

SB 407 - FAV - MML.pdf

Uploaded by: Angelica Bailey

Position: FAV



Maryland Municipal League

The Association of Maryland's Cities and Towns

TESTIMONY

February 15, 2023

Committee: Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment

Bill: SB 407 - Drinking Water – Innovative Potable Reuse Pilot Program

Position: Support

Reason for Position:

The Maryland Municipal League supports Senate Bill 407, which creates opportunities to explore turning reclaimed water into drinking water through a reuse permit pilot program.

Worsening climate change is a threat to the availability of safe drinking water across the globe; locally, water capacity issues often limit growth and redevelopment. This bill proposes innovative solutions that could help water capacity issues throughout the state in an environmentally sensitive way, charting a path for other towns and cities. Though most of Maryland's municipalities are not prepared to take advantage of this pilot program, MML feels strongly that this bill is a step in a very promising direction.

As such, the League respectfully requests that this committee provide SB 407 with a favorable report.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SB407WaterReuse.pdf

Uploaded by: Justin Ready

Position: FAV

JUSTIN READY
Legislative District 5
Carroll County

—
MINORITY WHIP
—
Finance Committee



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THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

SB407– Drinking Water - Innovative Potable Reuse Pilot Program – Establishment

Chair Feldman, Vice-Chair Kagan, and members of the Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee:

Today, I want to introduce Senate Bill 407, a collaboration of Maryland Department of the Environment, the City of Westminster, University of Maryland, and a reputable engineering firm's now completed pilot program for water reuse. SB 407 is necessary to clarify in law how MDE should regulate water reuse for Westminster and many other areas now investigating this idea.

Westminster is on the forefront indirect potable water reuse in Maryland – this technology has the potential to stop discharge into our waterways, recycle water and ensure safe water is available when there are shortages or drought.

There are significant sponsor amendments that are the result of the City of Westminster working in collaboration with MDE and other agencies to correctly define the parameters for permitting and regulating this new innovative program.

I respectfully request a favorable vote on SB 407

City of Westminster drought newspaper articles 2-1

Uploaded by: Sara Imhulse

Position: FAV

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February 14, 2023

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 207 Drinking Water – Innovative Potable Reuse Pilot Program – Establishment

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

The City of Westminster is writing to encourage you to support SB 407, which will offer the City of Westminster residents and businesses a new water source to address long-standing drought issues.

Attached please find the following newspaper articles that outline the drought conditions that the region and the State experienced in 1999 – 2002.

- LeDuc, Daniel, (August 8, 1999). Glendening Taking the Heat. Washington Post, page C1.
- LeDuc, Daniel, (July 30, 1999). Statewide Water Emergency Declared in Maryland. Washington Post, page A1
- Hartl, Boris, (February 21, 2002). Dry Winter Fuels Drought Concerns: Observers Say Only Rain Can Forestall More Restrictions. Carroll County Times, pages A1 and A7.
- Miller, Carrie Ann (February 21, 2002). Driller Report Failing Wells. Carroll County Times, pages A1 and A7.

These drought conditions are the very heart of why the City of Westminster needs a permanent, City-owned and maintained water source, such as water reuse. SB 407 will provide us with that opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sara Imhulse
City Administrator

Glendening Taking the Heat

By Daniel LeDuc
Washington Post Staff Writer
Sunday, August 8, 1999; Page C1

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On Our Site

- **Special Report:**
[The Drought of '99](#)

Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening's decision last week to impose the first mandatory water restrictions in state history has again thrust him into the national spotlight as debate sharpens over whether he needed to apply them across the whole state.

His move to ban most outside water use won wide praise from conservationists as he became the first governor this year to mandate limits statewide. He appeared on "CBS This Morning," made the front page of the New York Times, and reporters from as far as Tokyo sought him out.

But his decision angered many citizens and led to second-guessing from some local officials in Prince George's County and Northern Virginia, which joins the Washington suburbs in drawing water from the Potomac River. Water supplies are not the same throughout Maryland, and tough restrictions did not have to be imposed statewide, they said.

Glendening (D) defended his actions, saying it is important to err on the side of caution.

"I just can't imagine what I'd say to Marylanders three months from now if we had less water or water contamination," Glendening said in an interview. "If we get the rains, I'd rather face a few people who are irritated because they lost some shrubbery."

No one outside Glendening's administration urged him to take the steps he did, not the managers of the state's water systems or other elected leaders.

"It's inappropriate to be lumping the [Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission] and Montgomery and Prince George's counties in with other jurisdictions when they may have separate and distinct problems," said Maryland House Minority Whip Del. Robert L. Flanagan (R-Howard). "There's something about Parris Glendening that he likes to tell people what to do."

Glendening has acted boldly and been rewarded for it in the past. He closed part of the Potomac River just before Labor Day weekend in 1997 when the toxic microbe *Pfiesteria piscicida* killed fish and sickened people. Critics questioned the need then, but only weeks later he received national praise for his handling of an environmental crisis.

“I would rank this up with the challenge of pfiesteria because it affects so many people and the implications are long-term,” Glendening said in an interview before leaving this weekend for a meeting in St. Louis of the National Governors Association. He is expected to be elected vice chairman of the organization, putting him in line to chair the group next year.

Noting that he was in his second term and unable to seek reelection, Glendening said political considerations did not enter his calculations. Several political analysts said they saw little downside for Glendening.

“So long as it doesn’t impinge too much on lifestyles, I don’t think the public will object too much,” said Bethesda-based pollster Keith Haller. “There’s a striking similarity to what happened over pfiesteria. In that instance, the public rallied behind the governor. He was at odds with other state leaders [then] . . . and ultimately he seemed to take the smarter approach.”

Glendening won some vindication last week when the governors of Delaware and New Jersey followed his lead and imposed their own limits; much of Pennsylvania also is under strict water use prohibitions. His actions also have been supported by State Senate President Thomas V. Mike Miller Jr. (D-Prince George’s) and Maryland House Speaker Casper R. Taylor Jr. (D-Allegany).

The severity of the drought first struck Glendening during a late July meeting in Western Maryland with Gov. Cecil Underwood (R) of neighboring West Virginia. Underwood told him conditions were so dry just over the border that his state was pumping water from limestone caverns to increase supplies.

Within days, Glendening traveled to Southern Maryland and saw the parched farm fields there. At the same time, analysts at the state Department of the Environment, which routinely monitors water quality and supplies, began expressing caution about the cumulative effect of the lack of rain, low stream levels and the tapping of reservoirs. Dozens of small local water systems began reporting that they were calling for voluntary or mandatory restrictions.

The governor ordered his staff to give him a report. During the course of a July 28 briefing by the governor’s senior staff, word came that Baltimore Public Works Director George Balog told state officials the Baltimore region had just a 35-day water supply. (Balog later said that he was misunderstood and that the region really had a 60-day supply.)

That news changed the dynamic of the meeting, and Glendening ordered a drought task force created. Plans for a low-key Annapolis news conference to urge voluntary water cutbacks were scrapped in favor of a more attention-grabbing locale – Carroll County’s Liberty Reservoir, which is 24 feet below its normal level. The next day the governor announced that mandatory restrictions were all but certain – though he hoped they could be phased in.

The drought task force held two public meetings in the next several days, after which Glendening learned that conditions had worsened and that his task force was now recommending tougher restrictions than he had originally contemplated.

There was a risk in angering suburban Washington residents because the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission had more water in reserve than Baltimore, but Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan (D) had already called for voluntary restrictions July 12.

After meeting with his task force, Glendening went ahead Thursday with his water restrictions and warned they could be in place through the summer or longer depending upon the weather.

Some experts said his proactive stand made sense.

“The WSSC has plenty of reserve now,” said Kelly Enders, a spokeswoman for the American Waterworks Association, an international organization whose engineers work on water quality issues. But, “how much do we want to deplete our resources and put ourselves at risk six months or a year from now?”

Nevertheless, water commissioner Burton Rubin in Fairfax County, which also draws its water from the Potomac, said that Glendening’s actions were unnecessary and that he was perplexed why the governor was invoking them when reservoirs were still adequate. Prince George’s County Executive Wayne K. Curry (D) said he too believed the water supply was sufficient and ordered police not to fine violators.

Glendening said “a sense of fairness wishes we had uniform policy” across state borders in Virginia and the District, which have no restrictions except in Loudoun County. “But that’s up to the officials over there.” He said that if the Potomac drops farther, he intends to be “more insistent” in demanding cooperation from Virginia officials.

He said he had driven along the Potomac several days ago and was as concerned by the river’s low level as he was by the low amount of water in Baltimore’s reservoirs. Look, he said, leaning forward: “I would love for you and everyone else to write [in a few weeks] ‘Look at all the rain. The governor acted prematurely.’ But I don’t think that’s going to happen.”

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Statewide Water Emergency Declared in Maryland

By Daniel LeDuc

Washington Post Staff Writer

Friday, July 30, 1999; Page A1

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ELDERSBURG, Md., July 29— Maryland Gov. Parris N. Glendening declared a statewide emergency today to deal with the effects of the worst drought in 30 years and called on residents to voluntarily conserve water as he weighs imposing the state's first mandatory restrictions.

"We will have to have some mandatory restrictions. It will impact the average Marylander," Glendening said. "We expect the drought to get worse before we see relief. . . . We're all going to have to make sacrifices."

Withering Dry Spell

This year's drought in the Washington area is the second-worst since the government started keeping records in the 1800s.

Normal rainfall for a given year	38.63 in.
Worst drought: March 1930 to February 1931	20.09 in.
This year: August 1998 to July 1999	24.13 in.

SOURCE: National Weather Service

Commission said the river's supply of water was more than adequate to meet the needs of suburban residents through mid-November even if there is no additional rain.

Still, Glendening said that he was concerned about the low level in the Potomac and that he was asking residents statewide to shoulder the drought's burden by not watering lawns or flowers, taking shorter showers and not washing cars. He said mandatory restrictions would be decided in the coming days after a panel of state officials, headed by Department of the Environment Secretary Jane Nishida, reports to him on Tuesday.

Glendening said he would impose any mandatory restrictions on a statewide basis initially. But he has asked officials to consider



Cleveland Marine fishes from the water-depleted Liberty Reservoir in Oakland, Md., on Thursday. (AP)

Glendening (D) made his announcement at the edge of the Liberty Reservoir in Carroll County, where water levels are 24 feet below normal. The reservoir serves much of the Baltimore area.

Conditions are not as dire in the Washington area, primarily because much of the region draws its water from the Potomac River. Though the Potomac is running at only half its usual volume, officials at the Washington Suburban Sanitary

whether any subsequent restrictions should be phased in on a regional basis based on local water supplies.

Any enforcement likely would be done with the help of local police departments, but Glendening said he hoped "most people will simply do the right thing."

This year's drought in Maryland is the second-worst since the government began keeping records in the 1880s. With rainfall as much as 50 percent below normal and the residual effects from the absence of rain last winter, Maryland has been among the hardest-hit drought areas in the nation.

The drought has shriveled corn, dropped rivers to record low levels, turned lawns rocklike and brown and prompted dozens of local jurisdictions to impose voluntary and, in some cases, mandatory water-use restrictions, banning car-washing and watering of lawns and gardens. Offenders are subject to fines.

Drought conditions also have hit Virginia, where it is "as dry as it's been since the 1930s, the Dust Bowl years," according to Al Peterlin, chief meteorologist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. But he said nowhere in Virginia is faring as badly as Maryland.

Glendening's legal authority for the emergency declaration is the same used for disasters such as floods, blizzards and riots. It allowed him to seek federal aid for farmers whose crops have been devastated by the drought and to spend \$3 million on state aid, which he said would be distributed "immediately."

Carroll County's Liberty Reservoir and two others serve 1.8 million people in the Baltimore region, including much of Howard and northern Anne Arundel counties. Unless there are serious water reductions or a significant rainfall, Glendening said, there is a 35-day water supply left at current consumption levels.

Howard County Public Works Director James M. Irvin said today that he had not been informed that the water supply was that low. The county receives water from Baltimore and the WSSC. "The last official word from them is everything's okay," he said.

Aides to Glendening said the 35-day estimate had been developed late Wednesday after experts reevaluated water supplies.

The governor said he was concerned about the low level of the Potomac, noting that its current flow was maintained only after being replenished for the first time ever by the Jennings Randolph Reservoir in Western Maryland.

But officials at the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin said heavy rain this week actually allowed them to scale back the release of water from the reservoir into the river. About 2.2 billion gallons have been released from the 13.4 billion-gallon reservoir this month. The replenishment was not necessary for consumers but to protect river wildlife, officials said.

Rainfall in Montgomery and Prince George's counties has been nearly 14 inches below normal in the past year, ranking them among the counties facing the worse deficits in rain.

Montgomery County Executive Douglas M. Duncan (D) called for countywide voluntary water-use reductions July 12. Residents have been urged to curtail lawn sprinkling and to take shorter showers, and the county is not washing firetrucks and is postponing controlled burns for firefighter training.

In Poolesville, which has been particularly hard hit, there are mandatory water restrictions in place. Several communities in Allegany, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Frederick, Washington and Wicomico counties also have mandatory bans.

Recommended Water Conservation Measures

- Do not water flowers or grass.
- Do not wash your car.
- Do not wash paved surfaces.
- Do not use water for ornamental fountains, waterfalls and reflecting pools.
- Do not use washing machines or dishwashers unless fully loaded.
- Do not water golf courses.
- Do not fill or top off swimming pools.
- Take shorter showers.
- Repair leaky faucets.

(Source: Maryland Department of the Environment)

In Virginia, Loudoun became the first county in the region to impose mandatory restrictions on water use last week. Fairfax City has asked residents to cut back voluntarily. Fifteen counties have sought assistance from the office of Gov. James S. Gilmore III (R) in obtaining federal disaster aid for farmers because of the drought.

Even if normal rainfall was to resume, Maryland and Virginia would get little drought relief, forecasters say, because the summertime evaporation rate exceeds the rainfall rate. The only way the region could climb out of its rainfall deficit would be to have a rainy winter or to have a tropical storm dump huge quantities of water, which could mean dangerous flooding.

As for the immediate weather future, National Weather Service meteorologist Dewey Walston holds out little hope for relief, noting that the forecast for the next 10 days calls for "more of the same -- hot and dry."

Staff writers D'Vera Cohn, Ann O'Hanlon, Linda Perlstein, Fern Shen and Scott Wilson contributed to this report.

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Parched Earth

Image 2 of 10

Canadian geese wade in Liberty Reservoir in Eldersburg, Md. This area of the reservoir is usually covered by at least six feet of water.



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Joe Giza — AP

[Story](#)

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Conservers say only rain can forestall more water restrictions

By **BORIS E. HARTL**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

The message from Carroll County and Baltimore officials is simple: Continue to voluntarily conserve water now, or suffer the consequences of possible mandatory water restrictions later.

With the region suffering from a dry winter and below-average rainfall accumulations, county leaders are urging voluntary conservation efforts to continue throughout the upcoming months. The aim is to lessen the blow of an impending severe drought that has affected much of the East Coast.

Deer Park weather observer Ralph Hartsock said no relief is in sight, and the Maryland Department of the Environment placed Carroll under a drought warning in January.

"We need long days of rainy days, and all-day soakers," he said. "And they are not in the cards."

Hartsock said his location received 33.99 inches of rain in 2001 — 8 inches below normal. For this year, the area received 2.27 inches in January (about one inch below normal) and .26 so far this month.

"If this weather pattern does not turn around shortly, then the word 'catastrophic' is going to be used to describe this summer," he said.

County officials hope to avoid placing any watering bans on their more than 7,800 customers this summer by preaching voluntary water conservation.

County Public Works Director Doug Myers said the Freedom Water Treatment Plant is currently able to process more than 2 million gallons of water a day to meet usage in the Freedom area. The average water usage totals from Feb. 13 to Tuesday was 2.12 million

Please see **Drought, A7**

Drought

From Page A1

gallons of water per day.

The true test will come starting in April, however, when people begin to increase their water usage by watering their lawns and washing their cars, Myers said.

When water consumption averaged more than 3 million gallons a day in 1999, the county responded by imposing mandatory restrictions.

The county first passed a mandatory outdoor water use ban in 1997 and then switched to an odd-even water use schedule. Water restrictions are in effect in Carroll municipalities including Westminster and Mount Airy.

"Is there going to come a time [for mandatory] restrictions," Myers asked rhetorically. "Could be, but probably unlikely."

In Baltimore, public works officials have tapped the Susquehanna River and mixed the water with the city's reservoirs.

Public Works spokesman Kurt Kocher said the combination has worked, and the city is able to supply water to its 1.8 million customers through its three reservoirs — Liberty, Loch Raven and Pretty Boy.

Liberty, which also serves the South Carroll water customers, is operating at 62 percent. That figure is still 16 percent below normal, Kocher said.

"The reservoirs all together have stabilized at 58 percent," he said. "If we get some rain, we should be able to raise the level."

Reach staff writer **Boris E. Hartl** at 410-751-5902 or bhartl@leniofmd.com.

Drillers report failing wells

BY **CARRIE ANN MILLER**
TIMES STAFF WRITER

While Carroll County residents on public water worry about the shallow waterline in Liberty Reservoir, many residents dependent on groundwater have gotten a sharper warning of a possible drought — a dried-up well.

Well drillers across the county said they have seen a drastic increase in wells drying up for this time of year.

People normally think of the summer months as the time when most wells are susceptible to drying up, said Ron Kyker, of Westminster Rotary Well Drilling Inc. But actually, the worst time is usually in the fall, after there has been lower rainfall and higher water usage in the summer.

The groundwater should be recharging in winter and spring, he said, so having wells dry up now is unusual, he said.

"Nobody thinks too much about water until something like this happens," Kyker said. "People really got to use common sense in a situation like this."

The wells that have been affected the most tend to be 50 to 100 feet deep, Kyker said, but he has seen wells drying up at old and new homes in Carroll, Baltimore and Howard counties.

Dwight Phillips, of Phillips Well Drilling in Westminster, said that many of the wells that are going dry have had problems in the past few years. Drought-like conditions during what should be the wet season have pushed the wells until they had no more to give.

"I've been in the business 22 years, and I've never seen it this bad," Phillips said. Phillips said he has been getting 10 to 12 calls per week for existing wells that have gone dry.

The whole state has been suffering from below-average rainfall over an extended period of time, which has lowered the water table in many places. Ralph Hartsock, a weather observer in Deer Park, said that when it rains, it takes three months for the water to soak in and reach the water table.

"Even if it rained today and the pattern changed, it still wouldn't be until May or June to be beneficial to the wells," Hartsock said. "Right now, we

Please see **Wells, A7**

Wells

From Page A1

just need it to start raining."

The low water table has also caused the County Health Department's Bureau of Environmental Health to delay wet weather soils percolation tests. Percolation tests are required before wells and septic systems can be put in place on a new property.

Wet weather soils percolation tests are required when the highest water table can be expected in the area for sewage disposal to make sure the soils can handle discharge under all conditions, said Leigh Broder-

ick, a supervisor in the bureau.

The county usually expects the water table to be at its highest from Feb. 1 through April 30. However, data from county monitoring wells have shown a below normal shallow groundwater level. The well data combined with the below-average rainfall this year led the bureau to delay testing until at least March 4.

Broderick said the bureau will continue to evaluate water table conditions and amount of rainfall on a weekly basis.

"I think a lot of surveyors were expecting this, and I would have been surprised if we hadn't had to delay," Broderick said.

City of Westminster testimony SB407.pdf

Uploaded by: Sara Imhulse

Position: FAV

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February 13, 2023

Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
2 West
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Re: SB 207 Drinking Water – Innovative Potable Reuse Pilot Program – Establishment

Dear Chairman Feldman and Committee Members:

The City of Westminster is writing to encourage you to support SB 407, which will offer the City of Westminster residents and businesses a new water source to address long-standing drought issues.

The City of Westminster owns and operates a water distribution system that provides service for 38,000 users within the City and in parts of unincorporated Carroll County. For decades the City relied upon drilled wells that were permitted for specific amounts of water. The distribution system's utilization was less water than was allocated by the permit, so by all accounts everything seemed fine. No one realized that we were stretching the system's limits because we were not exceeding permitted capacity. In 2001/2002, however, the region experienced drought conditions, which severely reduced the water available to support the existing customers on the system.

The outlook at the time was grim, and the City was forced to consider mandating rolling water outages in order to guarantee an adequate water supply to Carroll Hospital System. Instead of rolling outages, the City was able to truck in emergency water from Medford Quarry. This ensured continuity of operations for the hospital.

As a result of that dire situation, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) issued the City with a consent order that outlined the amount of water that the City could allocate for new use/change in use, such as a new occupant to a vacant space. The total water allocation amounts permitted by the MDE consent order include not only the system's current wells and surface water plant, but also an agreement that the City has with Medford Quarry to provide approximately 750,000 gallons per day that we could access in an emergency. However, this emergency option is not a guaranteed solution; that agreement will expire in 8 years, and it includes a clause that allows the quarry property owner to terminate the agreement with only 180 days notice.

It is imperative for the City to find a water source that is both permanent and City-owned and operated. Without that the City cannot meet the compliance guidelines outlined in the MDE consent order. A permanent solution for this is PUREWater Westminster, which is an indirect potable water reuse project that the City has been designing and piloting for the past 3 years. The water purification process for this

indirect potable reuse project includes 3 steps: nanomembrane filtration, reverse osmosis, and advanced oxidation with ultraviolet light. The end result is purified water safe for drinking. However, since this is an indirect potable reuse project, the PUREWater Westminster product will be stored in the Cranberry Reservoir, blended with the reservoir's natural water, and then treated again through the Cranberry Surface Water Plant. This type of project exists in other states throughout the country but will be the first indirect potable water reuse project in the State of Maryland.

The City funded the pilot demonstration project for PUREWater Westminster through a grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). The City received letters of support for its pilot demonstration project from Senator Van Hollen, MDE, Carroll County, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, University of Maryland, Maryland General Assembly Legislative District 5 Delegation, and Water Reuse. Copies of those letters of support are attached. The pilot demonstration project was operated by City of Westminster staff, directed by our engineering firm WATEK Engineering Corporation, tested by the University of Maryland, and reviewed by the MDE.

Once fully implemented, the PUREWater Westminster project will provide the City with a new drinking water source that is City-owned, permanent, and completely drought-resistant. The PUREWater Westminster project is able to offer up to 1,000,000 gallons a day, which covers the 750,000 gallons a day of emergency water and offers the City a small amount (250,000 gallons) to address new uses, such as the new Carroll County sheriff's office building.

The City has exhausted all other options to provide new water sources to the region. The City's PUREWater Westminster project is an efficient and effective solution to this compliance issue. Upon implementation, the City will be able to protect the health and safety of its water customers, while ensuring water to the hospital and for fire protection.

Total implementation cost for this project is \$6,590,000, and includes an engineering cost of \$1,590,000, funded by the City, and a construction cost of \$5,000,000. The City received a federal earmark in the FY23 budget in the amount of \$2,945,000 to fund construction, as well as a grant from Carroll County in the amount of \$1,530,152 for construction. The City is prepared to fund the remaining construction balance if no other grants become available.

The PUREWater Westminster project is the highest priority for the City of Westminster. This is a regional issue that we think requires a regional response. We appreciate your support and encourage you to approve SB 407.

Sincerely,



Dr. Mona Becker
Mayor

CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
MARYLAND

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United States Senate

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ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

December 3, 2019

Ms. Yuliana Porras-Mendoza
Program Administrator, Bureau of Reclamation
U.S. Department of the Interior
Research and Development Office
PO Box 25007
Denver, CO 80225-0007

Dear Ms. Porras-Mendoza:

I am pleased to support the application of the City of Westminster, Maryland for grant funding through the Bureau of Reclamation's Desalination and Water Purification Research Program. The grant funds would be used for the City's indirect potable reuse pilot project.

Westminster's pilot project is needed because, unlike other jurisdictions in Maryland, the City is uniquely affected by water supply constraints. The City's efforts to identify and develop new water sources for new development are significantly restricted, negatively impacting the City's residential, industrial, and commercial growth.

As the first potable reuse project in the State of Maryland, Westminster's pilot project will pave the way for the future of water resource planning and protection through pilot testing advanced technologies with innovative strategies. The City's project will be a model for developing guidelines for similar initiatives in the State of Maryland and around the country.

I strongly support the City of Westminster's application for grant funding through the Desalination and Water Purification Research Program and urge you to give it full consideration.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

CVH/bk

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Maryland
Department of
the Environment

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

Ben Grumbles, Secretary
Horacio Tablada, Deputy Secretary

November 27, 2019

Ms. Yuliana Porras-Mendoza,
Program Administrator,
Bureau of Reclamation
Research and Development Office
P.O. Box 25007, MS 08-10000
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Letter of Support for City of Westminster Pilot Project – Funding Opportunity Announcement
No. BOR-DO-20-F004 – Desalination and Water Purification Research Program by the
Bureau of Reclamation

Dear Ms. Porras-Mendoza:

The Maryland Department of the Environment is expressing its enthusiastic support for the City of Westminster's application to the Bureau of Reclamation for a grant to support the City's pilot project for indirect potable reuse. The City has assembled an impressive project team to initiate the first indirect potable water reuse project in Maryland. Although Maryland is often viewed as a water rich state, we are susceptible to droughts and have cities such as the City of Westminster that face severe water shortage problems. To ensure long-term water sustainability, water reuse must be included and expanded in the state water resources portfolio.

As the Chair of Maryland Commission on Climate Change, I strongly encourage and support communities' efforts to include practices that embrace climate change and water change resiliency. I concur with the City's commitment to public health protection as its highest priority in the application of potable reuse as well as the research addressing the efficient use of energy through application of advanced technology. The City's proposed project will advance Maryland's vision of achieving long-term water sustainability. We look forward to collaborating with the City, and my technical staff are ready to assist the City with this important project.

Sincerely,

Ben Grumbles
Secretary

*Appreciate the Bureau's
ongoing leadership on water
and support for the National
Water Reuse Action Plan.
Thanks*

**Board of County
Commissioners**

Stephen A. Wantz, President
Edward C. Rothstein, Vice President
C. Richard Weaver, 2nd Vice President
C. Eric Bouchat
Dennis E. Frazier



Carroll County Government

225 North Center Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157
410-386-2043; 1-888-302-8978
fax 410-386-2485
MD Relay 711/800-735-2258

November 25, 2019

Mr. Jeff Glass, Public Works Director
City of Westminster
56 West Main Street
Westminster, MD 21157

RE: Letter of Support
Grant Application - Pilot Indirect Potable Reuse Project – Westminster, Maryland
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
Funding Opportunity Number: BOR-DO-20-F004

Dear Mr. Glass:

I write this letter to you on behalf of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners to support the City of Westminster's grant application for funding of an indirect potable reuse pilot project.

As elected leaders of one of Maryland's county governments, we recognize the importance of water quality and quantity issues and its tremendous influence on growth and development. Carroll County Government is a staunch supporter and partner in Westminster's efforts to develop and implement a more sustainable water supply. We appreciate any collaboration between the city, county and other partners on water resource issues of mutual concern and the implementation of integrated water resource projects.

Carroll County believes it is critically important for the City of Westminster to explore options to develop a more sustainable water supply. It strongly supports Westminster's grant application to move forward with a pilot of indirect potable reuse and hopes the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation will award the city with grant assistance.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roberta J. Windham".

Roberta J. Windham, Esq.
County Administrator

C: Mayor Joe Dominick



CHESAPEAKE BAY FOUNDATION
Saving a National Treasure

November 27, 2019

Mr. Jeff Glass, Director of Public Works
56 West Main Street
Westminster, MD 21157

RE: Westminster Advanced Water Resource Recovery Facility – Pilot Project
Funding Opportunity No. BOR-DO-20-F004

Dear Mr. Glass:

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation is pleased to support the City's application for the above-referenced pilot project. If funded, this project would yield valuable data and methods for advancing water re-use and water quality goals.

Located in the heart of the Chesapeake Bay watershed, the City has been an active member in the joint local, state and federal effort to reduce pollution and clean up our shared national treasure. Water re-use has the potential to significantly reduce nutrient discharges from the City's wastewater plant to this sensitive system while also helping the City meet demand for water supply. It may also limit or delay the need to further tax surface or groundwater supplies in the region.

CBF has pioneered water conservation efforts at the site scale through rainwater capture and treatment for human consumption and graywater reuse. We are excited to see the results of the City's project, as it will help evaluate and inform the potential to expand reclamation opportunities from a single site to a municipal system.

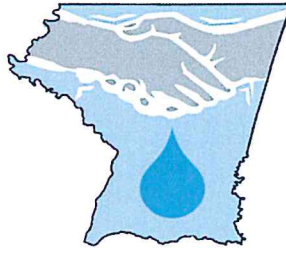
We hope the committee will look favorably on the City's application. Please feel free to contact me at 443-482-2096 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Erik Fisher, AICP
Maryland Assistant Director

Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council

Hampstead * Manchester * Mt. Airy * New Windsor
Carroll County Health Department



* Sykesville * Taneytown * Union Bridge * Westminster
Carroll County Government

November 21, 2019

Jeff Glass, Public Works Director
John Dick, Public Works Deputy Director
56 West Main Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Re: Westminster Advanced Water Resource Recovery Facility: Pilot Project Grant Application

Dear Mr. Glass and Mr. Dick,

The Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council (WRCC) is pleased to support the City of Westminster's application for funding for this pilot project. The City of Westminster has long been a leader in finding innovative solutions to water resource issues. We appreciate the active coordination between the City and the other WRCC members on water resource issues of mutual concern and the implementation of the integrated water resource projects in our jointly adopted Water Resources Element (Plan).

We are anxious to learn the results and outcome of this study, as it will push forward the effort at the State level to further develop guidelines and resources for water reuse in the state. Carroll County's unique position at the headwaters of the Piedmont region and State policy on water appropriation bring many challenges to water supply development. This project offers a valuable opportunity to evaluate and demonstrate the many financial, environmental, and public health benefits of the options available for water reclamation – locally, regionally, nationally, and within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.

The WRCC strongly supports the City's application and hopes the Bureau of Reclamation's evaluation team will decide favorably to award this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Steve Miller', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Steve Miller
Chair

C: Town of Hampstead
Town of Manchester
Town of Mount Airy

Town of Union Bridge
Town of New Windsor
Town of Sykesville

City of Taneytown
Carroll County Health Department
Carroll County Land & Resource Management



November 26, 2019

RE: Letter of Support for Westminster Indirect Water Reuse Pilot Study

To Whom It May Concern,

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, a business organization of close to 600 members and located in Westminster, Maryland, fully supports the City of Westminster's efforts to pursue a water reuse pilot study as a means of finding cutting edge solutions to the water shortage issue that has hampered the city's ability to grow and fully serve its residents and businesses. The technology exists to potentially make this a very viable option for obtaining sufficient water now and in the future.

The results of this study could enable the City of Westminster to allow existing businesses to expand and to allow new businesses to be established in the city. With growth basically held at a standstill until the water issues can be solved, it seems like this water reuse study is desperately needed.

Thank you for this opportunity to give voice to the support of this indirect water reuse pilot study and we sincerely hope that it will be approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mike McMullin'. The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mike McMullin
President
Carroll County Chamber of Commerce
mmcmullin@carrollcountychamber.org
cell: 410-977-3111



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

GLENN L. MARTIN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

A. JAMES CLARK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering

1173 Glenn L. Martin Hall
College Park, Maryland 20742-3021
301.405.7768 TEL 301.405.2585 FAX
www.cee.umd.edu

November 25, 2019

Jeff Glass, Public Works Director
John Dick, Public Works Deputy Director
56 West Main Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Re: Westminster Advanced Water Resource Recovery Facility: Pilot Project Grant Application

Dear Mr. Glass:

I am writing to enthusiastically support the City of Westminster's application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for Desalination and Water Purification Research funding. Westminster is taking a unique and forward-looking long-term view of water supply. I am committed to collaborating with this project, should it be funded.

My expertise is in water quality and treatment, specifically with inorganic pollutants. In this capacity, we will work with the City and other collaborators in analysis of heavy metals and metalloids that may be of specific concern in this water reuse pilot project. We have the ability to measure parameters of interest to include chromium (including hexavalent Cr), arsenic (As(II) and As(V)), nickel, and others. We also have the ability to analyze various inorganic species of phosphorus and nitrogen. Concentrations can be determined at various points in the treatment train to define efficacy of each unit process. Our most recent work has focused on determining trace levels of these pollutants in urban stormwater, and treatment processes for their removal.

This proposal has my full support. I anticipate that the results will of interest to many other water suppliers along the east coast as each struggles with challenges of growth and limited natural resources.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'APD'.

Allen P. Davis, PhD, PE
Professor and Charles A. Irish Sr. Chair in Civil Engineering



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health

College Park, Maryland 20742-2611
301.405.1772 TEL 301.405.8397 FAX

November 25, 2019

Jeff Glass, Public Works Director
John Dick, Public Works Deputy Director
56 West Main Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Re: Westminster Advanced Water Resource Recovery Facility: Pilot Project Grant Application

Dear Mr. Glass and Mr. Dick:

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the City of Westminster's application for funding to support this innovative pilot project. The City of Westminster is a proven leader in finding and implementing novel solutions to water resource challenges, and my team is delighted to collaborate with the City on what will be the first potable water reuse project in the State of Maryland.

Specifically, my group within the CONSERVE Center of Excellence here at the University of Maryland is happy to engage in the research aspects of the project. In particular, my group, along with the labs of Dr. Allen Davis and Dr. Amir Sapkota, will perform biweekly water sampling over a period of 9 months at 5 sampling points throughout the pilot water treatment process. In my lab, samples will be analyzed for *E. coli*, enterococci, antibiotic resistance and total bacterial taxonomy and function. In addition, we will perform high-volume water sampling that will enable us to test for enteric viruses and protozoa and compare results to existing log reduction values (LRVs) established by other states under the regulatory framework of the Safe Drinking Water Act "maximum contaminant levels" (MCLs) and LRVs.

I strongly support the City's application and look forward to this important collaboration that will ultimately enable the continued delivery of safe drinking water to the people of Westminster, Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Sapkota".

Amy R. Sapkota, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Professor
Director, CONSERVE
Director, UMD Global STEWARDS



UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Maryland Institute for Applied Environmental Health

College Park, Maryland 20742-2611
301.405.8716 TEL 301.405.8397 FAX

November 25, 2019

Jeff Glass, Public Works Director
John Dick, Public Works Deputy Director
56 West Main Street
Westminster, Maryland 21157

Re: Westminster Advanced Water Resource Recovery Facility: Pilot Project Grant Application

Dear Mr. Glass:

I am pleased to provide my enthusiastic support for the City of Westminster's application for funding to support this innovative pilot project. The City of Westminster is a proven leader in finding and implementing novel solutions to water resource challenges, and my team is delighted to collaborate with the City on what will be the first potable water reuse project in the State of Maryland.

Specifically, my group will analyze water samples for emerging contaminants including pharmaceuticals and personal care products using state of the art liquid chromatography isotope dilution tandem mass spectrometry (LC-ID-MS/MS) based methods. My group has extensive track record of publication for the analysis of such contaminants in water samples, and I am very happy to support your work from this perspective.

I strongly support the City's application and look forward to this important collaboration that will ultimately enable the continued delivery of safe drinking water to the people of Westminster, Maryland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amir Sapkota".

Amir Sapkota, Ph.D.
Professor
Director, EXPOSOME Small Molecule Core Facility



THE MARYLAND GENERAL ASSEMBLY
LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 5
CARROLL COUNTY

December 2, 2019

Ms. Yuliana Porras-Mendoza
Program Administrator
Bureau of Reclamation
Research and Development Office
Attn: Ms. Yuliana Porras-Mendoza
P.O. Box 25007, MS 08-10000
Denver, CO 80225

Re: Grant Application – Westminster, MD Pilot Indirect Potable Reuse Project
Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
Funding Opportunity Number: BOR-DO-20-F004
Funding Opportunity Title: Desalination and Water Purification Research Program

Dear Ms. Porras-Mendoza:

We would like to express our strongest support for a request from the City of Westminster for grant funding from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. The grant funds would be used for the City's pilot indirect potable reuse project.

For more than 15 years, the City of Westminster has experienced periods of severe water shortage, resulting in periodic building moratoriums. In response to the City's limited water supply, Westminster adopted a new water allocation policy in March 2018 to ensure an adequate supply until new sources could be brought online. Notwithstanding the City's efforts to find and develop new water sources, Westminster's water resources for new development remain significantly restricted, negatively impacting the City's residential, industrial, and commercial growth.

Recognizing the need for a more sustainable water supply, the City is now planning to pilot test indirect potable reuse, by further purifying effluent from the City's Westminster Wastewater Treatment Plant. As the first potable reuse project in the State of Maryland, Westminster's pilot project will serve as a model and pave the way for similar initiatives in the State of Maryland in the future.

We request that the Bureau of Reclamation approve the City of Westminster's application for grant funding through the Desalination and Water Purification Research Program.



Senator Justin Ready



Delegate April Rose

Sincerely,



Delegate Susan Krebs



Delegate Haven Shoemaker



WATERREUSE®

1199 North Fairfax St, Suite 900 • Alexandria, VA 22314

President
Paul Jones, II
Eastern Municipal Water
District, CA

Vice President
Gilbert Trejo
El Paso Water Utilities, TX

Treasurer
Diane Taniguchi-Dennis
Clean Water Services, OR

Secretary
Craig Lichty
Black & Veatch, CA

Past President
Guy Carpenter
Stanley Consultants, AZ

November 26, 2019

Attn: Ms. Yuliana Porras-Mendoza
Program Administrator
Bureau of Reclamation
Research and Development Office
P.O. Box 25007, MS 08-10000
Denver, CO 80225

**Re: Westminster Advanced Water Resource Recovery Facility Pilot Project
Grant Application**

Dear Ms. Porras-Mendoza:

The purpose of this letter is to communicate the WaterReuse Association's (WRA) full support of the City of Westminster's Grant Application submitted for the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation Research Development Group II grant (FOA No. BOR-DO-20-F004).

As the nation's leader and the only trade association that focuses solely on advancing laws, policy and funding to increase water reuse, WRA is proud to support the City of Westminster, which is a member of our organization, in their proactive initiative to be the first municipality to pilot test potable reuse in the State of Maryland.

The WaterReuse Association is a not-for-profit trade association for water utilities, business, industrial and commercial enterprises, non-profit organizations, and research entities that engage in facilitating the adoption of water recycling practices. WaterReuse and its state and regional sections represent more than 250 water utilities serving over 60 million customers, and over 250 businesses, research institutions, and organizations across the county.

We are aware that City of Westminster's project is critically needed because while most of the jurisdictions in the East Coast face minimal to no immediate water shortage challenges, at the local level, even after implementing conservation measures and tapping into available ground and surface water sources, the City is still facing source water challenges. This project enables the City to explore feasibility of including potable reuse as a part of its source water portfolio, while protection of public health remains its highest priority.

We are impressed by the leadership exhibited by the City of Westminster, leveraging their unique position as an authority that controls their entire water and wastewater systems, and assembling a strong support team of local and national consultants as well as university researchers to move this important project forward.

We look forward to working with the City of Westminster and providing support for the project team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Sinicropi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Sinicropi
Executive Director



SB 407 - Support - Town of Centreville.pdf

Uploaded by: Thomas Tompsett

Position: FAV



THE TOWN OF CENTREVILLE 101 LAWYERS ROW CENTREVILLE, MD 21617
410-758-1180 FAX 410-758-4741 WWW.TOWNOFCENTREVILLE.ORG

February 14, 2023

The Honorable Brian J. Feldman
Energy, Education, and the Environment Committee
2 West, Miller Senate House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: Support – SB 407: Drinking Water - Innovative Potable Reuse Pilot Program - Establishment

Dear Chair Feldman and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The Town of Centreville supports SB 407: Drinking Water - Innovative Potable Reuse Pilot Program – Establishment. Water reuse has been around since 1976 and continues to expand. The concept is newer to Maryland and can move the State from prolonged transactional improvement to transformational change with enduring technological and environmental advancements.

Water Reuse has been used on the west coast for decades, primarily out of necessity. Further east, the City of Wichita Falls, Texas, brought a plant online in 2018 with a maximum discharge capacity of 16 Mgalpd because of a drought emergency. And in Maryland, the Town of Walkersville uses these filtration technologies after a sewer line rupture in 1999 and a manure spill in 2008. In Maryland, the benefit will have a broad reach, from municipalities with water shortages, such as the City of Westminster, to the Bay and Coastal areas where saltwater intrusion has begun to impact the aquifers.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is aware of these efforts. Over half of the State's water reuse is spray irrigation, and a further 32% is for cooling water. Only 13% is groundwater recharge. MDE has stated that due to climate change, more frequent and heavier rainfall will dramatically impact spray irrigation. The effluent goes to the Bay when a plant cannot spray, and buffering is exceeded. More immediate is the cost of spray irrigation. In our efforts, the Town of Centreville is looking at a minimum of \$3M for a field and a further \$1M per mile of pipe to reach that field. It is not fiscally sustainable for small municipalities.

SB 0392 will look to install \$10M in grants for wastewater facilities. This is much needed support that may go very quickly based on demand. That money would be well served in replaceable and upgradeable filtering technologies and reuse infrastructure. Unfortunately, its benefits toward the older models of water reuse have no enduring benefit.

We are offering our support to this innovative pilot program as it has benefits statewide, the technology is well proven, with an abundance of supporting data, and it works as an enduring solution for a rapidly emerging challenge.

The Town of Centreville ask this committee for a favorable report on SB 407. If you have any questions concerning this testimony, please feel free to contact Thomas Tompsett Jr. at tommy.tompsett@mdlobbyist.com.



THE TOWN OF CENTREVILLE 101 LAWYERS ROW CENTREVILLE, MD 21617
410-758-1180 FAX 410-758-4741 WWW.TOWNOFCENTREVILLE.ORG

Respectfully submitted,
Charles M. Koogle
Town Manager, Centreville Md.

SB407 2023 Fav w amend (1) (4).pdf

Uploaded by: Matt Cumers

Position: FWA

An Affiliate of
the Maryland Association
of Counties, Inc.



Reply to:

DATE: 02/15/2023
TO: Members, Education, Energy and the Environment Committee
FROM: Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors
RE: Senate Bill 407 Drinking Water – Innovative Potable Reuse Pilot Program –
Establishment

The Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors (Conference), an affiliate of the Maryland Association of Counties, **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill 407 with amendments.

The Conference sees great value in exploration of water reuse programs and generally supports this pilot program, however the specifics of this legislation, as drafted, were initially cause for concern. The introduction of amendments that eliminates the direct injection of treated sewage effluent (“reclaimed water”) into confined aquifers (“Environmental Buffer”) that hundreds of thousands of Marylanders depend on for safe, clean drinking water is essential to our support. The Conference has assurances that this will not be part of the final bill.

We believe there is a direct conflict between the current definition of “reclaimed water” and the water quality criteria described in this bill, even though the same term is used. We believe that this needs to be addressed in order for this statute to be clearly interpreted.

Additionally, there are many different harmful and emerging constituents in wastewater that we don’t completely understand yet (including PFAS, phthalates, bisphenol A, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, herbicides, radionuclides and thousands of other synthetic compounds) which may or may not be removed from the wastewater prior to conversion to potable drinking water. As such, we believe that enforcement of these treatment parameters is critical. The Conference urges both potential permittees and the Department of the Environment to exercise the utmost diligence and vigorous enforcement of these provisions to ensure that we protect drinking water reservoirs and public health.

Fresh, potable water is our most precious resource, and our confined or unconfined sources should not be taken for granted. We must continue to be good stewards of our precious surface water and groundwater resources.

The Conference recommends a **FAVORABLE** report provided amendments are made.

Contact: Matt Cumers, President, Maryland Conference of Local Environmental Health Directors, Phone: 410-535-3922 x114

Matthew.cumers@maryland.gov