

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **I.1 STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS**

Title 9, Subtitle 5 (Environment Article) of the Annotated Code of Maryland requires that the County's Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan provide for the orderly expansion and extension of community and multi-use water supply systems and community and multi-use sewerage systems in a manner consistent with all applicable County and local comprehensive plans. State regulations governing preparation of the plan, Title 26.03.01 of the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), provide the general framework and the minimum requirements for county water and sewer plans. In recent years, these regulations have come to state that a county water and sewer plan may be utilized to develop the water supply and sewerage system in a manner consistent with the County comprehensive planning efforts, and, to implement the County's growth management policies. In fact, comprehensive water and sewerage planning is an important aspect of State growth management planning.

### **I.2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF PLAN**

The purpose of the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan is to provide for:

- ▶ an understanding of the County's goals, objectives, and policies in relation to water supply and sewerage planning;
- ▶ orderly expansion of water and sewer service;
- ▶ adequate water supply and sewerage treatment capacity to meet present and future needs;
- ▶ protection of public health through adequate wastewater treatment; and
- ▶ capital programming in order to provide water and sewer service.

Recognizing the potential effects of uncontrolled land use patterns now and in the future, Charles County completed a Comprehensive Plan in 1990, which provides for the orderly development of growth within the County. The Plan was recently updated in June, 1997. The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan can be used as a tool to implement the County's growth management policies and can assure that the rate of growth does not outstrip the County's ability to provide essential public services.

### **I.3 RELATION OF PLAN TO OTHER COUNTY PLANS AND PROGRAMS**

The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan has been developed to compliment and implement the goals, objectives and policies for water and sewerage service, as outlined in the Charles County Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan relies upon a forecast of future land uses, population projections, and policies for growth management and the provision of public services as provided in the Comprehensive Plan.

The Zoning Ordinance was developed to further the Comprehensive Plan, by providing regulations for land uses occurring within the County. In fact, the Zoning Ordinance implements many of the

goals and objectives established in the Comprehensive Plan, through its various programs, including the Water and Sewer Ordinance, the Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance and the Development Guidance System.

The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan is another important County plan and is used as a guideline for water and sewer planning. The Water and Sewer Plan and the Zoning Ordinance work in conjunction to fulfill many of the goals and objectives of the Comprehensive Plan. The Water and Sewer Plan is particularly useful in relation to its policies on growth management and the provision of public facilities. The Water and Sewer Plan has a ten year planning period; however, the County must amend the text of the Water and Sewer Plan every other year, or as is deemed appropriate.

#### **I.4 PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

The process by which the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan was developed has involved discussions of a wide range of issues that formed the basis for framing its policies and objectives. One of the key issues involved in the plan development process was the consideration of how the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan would be implemented in concert with the other plans and policies of Charles County. The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan document encompasses the key elements of the Comprehensive Plan, the Zoning Ordinance, and other specialized studies regarding the water supply, sewerage treatment, and financial policies of the County. This 2002 update to the Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan will continue to address current issues related to comprehensive water and sewer planning issues.

Charles County has committed itself to an open and public process. Public information meetings were held where issues important to the community were discussed and a public hearing where public testimony and comment were received. These are followed up with public work sessions in which the County Commissioners refine the document and make public policy decisions. The final plan and maps are then adopted by the Commissioners. All of these sources, as well as other commenting agencies, have provided important guidance which is reflected in the content of this plan.

#### **I.5 PLAN ORGANIZATION**

The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan has two major components: the Plan text and the County-wide maps. These components are equally important and work in concert. The text provides an understanding of the County's goals, objectives, and policies and the necessary background related to water and sewerage planning. The mapping products provide a geographical context for water and sewer services.

There are 16 COMAR-required 1"=2000' maps which accompany and reinforce the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan; 8 maps for the water systems within the County and 8 maps for the sewer systems within the County. Additionally, there are three other map scales which are used by the County. The 1"=3000' maps show the Mattawoman Sewer Service Area. The 1"=4000' maps

provide an overall County-wide perspective of water and sewer services. The County also utilizes 1"=600' maps which show existing infrastructure in detail on a scale which can be used in conjunction with the County's tax maps.

The text portion of the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan has been divided into five chapters. Chapter One provides the planning framework for the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan. The goals, objectives and policies for the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan are included in this chapter, as well as the structure of the County government, the inter-relationship of this document with Federal, State and local planning policies and regulations, and the process by which this document can be amended. Policies regarding water and sewer allocations are also included within this chapter.

Chapter Two of the Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan provides a physical profile of the County, as well as a demographic data summary. Such items as the County's background, resource base, topography, soils, water resources, land use plans and major public institutions are covered in Chapter Two. In addition, this chapter provides the basis for the derivation of the population projections used in subsequent chapters to derive flows for water demand and sewerage production.

Chapter Three, "The Water Plan", provides guidelines for water supply to the County's citizens. A description of the County's water resources, existing water supply and distribution facilities, and projected water demands are provided as part of this chapter. Problem areas are also discussed and a process by which residents within problem areas can seek County relief is given. The tables which accompany this chapter inventory, assess, indicate problem areas, and identify potential capital projects.

"The Sewerage Plan" is included as Chapter Four. A description of the existing sewerage treatment and disposal facilities located within Charles County is provided in this chapter. Existing systems are assessed and problem areas are identified. A process by which residents within problem areas can seek County relief is identified. This chapter also identifies potential capital projects which can be implemented by the public or private sector.

The Comprehensive Water and Sewerage Plan's final chapter, Chapter 5, "The Financial Implementation Plan", provides a link between the County water supply and sewerage needs and their implementation. The chapter also describes various funding mechanisms available to the County for financing the improvements discussed in Chapters Three and Four. Another important aspect of this chapter is the discussion of the capital improvements planning strategy in relation to water and sewer planning, and how this Plan can be used to present problem areas for correction. This is particularly important in today's funding environment where public utility improvements can be accomplished either: through County capital funding; public-private partnerships; developer dedications through the Zoning Ordinance's adequate public facilities or development guidance system provisions; the subdivision review process; or other programs.

The pertinent information for each chapter is provided through text, figures, tables, and appendices. The information contained within the text and the maps provides the user with the information

required to understand the County's policies for providing water and sewerage service for Charles County. Chapters Three and Four provide informative tables related to the County's existing system. Supporting materials appear in the form of appendices.

**ADOPTING RESOLUTION**

(SEE PRINTED COPY OF PLAN FOR ADOPTING RESOLUTION)

Certification by Registered Professional Engineer

Pursuant to Title 9, Subtitle 5, Subsection 04 (B)(3) of the State Department of the Environment Regulations 10.17.01, I hereby certify engineering aspects of water supply and sewerage system projects have been prepared and/or reviewed for engineering adequacy.

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Melvin C. Beall  
Chief, Development Services  
Department of Planning & Growth Management

Certification of Consistency with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of Charles County  
Sections of the Plan covering land use planning issue have been examined and reviewed for consistency with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan of Charles County, in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 9-506.

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Steve T. Magoon  
Director, Planning Division  
Department of Planning and Growth Management

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