



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of the County Executive

Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

October 23, 2024

The Honorable Jolene Ivey
Chair
Prince George's County Council
Wayne K. Curry Administration Building
1301 McCormick Drive
Largo, Maryland 20774

Dear Chair Ivey,

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission has proposed an overall 12.2% revenue enhancement for FY 2026 from water and sewer volumetric charges and the fixed fee ready-to-serve charges (the Account Maintenance Fee and Infrastructure Investment Fee). The Commission also projects a subsequent revenue enhancement of 9.7% in FY 2027 from the volumetric charges and fixed fees. The proposal was reviewed by the Bi-County Spending Affordability Working Group on September 11, 2024 and September 25, 2024.

As part of its request for what would be historically high revenue enhancements, the Commission notes the continued trend of declining water consumption despite population increases, the goal of maintaining its AAA bond rating, an evolving regulatory framework, deferred maintenance, the need to invest in its workforce, and the trend of approved rate increases that are below those requested. Moreover, the Commission emphasizes its mission to provide safe and reliable water and sewer services to its bi-county service area.

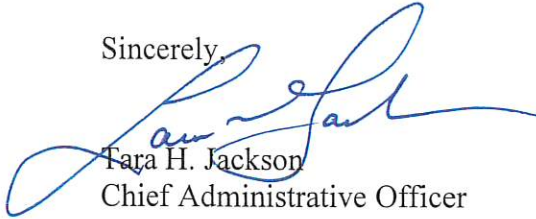
After a thorough review of the information provided by the Commission and meetings with its leadership, we believe that a revenue enhancement of up to 8% in FY 2026 would be reasonable. We can certainly appreciate the decisions that the Commission will be faced with in delivering its budget at an 8% revenue enhancement; however, we believe that affordability for our citizens – residents and businesses alike – is a key goal in this process and that fiscal prudence and restraint by the Commission is important to achieving this goal. Provided that some adjustments to the long-term plan are implemented, such as reducing the proposed significant increase in PAYGO, including capital completion factors in the debt sizing analysis, reducing the proposed staffing increase, adjusting the proposed reduction in the personnel vacancy rate, and smoothing proposed enhancements across the plan's time horizon, we are confident that the Commission can successfully manage the administration of safe, reliable, and affordable water and sewer services to the bi-county region, as it has done throughout its 106-year history, within the recommended 8% revenue enhancement.

Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Revenue

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Sincerely,



Tara H. Jackson
Chief Administrative Officer

cc: Members, Prince George's County Council
T. Eloise Foster, Chair, WSSC (Montgomery County)
Mark J. Smith, Vice Chair, WSSC (Prince George's County)
Fausto R. Bayonet, Commissioner, WSSC (Montgomery County)
Lynnette D. Espy-Williams, Commissioner, WSSC (Prince George's County)
Jonathan Powell, Commissioner, WSSC (Montgomery County)
Regina Y. Speed-Bost, Commissioner, WSSC (Prince George's County)
Kishia L. Powell, General Manager/Chief Executive Officer, WSSC
Joy A. Russell, Chief of Staff, Office of the County Executive
Jennifer A. Jenkins, Council Administrator, Prince George's County Council
Jared M. McCarthy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Government Operations
Stanley A. Earley, Director, Office of Management and Budget