

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
2021 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-29-2021
Proposed by Council Member Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, and Taveras
Introduced by Council Members Anderson-Walker, Hawkins, Taveras
Dernoga, Harrison, Davis, Glaros, Streeter, Ivey, Turner and Franklin
Date of Introduction March 23, 2021

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning

2 An Army Corps of Engineers Flood Assessment and Mapping Study

3 For the purpose of declaring the intent of the Prince George's County Council (the "County
4 Council") to request the County to commence a County-wide flooding assessment and mapping
5 study, performed by the United States Army Corps of Engineers, subject to appropriation, in
6 order to assist the County in updating existing flooding and mapping studies as well as to inform
7 and guide future community planning with current data and flood-risk metrics that provide a
8 comprehensive assessment on the impact of bioretention, sprawl and new development; and

9 WHEREAS, Prince George's County has suffered severe erosion and devastating flooding
10 damage to residents' properties due to more frequent storms, and increased volume of rainfall
11 events, further exacerbated by an existing County-wide deteriorated stormwater infrastructure
12 that is beyond its expected useful life and in need of repair and replacement; and

13 WHEREAS, flooding that occurs within and outside the existing mapped floodplain is a
14 County-wide problem that reflects decades of development that has outpaced the capacity of
15 stormwater infrastructure and disrupted the natural flow and discharge of watersheds, and

16 WHEREAS, a flood assessment and mapping study will consist of determining riverine,
17 stormwater, nuisance and coastal flooding, as indicated; and

18 WHEREAS, a flood assessment and mapping study will identify sources of nuisance
19 and urban flooding, analyze flood hazards, that will assist the County with identifying actions to
20 reduce flooding whereby increasing community resiliency; and

21 WHEREAS, mitigating and/or preventing loss and damage to residential homes,
22 businesses, tourism, recreational activities, and natural resources is paramount to the economic

1 survival of Prince George's County; and

2 WHEREAS, there is broad support throughout the Prince George's community for
3 addressing catastrophic flooding issues caused, in part, by the loss of established vegetation
4 through over-development as a result of an increase in impervious surfaces due to unrestricted
5 sprawl growth, compounded by newer stormwater connections to an aged and inadequate
6 stormwater infrastructure; and

7 WHEREAS, the Flood Assessment and Mapping Study supports the goals of General Plan
8 2035, which provides in Policy 4: Assess land use decisions for potential climate change
9 impacts. Specifically,

10 NE4.1 Perform a flooding and sea-level rise analysis for the County. Prioritize climate
11 adaptation upgrades to at-risk areas with the greatest population impacts and include
12 implementable actions and policy.

13 NE4.2 Include more detailed hazard information related to climate adaptation and
14 mitigation strategies when updating the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan should
15 utilize the information obtained in the sea level rise and flooding analysis and should also
16 include implementable actions for areas at high risk for flooding.

17 NE4.3 Create a countywide standard for reviewing infrastructure installation, upgrades, and
18 maintenance projects against projected climate change impacts.

19 NE4.4 Locate major road, transit, electrical, wastewater treatment, stormwater, and other
20 infrastructure out of high-risk areas. Where relocation is not feasible, update existing
21 infrastructure with climate-resilient technologies.

22 NE4.5 Implement the County's Climate Action Plan (CAP) and identify strategies related
23 to land use. Integrate climate action strategies into County codes as appropriate.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that a County-wide flood assessment and
25 mapping study will be sought from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, subject to
26 appropriation, by Prince George's County, Maryland.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will request a County-wide flood
28 assessment and mapping study from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, that does the
29 following:

30 A. Identifies potential Best Management Practices for mitigation, and a plan of action
31 relating to flood risk management;

1 B. Identifies the causes of continued flooding in pre-selected areas that are determined by
2 the County Council;

3 C. Maps select stormwater management systems and flood risk areas;

4 D. Focuses on primary focal areas and flood risk areas and evaluates the stormwater
5 system capacity of existing Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) stormwater
6 systems and pumping stations in the County;

7 E. Identifies a plan of action, best practices, as well as mitigation and remedies relating to
8 the issues identified by the study;

9 F. Focuses on the impact of development in the floodplain and in flood risk areas and the
10 potential displacement of that floodplain and flood risk area to other parts of the County.

11 G. Compiles a comprehensive report of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations
12 that outlines how to treat existing problems and mitigate them in the future, and which may
13 result in an update on the suggested floodplain areas and in flood risk areas.

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be sent by the Clerk of the
15 Council to the County Executive, and to the following entities, which will participate in the
16 study, including but not limited to: the County Department of the Environment, the Department
17 of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement, the Department of Public Works and
18 Transportation, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland-National Capital
19 Park and Planning Commission, and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Additional
20 participants in the study may be appointed by the Chair of County Council.

Adopted this 8th day of June, 2021.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Calvin S. Hawkins, II
Chair

ATTEST:

Donna J. Brown
Clerk of the Council