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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
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September 10, 2021

Jessica Lassetter
Senior Environmental Specialist
Division of Stormwater Management
Department of Transportation & Environmental Services
2900 B Business Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22314

RE: City of Alexandria Resilience Plan Submission - CFPPF

Dear Ms. Lassetter,

Thank you for providing an overview of your Resilience Plan, and informing DCR of the various plans that the City of Alexandria will be utilizing to fulfill the Resilience Plan submission requirements. After careful review and consideration, the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation has deemed the Plan complete and meets all the criteria outlined in the June 2021 Community Flood Preparedness Grant Manual. This approval will remain in effect for a period of three years, ending on September 13, 2024.

The following elements were evaluated as part of this review:

1. Element 1: It is project-based with projects focused on flood control and resilience. DCR RESPONSE

Meets criteria as written.

- a. Project-based: Several projects are proposed within the *Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017)*, the *FY 2022 - FY 2031 Stormwater Management Utility Ten-Year Plan*, the *City of Alexandria Storm Sewer Capacity Analysis (CASSCA, 2016)*, the *City of Alexandria Environmental Action Plan 2040*, the *Alexandria Waterfront Small Area Plan*, and in *Flood Action Alexandria*. The proposed projects cover various scopes, both in scale and location across the City of Alexandria, and combine to assist the City of Alexandria with continued flood control and resilience across the entirety of the community. Smaller scale projects with a more confined scope such as *The Four Mile Run Restoration Masterplan* and *Tidal Restoration Demonstration Project*, are also presented.

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*State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Outdoor Recreation Planning
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

2. Element 2: It incorporates nature-based infrastructure to the maximum extent possible. DCR RESPONSE

Meets criteria as written.

- a. Task 4, sections 4.1 through 4.9 of the *2016 City of Alexandria Storm Sewer Capacity Analysis* identifies multiple green infrastructure solutions for flood-prone areas within each of 7 watersheds that feed the Potomac. In section 6 (*Alternatives Analysis and Prioritization*) of each watershed analysis, green infrastructure solutions are evaluated for problem areas according to efficacy in decreasing overall flood duration and capacity, as well as their cost-effectiveness. Green infrastructure solutions for each of the watersheds were typically rated highly in these analyses and suggested for prioritization.

3. Element 3: It includes considerations of all parts of a locality regardless of socioeconomics or race. DCR RESPONSE

Meets criteria as written.

- a. All parts of a locality:
The City of Alexandria recently launched ALL Alexandria – Achieving Racial and Social Equity to ensure that all parts of a locality are considered in the planning process regardless of socioeconomics or race. Additionally, the multiple plans that were provided in support of the resilience plan submission encompass the entire locality of the City of Alexandria.
- b. Social vulnerability:
STAPLE/E assessments used to address vulnerabilities within each jurisdiction in the *Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017)*. Additionally, Alexandria City Council adopted the Eco-City Charter, which outlines Alexandria’s commitment to ecological, economic, and social sustainability.
- c. Demographic Analysis:
Demographics, population and economic growth projections captured in the *Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017)*.

4. Element 4: It includes coordination with other local and inter-jurisdictional projects, plans, and activities and has a clearly articulated timeline or phasing for plan implementation. DCR RESPONSE

Meets criteria as written.

- a. Coordination with other local and inter-jurisdictional projects, plans and activities:
Inter-jurisdictional coordination with projects, plans, and activities cited in the *Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan (2017)*.

- b. Clearly articulated timeline or phasing plan for implementation:
Timelines and phasing plans for individual projects can be found throughout the submitted Resilience Plan materials, but there does not appear to be an overarching timeline or phasing plan for implementing a city-wide flood resilience strategy.

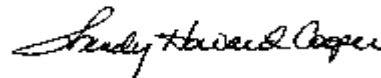
5. Element 5: Is based on the best available science, and incorporates climate change, sea level rise, storm surge (where appropriate), and current flood maps.

Meets criteria as written.

- a. Sea level rise projections, and climate change incorporated into the strategic approach presented in the *Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan*. Climate change was also considered in the *FY 2022 - FY 2031 Stormwater Management Utility Ten-Year Plan*. Sea level rise projections were incorporated into the modeling utilized in the *City of Alexandria Storm Sewer Capacity Analysis (CASSCA, 2016)*. The primary focus of the *City of Alexandria Environmental Action Plan 2040* is centered on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Energy and Climate Change Action Plan was developed in 2012 and is currently being revised to include the latest climate change, sea level rise, storm surge, and current flood maps.

VA DCR looks forward to working with you as you work to make the City of Alexandria a more resilient community. If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact us at cfpf@dcr.virginia.gov. Again, thank you for your interest in the Community Flood Preparedness Fund.

Sincerely,



Wendy Howard Cooper, Director
Dam Safety and Floodplain Management

cc: Darryl M. Glover, DCR