



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, Inc.

P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-9998

<http://www.mvcca.org>

October 3, 2025

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, Virginia 22035

Re: Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association's Resolution on Proposed Flood Risk Policy

Dear Board Members;

Attached please find MVCCA's Resolution on Proposed Changes to Flood Risk Policy, approved by the General Council on September 24, 2025.

As one of the areas most affected by flood risks and stormwater problems, the subject of the Resolution is of great importance to Mount Vernon homeowners and businesses. The Resolution suggests various changes to the draft policy which we believe will provide clearer definitions and guidance and therefore greater protection to all areas of the County.

We ask that you give the Resolution careful consideration.

Thank you for your service.

Very Truly yours,

/s/ Judith F. Harbeck

Judith F. Harbeck
Cochair, MVCCA
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MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS (MVCCA)

Approved by the General Council on September 24, 2025

Resolution

Recommendations to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the County's DRAFT Flood Risk Reduction Policy, dated June 4, 2025

Whereas: On June 4, 2025 a DRAFT “*Flood Risk Reduction Policy*” was issued for comment intending to replace the County’s current policy, dated April 28, 1997.

Whereas: The DRAFT “*Flood Risk Reduction Policy*,” follows on from a County Executive memo of April 23, 2024 that provided an update on the nature and extent of the flooding problem in Fairfax County; identified a 3-element approach to mitigating flooding issues, consisting of projects, programs, and regulatory changes; and requested advice from the Board of Supervisors on a way forward.

Whereas: In its resolution, dated June 26, 2024, MVCCA recognized the importance of the elements outlined in the County Executive’s memorandum and asked the Board of Supervisors to move quickly to formalize a policy and implement the memorandum’s project, program, and regulatory change elements, as well as consider alternate sources for funding those elements.

Whereas: Notable policy elements included in the DRAFT “*Flood Risk Reduction Policy*” are:

- Changing levels of service to use a 100-year storm vice a 10-year storm event as a criteria for “*adverse flood impacts*” for structural flooding,
- Stipulating specific objectives for Land Development Regulations,
- Establishing an order of precedence to pursue stormwater-related County Capital Projects, and
- Enumerating a County-provided suite of programs to reduce flood risks.

Whereas: Specific elements of the DRAFT “*Flood Risk Reduction Policy*” require changes and additions to provide clarity.

Therefore Be It Resolved: The following changes be incorporated into the proposed policy update before it is issued:

- Under “*A. STATEMENT OF POLICY*”, in line 9, define the “limits” under which the County policy will operate.
- Under “*C. LEVELS OF SERVICE ESTABLISHED*”,
 - In line 28, replace “seek to provide” with “mandate”.
 - In lines 34, add the following at end of sentence “as defined in NOAA tables for Fairfax County”.
 - In line 37, define the term “Designated” as it refers to “channels, pipes, and related appurtenances”.
 - In lines 34 through 48, rework to clarify in laymen’s terms the definitions of the four(4) criteria defining adverse flood impacts.
 - In line 37/38, define “designated channel, ...”, and replace “10-year” with 100-year.
- Under “*D. OBJECTIVES OF LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS*”,
 - In Line 56, delete bullet No. 4, and replace with the following, “Not result in any additional flooding impacts on other adjacent or nearby property”.
 - Add the following new bullet No. 7, “Require on-site stormwater detention devices designed to accommodate the 100-yr storm event rainfall standard for all infill development projects regardless of extent of land disturbance.”
- Under “*E. PRIORITIZATION OF CAPITAL PROJECTS*”, in bullet 2.a, (line 80), add the following at the end of the sentence “ unless stormwater has caused a rise to groundwater levels”.