

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL
AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

Meeting Date: 3/6/2001

Reference No.: CR-4-2001

Proposer: County Executive

Draft No.: 2

Sponsors: Shapiro, Bailey

Item Title: A Resolution establishing a Fee Schedule for the use of the County's Geographic Information System-Based (GIS) Floodplain Model for new floodplain studies

Drafter: Karen T. Zavakos
Law

Resource Larry Coffman
Personnel: DER

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

Date Presented: __/__/__

Executive Action: __/__/__

Committee Referral: 2/13/2001 THE

Effective Date: __/__/__

Committee Action: 2/22/2001 FAV(A)

Date Introduced: 2/13/2001

Public Hearing: __/__/__ :__ __

Council Action: 3/6/2001 ADOPTED

Council Votes: RVR:A, DB:A, JE:A, IG:A, TH:A, WM:A, AS:A, PS:A, MW:A

Pass/Fail: P

Remarks: _____

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE DATE: 2/22/01

Committee Vote: Favorable as amended, 4-0, (In favor: Council Members Estepp, Bailey, Gourdine and Shapiro).

CR-4-2001 is companion legislation to CB-84-2000. CB-84-2000 was presented before the Council last November. CB-84-2000 authorized the Department of Environmental Resources (DER) to conduct floodplain studies utilizing the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) floodplain models. This procedure will streamline the permit process related to floodplain models because the County will be offering the studies. The new revenue will be used to operate and maintain the Geographic Information System. During consideration of CB-84-2000, DER staff explained that the fee schedule for the GIS based floodplain models would be introduced before the Council in the spring.

CR-4-2001 authorizes a fee schedule for conducting the floodplain study utilizing the County's Geographic Information System. The DER staff indicates that the proposed fees are 10% of what would normally be charged in the private sector. The fees currently range from \$10,000 - \$25,000. Eight engineering firms were interviewed to assist in determining the proposed fees. Currently, the studies take 2 to 3 months to conduct. With the automatic system, a floodplain model has been developed to reduce the time to 2 days. There are approximately 100 floodplain studies conducted per year.

The DER staff also stated that two staff members are dedicated to implementing the new procedure. \$150,000 is allocated for salaries and overhead and \$50,000 for equipment. The DER staff explained that the proposed fees are sufficient to cover cost of the services and the annual maintenance of equipment.

The Committee deleted the proposed fee of \$50 for floodplain data inquiry, page 2, line 5. It was the consensus of the Committee that the fee would be burdensome to the citizens.

The Office of Law finds CR-4-2001 to be in proper legislative form. The County Executive supports CR-4-2001.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION/FISCAL IMPACT
(Includes reason for proposal, as well as any unique statutory requirements)

This resolution establishes a fee schedule for conducting floodplain studies using the County's GIS-based floodplain models and for providing floodplain information to the public. This resolution is to streamline the permit process related to floodplain studies. In addition to savings on cost and time for developers, the collected fee will enable the Department of Environmental Resources to self-support its GIS operation/activities.

CODE INDEX TOPICS: