produced initial wastewater flow projections for the Blue Plains Service Area using COG's adopted Round 9.0 Cooperative Forecast data. Based on a review by Blue Plains Committee members, it was agreed that COG should also develop an RFP to update and re-evaluate the overall flow projection methodology over the coming year... COG will be presenting the regional wastewater flow projections, as well as the proposed updates to the forecasting methodology at the next WRTC meeting.</p> <p><b>WWTP GIS-Related Mapping Effort.</b></p> <p>COG is working on a new mapping effort that involves analyzing the newly issued Chesapeake Bay watershed GIS layers for the COG region. COG staff will be reviewing these GIS layers and working with COG members to verify WWTP service areas, CSO areas, and MS4/stormwater areas to ensure their accuracy.</p>	<p>Tanya Spano            (202) 962-3776  <a href="mailto:tspano@mwkog.org">tspano@mwkog.org</a></p> <p>Nasser Ameen            (202) 962-3394  <a href="mailto:ameen@mwkog.org">ameen@mwkog.org</a></p>

COG will use this information to produce updated maps and share them with the WRTC at an upcoming meeting.

**Maryland General Assembly Bills Address the Label for Disposable Wipes**

Via SB 280/HB 1239 the Maryland General Assembly is confronting the issue of improper labeling and advertising of disposable wipes as “flushable.” Non-woven wipes that are flushed result in costly clogs to sewer pipes and wastewater pump systems. The CBPC member wastewater utilities have testified and the CBPC wrote a letter in support of these bills. Senate Bill 280 passed, and the hearing on the House bill was held on March 15<sup>th</sup>. If these bills pass, Maryland would join the District of Columbia in requiring wipes sold in the state to either meet a flush ability standard or requiring the wipes that do not meet the standard to be clearly labeled as non-flushable.

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**Stormwater**

**MS4 Permitting Developments**

**Maryland** - In late December, the Maryland Department of the Environment issued its draft General Permit for Phase 2 MS4 permit holders (municipalities with populations of less than 100,000). The permit includes a requirement for restoring 20 percent of a permittee’s currently untreated impervious area by 2025. COG staff is tracking comments on the permit being prepared by the Maryland Municipal League and other entities.

**Virginia** - In Virginia, local government staff in conjunction with the Virginia Municipal Stormwater Association are working with Virginia DEQ staff to develop the requirements of the next MS4 Phase 2 General Permit in Virginia, which is due to be issued in the summer of 2018 and covers several COG members. The new permit is expected to set policy for the next tier of stormwater nutrient reductions required under Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP).

**District** - EPA issued a new draft MS4 permit for the District of Columbia in November. COG will host a technical briefing on the terms of this permit on April 3 to share the District’s experiences and proposed permit conditions with the WRTC’s stormwater staff.

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**Drinking Water**

**Current Water Supply and Drought Conditions - March 2017**

NOAA has designated parts of the Potomac Basin in differing drought conditions. The February 28, 2017 NOAA Potomac Basin Drought Monitor Report designated areas as:

- 36% is not dry
- 35% is abnormally dry
- 18% is in moderate drought status
- 11% is in severe drought status

Driest conditions are primarily located in the District, Alexandria, and Montgomery, Fairfax, Arlington and Prince William Counties. Abnormal dryness has the potential, depending on the amount of spring rains, to slow planting and growth of crops or pastures.

Normal conditions are found in the upper Potomac Basin that feeds our drinking water supplies. Stream and river flows are below average but are sufficient for normal drinking water withdrawals and flows needed to support environmental stream conditions.

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The drought designations are primarily due to lower than normal soil moisture levels. Future, near-term rain amounts could affect agriculture and landscaping in localized areas.

Note that the latest seasonal drought outlook states that our region should be free of drought by May and all drinking water and water supply reservoirs are full.

COG will continue to track conditions and provide updates throughout the month. Please visit COG's Current Drought Conditions website for additional information: <https://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/water-resources/drinking-water-and-drought-monitoring/current-drought-conditions/>

**Climate, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related**

**Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Study**

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is serving as the non-federal sponsor for an Army Corps of Engineers Coast Storm Risk Management Study which will investigate flood risks in the vicinity of the region's tidal areas, and identify potential solutions to protect the vulnerable infrastructure assets upon which the region relies. The effort would build on existing studies.

COG is working with the Corps to develop a draft outline of the project scope and budget and working with potential partners to identify cost-share funding for the study. The \$3 million study requires 50% cost-share (\$1.5 million) over the next three years. The study will provide a comprehensive coastal flood risk assessment that will provide more detailed analysis than previous efforts.

The CBPC and CEEPC members will be briefed on the proposed study and next steps at the March meeting.

**Fleets for the Future: Cooperative Purchase of Alternative Fuel Vehicles**

COG and the Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (MAPT) is partnering with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) on a US Department of Energy award winning project called [Fleets for the Future \(F4F\)](#) to develop and implement five regional and one national scale procurement for alternative fuel vehicles and refueling/charging infrastructure. The purpose of the effort is to reduce the incremental cost of commercially available alternative, clean fuel vehicles and supporting infrastructure in regional markets and nationwide.

Eligible public and non-profit fleets in the Mid-Atlantic region include local, state, and municipal governments, school districts and universities, and public electric **and water/wastewater utilities**. Eligible vehicle types are light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles. Fuel types include plug-in electric vehicles, compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, and ethanol (E85). Eligible infrastructure includes Level 2 and DC fast charging (DCFC), compressed natural gas, propane (LPG), and E85. This is a two-year funded project expected to provide participating governments and stakeholders long lasting cost-saving benefits. For more information, contact Leah Boggs at [lboggs@mwcog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwcog.org) go to <http://www.fleetsforthefuture.org/>.

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**Upcoming Meetings and Events**  
April (Date TBD) – WRTC Meeting  
May 19<sup>th</sup> – CBPC Meeting & Stormwater Tour