

RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 22-14

PATRON: Robert W. Lazaro
Executive Director
DATE: December 16, 2021

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EMBRACE ACT THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT TO USE SEVERAL SOURCES OF FEDERAL FUNDS TO UNDERTAKE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS AT MILITARY BASES.

WHEREAS, extreme weather events such as prolonged heat, hurricanes, and flash flooding in Northern Virginia have contributed to the loss of lives, damaged homes and businesses, destroyed critical infrastructure, and interrupted the region's economic activity; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Northern Virginia Hazard Mitigation Plan update determined that most of the Northern Virginia jurisdictions have a 'Highly Likely' probability of continued flood risk due to 'High' vulnerability to flood hazard; and

WHEREAS, NVRC's Coastal and Chesapeake Bay Program and the Flood Mitigation and Resiliency Workgroup has been convening stakeholder workgroups comprised of staff from the region's state, local, federal, and regional agencies as well as academic and non-governmental organizations to begin planning for stormwater resiliency in the region's critical infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, NVRC actively staffs, supports and coordinates with the regions military facilities through the Commission's Community, Military and Federal Facility Partnership Program; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Resolution No. 22-08 (September 23, 2021) the Executive Director was authorized to accept grant funding from the Department of Defense, Office of Economic Adjustment (now Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation "OLDCC") for \$1,500,000 to establish a planning partnership with Fort Belvoir, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall and Marine Corps Base Quantico and their surrounding communities, in order to complete an assessment of military installation resiliency and sustainability; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner have introduced the Enhancing Military Base Resilience and Conserving Ecosystems through Stormwater Management (EMBRACE) Act, legislation to authorize the Department of Defense (DOD) to carry out stormwater management projects at military installations to improve resilience at the facilities while protecting waterways and stormwater impacted ecosystems, such as those that feed into the Chesapeake Bay.

WHEREAS, the EMBRACE Act would:



- Make stormwater management projects eligible for federal funding under either military construction projects, military installation resilience projects, unspecified minor military construction projects, defense access roads projects, the Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP), and Energy Resilience and Conservation Investment Program (ERCIP).
- Instructs DOD to prioritize projects that retrofit buildings and grounds on bases and improve access to roads prone to flooding.
- Supports the building of stormwater ponds and other retention strategies.
- Supports replacing impermeable paving that lets water run off with materials that let water seep into the soil, allowing projects such as rain gardens, cisterns, and planters to be eligible for funds.

WHEREAS, In the U.S. House of Representatives, Virginia Representatives Bobby Scott, Rob Wittman and Elaine Luria have introduced companion legislation.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Northern Virginia Regional Commission supports the concept of the EMBRACE ACT and authorizes the Executive Director to transmit this resolution to the Offices of Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner and Representatives Bobby Scott, Rob Wittman and Elaine Luria in support of the pending legislation.



CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission on December 16, 2021.



ROBERT W. LAZARO, JR., CERTIFYING OFFICER