



Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Serena McIlwain, Secretary
Suzanne E. Dorsey, Deputy Secretary

Date: October 25, 2023

To: Christopher J. Victoria,
Anne Arundel County Department of Public Works,
Bureau of Watershed Protection and Restoration

From: Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) – Stormwater Dam Safety, and Flood Management Program (SDSFMP) and Watershed Protection, Restoration, and Planning Program (WPRPP)

Subject: Approval of Assessment of Controls Watershed Assessment Monitoring Requirements for Anne Arundel County's Comprehensive Plan for Watershed Monitoring: Biological and Habitat Monitoring

Thank you for sharing Anne Arundel County's biological monitoring plan covering the Watershed Assessment and Trends portion of your MS4 NPDES Permit. The Department has completed review of the revised *Anne Arundel County Comprehensive Plan for Watershed Assessment Monitoring: Biological and Habitat Monitoring* and the additional information provided to MDE on October 6, 2023. **The Department finds that the Plan meets the essential components as required in PART IV.G (Assessment of Controls) of the County's permit (Permit 20-DP-3316 MD0068306) and is therefore approved.** While the plan is of sufficient quality for the County to begin moving forward with its monitoring plans, the Department does have additional recommendations for improvement, which are outlined in Attachment A to this letter.

For your awareness, MDE and/or MDE's partner, MDDNR, may conduct additional review of the County's Monitoring Plan documents, Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs), or other submitted documentation in order to evaluate the suitability of the County's monitoring data for purposes beyond MS4 permit compliance. Such purposes may include assessments for the Integrated Report of Surface Water Quality, Biological Stressor Identification, or other modeling efforts. If this additional review determines that the monitoring data collected cannot be used by MDE for state- or watershed-wide analysis, any further recommended changes suggested by MDE or MDDNR to the County's Monitoring Plan or the proposed monitoring methodology are considered optional and are not required under the MS4 permit.

If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Bel Martinez da Matta at maria.martinezdamatta@maryland.gov and Shannon McKenrick at shannon.mckenrick@maryland.gov for clarifications.

**Attachment A: WPRPP Recommendations for Improvement to Anne Arundel County's
*Comprehensive Plan for Watershed Assessment Monitoring: Biological and Habitat Monitoring***

The County has generously offered to provide the complete habitat assessment data, encompassing all metrics gathered during both spring and summer. This supplemental dataset will greatly facilitate the Department's comprehensive analysis of the County's data, enabling cross-jurisdictional and MBSS data comparisons. The Department enthusiastically accepts this offer and would like to propose an optional addition: recording in situ environmental data (temperature, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, and conductivity) during both seasons and sharing all corresponding records. It is important to emphasize that, with this suggestion, the Department has no intent to impose any additional burden on the County's monitoring efforts.