

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING A FEDERAL WATER FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE METROPOLITAN
WASHINGTON REGION AS PART OF THE 2022 WATER RESOURCES AND DEVELOPMENT ACT**

WHEREAS, the Potomac River supplies 78 percent of the metropolitan Washington region's drinking water; and

WHEREAS, public water suppliers in the metropolitan Washington region utilize the Potomac River as a source of raw water and distribute treated water to homes, businesses, and critical government facilities, serving five million residents and over three million workers in the District and surrounding Maryland and Virginia jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has provided treated water to the District of Columbia and parts of Northern Virginia since the time of the Civil War, ensuring that the seat of government is supplied with a reliable and safe source of water for drinking, sanitation and fire suppression; and

WHEREAS, threats to the region's water supply such as severe droughts due to climate change, accidental spills polluting the Potomac River, and other risks, could all result in a complete loss of Potomac River water supply and severe regional water shortages; and

WHEREAS, COG's Region United Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030 calls for integrated planning to achieve goals for high capacity transit, housing targets, and sustainability in our region, all of which depend upon a resilient and abundant regional water supply; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020 the Board adopted Resolution R45-2020 endorsing climate resilience goals of becoming a Climate Ready Region by 2030 and fully Resilient Region by 2050, and strong actions are needed to meet the region's climate mitigation and resiliency goals, including actions to improve regional water supply resilience against drought and other climate threats; and

WHEREAS, the 2022 USACE Report to Congress on Future Water Resource Development identified the metropolitan Washington region as eligible for authorization of a feasibility study in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) 2022 to address the Washington Aqueduct's current single source for water and significantly improve the region's security and resilience; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that the feasibility study results will include recommendations for improving water supply resilience in the metropolitan Washington region, such as off-river water storage options identified in previous studies carried out by COG and others; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. House of Representatives included authorization for a study in its version of WRDA 2022 (H.R. 7776), which passed on June 8, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The Board strongly supports provisions of the U.S. House of Representatives WRDA 2022 bill (H.R. 7776) that authorize a study of water supply, including the identification of a secondary water source and additional water storage capability for the metropolitan Washington region, and urges the Congress to authorize and appropriate funding for this study. The board directs the Executive Director, or his designee, to send a letter to leadership of the appropriate congressional committees stating COG's support for authorization and appropriation of federal funding for a study of water supply. Furthermore, after the water supply study is completed and a preferred alternative is identified, the Board authorizes COG to work with other partners in a coalition to obtain full project approval, funding, and subsequent project execution to mitigate threats to and improve resilience of the region's water supply.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors
September 14, 2022
Janele Partman
COG Communications Specialist**