February 15, 2017

Mr. Benjamin Grumbles, Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

Dear Mr. Grumbles:

I am pleased to submit to you Montgomery County’s Annual Progress Report on Watershed Restoration, Stormwater Management, and Water Quality Protection in compliance with our MS4 Permit requirements. This submission addresses reporting requirements for Permit No. 06-DP-3320 MD0068349 (the Permit, issued February 16, 2010) for the County’s Fiscal Year from July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016 (FY2016). The date of this submission satisfies the requirement to submit annual reports on the anniversary date of the permit. The associated databases and support information are included as electronic files on an accompanying compact disc.

The County has always been a leader in implementing innovative and aggressive stormwater programs including the 20 percent restoration goal in our current permit. Even with the support of the County Executive and the County Council, the 20 percent goal has proven to be challenging. As we continue to push forward on our restoration goals, the County is negotiating a Consent Decree to lay out a reasonable path forward. We continue to implement innovative approaches, including the use of a “pay for performance” contracting model, and we will implement other approaches such as public-private partnerships. We continue to implement green infrastructure projects, but there are challenges (i.e. public acceptance, long-term maintenance, and overall cost effectiveness). The Maryland Department of the Environment, working in partnership with local jurisdictions and other interested stakeholders, needs to assist in addressing these challenges. Even with these challenges, we remain committed to implementing green infrastructure as a key component of our restoration plan and we have worked with the Stormwater Partners over the last few years to develop a definition and policy statement.

The County has made much progress in meeting all of the Permit requirements since 2010 including maintaining adequate legal authority, identifying pollutant sources, expanding our stormwater facility maintenance and inspection program, and enhancing property management programs to reduce stormwater pollution.
We are greatly expanding our stormwater pollution awareness outreach programs, making progress on meeting County wasteload allocations for approved Total Maximum Daily Loads, and assuring adequate funding for Permit required programs.

The County is continuing its unprecedented efforts to meet the Permit's significant watershed restoration requirement by planning, designing and building projects that will add control to 20 percent of the impervious areas not currently controlled to the maximum extent practicable (3,778 impervious acres). As of FY2016 Annual Report, the County has restored 1,917.5 impervious acres, an increase of 143.2 acres from FY2015 Annual Report. As of the date of the FY2016 Annual Report, the County has achieved 51 percent of the restoration goal. The County has made a concerted effort to improve its data accuracy, has developed a rigorous review process, and is currently analyzing data on approximately 2,000 best management practices. The validation of this data will likely result in additional impervious acreage credit.

In addition, the County continues to be a leader in providing a robust stormwater management program. In FY2016, the Maryland Department of the Environment/Water Management Administration completed a triennial review of the County’s program and found that “the County is well organized and implementing a strong stormwater management program for protecting local water quality and aiding Maryland’s effort in restoring the Chesapeake Bay.”

Highlights of the accomplishments of the Stormwater Program in the County during the permit term includes:

- Managing a doubling of the number of permitted and constructed best management practices. The County began the permit term with 4,200 and now has an inventory of over 8,000. With the onset of Environmental Site Design (ESD), the County expects these numbers to continue to significantly increase each year
- Performing over 7,000 triennial inspections during the permit term
- Ensuring best management practices were maintained over 12,000 times during the permit term. This maintenance was completed by the County or the private owner of the facility
- Maintaining an acceptable erosion and sediment control program that is in compliance with the County’s MS4 Permit
- Managing a robust permitting and plan review program and successfully implementing ESD to the maximum extent practicable for both new development and redevelopment
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Thank you for the opportunity to submit a report on our progress toward meeting the requirements of the Permit. As can be seen by our ongoing efforts, Montgomery County continues to strive to protect and restore our watersheds. If there are any questions on the County's submission, please contact Steven Shofar, Chief, Watershed Management and Operations Divisions, at 240-777-7736.

Sincerely,

Lisa Feldt  
Director

Enclosures: Permit No. 06-DP-3320 MD0068349 (Report and CD)

cc: Letter Only  
   Lynn Buhl, Assistant Secretary, Maryland Department of the Environment,  
   Lee Curry, Acting Director, Maryland Department of the Environment, Water Management Administration  
   Tim Firestone, Montgomery County Chief Administrative Officer  
   Diane Schwartz Jones, Director, Department of Permitting Services  
   Al Rosdich, Director, Department of Transportation  
   David Dise, Director, Department of General Services  
   Steven Shofar, Chief, Watershed Management Operations Division  
   Frank Dawson, Chief, Watershed Capital Improvement Division  
   Amy Stevens, Manager, Watershed Planning and Monitoring  
   James Song, Montgomery County Public Schools  
   Shauna R. Davis-Cook, Manager, Chevy Chase Village  
   Julian Mansfield, Village Manager, Friendship Heights  
   Todd Hoffman, Town Manager, Town of Chevy Chase  
   Sanford Daily, Town Manager, Town of Kensington  
   Wade Yost, Town Manager, Town of Poolesville  
   Jeffrey Slavin, Mayor, Town of Somerset