



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230

410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • www.mde.state.md.us

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

March 30, 2012

Mr. Shawn M. Garvin
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 3
1650 Arch Street (Mail Code: 3RA00)
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Dear Administrator Garvin:

On behalf of Governor Martin O'Malley and the citizens of the State of Maryland, we are pleased to submit Maryland's Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan (the Plan) to reduce nutrient and sediment pollution to help restore the Chesapeake Bay. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the directions and guidance of the Environmental Protection Agency. The Plan can be found at

http://www.mde.state.md.us/programs/Water/TMDL/TMDLImplementation/Pages/FINAL_PhaseII_WIPDocument_Main.aspx.

This Plan builds upon our Phase I Plan and provides a more detailed series of proposed strategies that will exceed our 2017 target (60% of the total implementation needed to meet water quality standards). This Phase II Plan has significantly more local input than Phase I. The local input provides additional detail at the local level, increasing "reasonable assurance" of implementation.

This plan is only one example of the leadership of the O'Malley-Brown Administration on Bay restoration. Governor O'Malley's budget includes significant new funding for agricultural and urban/suburban nonpoint source pollution control through the 2010 Trust Fund and increases to our capital budget for stormwater retrofit and stream restoration projects. As we approach the end of the 2012 legislative session we anticipate passage of legislation that will double the Bay Restoration Fee to allow us to complete Maryland's state of the art upgrades to our major wastewater treatment plants and a bill to limit new development on septic systems and slow the rate of growth of loads from new septic systems and the stormwater impacts of sprawl development, while preserving open space and making the best possible use of our existing infrastructure. Another pending bill would require storm water fees to be established in jurisdictions with Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permits to provide funding for stormwater improvements.

Maryland is a State that continues to grow. By 2020, Maryland's population is expected to increase by 560,000 people. To restore the Bay the states must reduce nutrient and sediment pollution from all source sectors, point and nonpoint, and "account for growth" in loads from all of them. In developing its approach, Maryland has been careful to support the State's towns and cities and not inadvertently deflect growth to areas that will consume farm fields and forested lands.



Maryland's offset strategy, augmented with the septic legislation described above, will encourage growth in designated growth areas rather than in farmland and woodland areas. Target loads for new and increased sources will be designated for new development and redevelopment. Areas served by state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plants that accommodate relatively high densities of residents and jobs are less polluting geographies per capita and development will be encouraged there by requiring modest offsets. In areas with higher per-capita pollution rates, greater offsets will be required. Implementation of this growth strategy is planned for 2013 with additional research, public discussion and strategy development to precede implementation.

Looking forward, we expect to continue to make targeted investments in Bay restoration as our economy improves. However, it will be imperative that our final Watershed Implementation Plan select programs and strategies that are the most cost beneficial and that are targeted to the areas where science tells us that pollution reductions will be the most effective.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to our continued partnership and our collaborative public process, as we implement our Phase II Watershed Implementation Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Summers', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Cc: John R. Griffin, Secretary, Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Earl F. Hance, Secretary, Maryland Department of Agriculture
Richard E. Hall, Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning