



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

September 2, 2010

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Fairfax County

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**Adjunct member*

Dr. Kevin Sellner
Executive Director
Chesapeake Research Consortium
645 Contees Wharf Road
Edgewater, MD 21037

Dear Kevin:

I am providing this letter in support of the proposal you and your team are submitting to the NOAA Climate Services Special Competition for the Coastal Zone entitled, "***Improved Resiliency of Chesapeake Bay Communities to Storm Surge and Inundation under Climate-Induced Sea Level Rise.***" The description of the plans for the project are highly relevant to our future needs, particularly zoning considerations for future construction, utility and health care facility siting, emergency evacuation routes, and areas to be de-emphasized for potential growth and hence, I strongly encourage your Team's activities.

As a particularly low lying area in the watershed, our area faces huge obstacles not only in installing appropriate land uses to meet current restoration goals mandated through the EPA, but implementing practices and construction that will remain functional under increasing sea level and possible further surge inundation and flooding. The models you plan to develop will be extremely useful to our plans for the coming decades, and the interactions and dialog you offer with the modeling team to meet our needs for the future are extremely appealing.

I look forward to hearing your proposed work has been supported. Once this occurs, please feel free to contact me to help identify local planners, emergency managers, and other relevant parties in the commercial, military, health, and environmental fields so that we might assemble the most relevant individuals and organizations to meet with you to insure the tools you develop can be applied to all aspects of our future society.

Respectfully,

Edward U. Graham, Ph.D., P.E., Director
Water Resources Program