



The Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association

ISSUE BRIEF

WATER SUPPLY AND WATER QUALITY PLANNING ACTIVITIES

New requirements for water supply planning and continuing efforts to improve water quality, including meeting federal Clean Water Act mandates, increase financial pressures to address state and federal water policies and goals. Adequate state financial support is essential to achieving the desired outcomes of these state and federal mandates.

VAPA believes that protecting and restoring the quality of all waters in the Commonwealth is not only required in Article IX of Virginia's Constitution, but it is essential to protect the public health, to promote recreational and economic opportunities, to protect the state's natural beauty, and to enhance the overall quality of life of our citizens.

State programs to protect water quality should be further developed through the employment of sound science and in full partnership with local and regional officials. Strategies employed by each locality to address its pollution problems should be developed in careful consideration of its unique environmental, economic and other characteristics.

VAPA believes that implementation of the new water supply planning regulations has the potential to improve the reliability of water supplies for all Virginians that are safe and adequate. To reach that goal, the statewide water supply plan must recognize and incorporate local and regional water supply plans that are consistent and coordinated. It is important that state water supply planning supports localities and water agencies in their efforts to ensure the availability of safe drinking water for their citizens. Water supply planning must balance in-stream and off-stream uses and support water quality improvements in a manner consistent with existing federal and state laws.

MAKING GREAT COMMUNITIES HAPPEN:

VAPA will support state-level planning policies that make Virginia and its communities the best place to live, work and play. Sound planning offers a key to making Virginia the best place it can be for all Virginians. Every region requires planning that promotes good jobs in livable communities. Faster growing regions have the added need for planning that recognizes pressures that are unprecedented in Virginia's history. Good planning actively involves the people of a community in the process; it combines their input on what is "valuable" for a good community with the technical facts brought by professionals and scientists. Sound planning includes an understanding of the differences between technical and value judgments and blends both appropriately to recommend a direction that moves a community toward the best place it can be for its citizens.



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ADVOCATING FOR GREAT COMMUNITIES:

In our efforts to advocate for sound planning policies, regulations, and practice in Virginia, our diverse membership is available as a resource for information and expert testimony regarding planning practice in Virginia. Likewise, through our parent organization, APA, we can provide information regarding planning practice through the United States. VAPA is ready and willing to assist as needed.

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