

Cheryl Casciani

FROM	NAME & TITLE	CHERYL CASCIANI, CHAIR, COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING 417 EAST FAYETTE STREET, 8 th Floor
	SUBJECT	CITY COUNCIL BILL #10-0434 – Stormwater Management

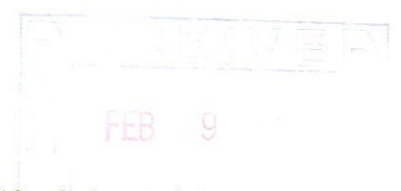
CITY of
BALTIMORE
MEMO



TO

DATE:
February 16, 2010

The Honorable President and Members of City Council
City Hall 4th floor
100 N. Holliday Street



Please be advised of the following comments offered on behalf of the Baltimore Commission on Sustainability (CoS). The CoS discussed the Stormwater Management bill at the January 26th 2010 meeting.

The intent of this bill addresses the following goals of the Baltimore Sustainability Plan as approved by City Council on March 2, 2009:

- Cleanliness Goal #1: Eliminate litter throughout the City;
- Cleanliness Goal #3: Transform vacant lots from liability to assets that provide social and environmental benefits;
- Pollution Prevention Goal #3: Ensure that Baltimore water bodies are fishable and swimmable;
- Greening Goal #4: Protect Baltimore's ecology and biodiversity; and
- Green Economy Goal #4: Raise Baltimore's profile as a forward thinking, green city.

The CoS supports the unique proposed language for the Baltimore City Stormwater Ordinance for three primary reasons. First, the City version maintains the larger vision of smart growth and cleaning the Bay by acknowledging unique jurisdictional differences in land use and development patterns. Second, allowing greater flexibility in the application of environmental site design into neighborhoods supports the principles of sustainability by improving public health, supporting neighborhood revitalization, and increasing the economic diversity of greening improvements where they are most needed. And finally, watershed-based applications of environmental site design will also support the most economical application of water quality improvements without lowering overall standards and improvements.

The CoS feels that the Bill's emphasis on environmental site design and allowance of alternative means of compliance, such as stream restoration and pollution trading, will produce significant environmental, social, and economic co-benefits along with improving water quality. The CoS recommends that environmental justice and equity are included as criteria when selecting sites for the deployment of fees around watershed-based restoration projects.

It was the consensus of the CoS to support City Council Bill #10-0434 at the January 26th 2010 meeting. In addition, the CoS expressed a willingness to proactively advance the

F

City's proposed regulations with the State of Maryland if needed.

CC:

Sophie Dagenais, Chief of Staff
Andrew Frank, Deputy Mayor
Angela Gibson, Mayor's Office
Larry Green, Council Services
Thomas J. Stosur, Department of Planning
Beth Strommen, Office of Sustainability
Sarah Zaleski, Office of Sustainability