

## MVCCA Environmental and Recreation FY 2025 Budget Resolution

Whereas, the County Executive publishes a recommended budget for the consideration of the county Board of Supervisors, which the Board of Supervisors seeks comment before adopting a budget;

Whereas, many climate and energy projects that are needed to meet the county's Communitywide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), which was published in 2021, are only in a pilot phase;

Whereas, the county's stormwater tax rate has not been increased in years despite increasing needs for maintenance of infrastructure, stream stabilization, and flood risk reduction;

Whereas, despite the difficult budget year, the county provided an increase in funding for parks;

Whereas, the county's leaf collection program<sup>1</sup> funding rate is inadequate to fund the program;

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Whereas, the county's leaf collection program generates 726 metric tons of carbon dioxide by burning the ultra-low sulfur diesel to fuel the equipment;

Whereas, the solid waste collection contractors/county employees, which support about 90 percent of the county, have leaf collection included in their trash collection fees;

Whereas, the proposed animal services consolidation will separate the wildlife management from the Animal Protection Police Officers (APPO), which together have been widely recognized as providing outstanding service for wildlife; and

Whereas, details of this reorganization are unclear, in part because the latest change was announced following the publication of the County Executive's recommended budget;

Therefore, be it resolved: the MVCCA recommends that the pilot work on CECAP projects be expedited and funded as the delays in undertaking this work diminished the chances that we will be able to meet CECAP goals;

Be it further resolved: that the county's vacuum truck leaf collection program be eliminated as it is an unnecessary convenience for approximately 5% of the county residents with a high carbon footprint; or that the fee be raised for those utilizing this service to cover the full cost;

Be it further resolved: that the MVCCA does not support the proposed animal services consolidation as it jeopardizes wildlife services;

Be it further resolved: that the county's rates for solid waste and recycling be set to fully cover the cost of these programs; and

Be it finally resolved that the stormwater tax clearly identify the needs and be increased by a quarter penny as needed to support the growing needs of the county.

Approved by MVCCA March 27, 2024