January 31, 2006

Mayor and City Council of Alexandria
City Hall
301 King Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Four Mile Run Master Plan

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

The Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) has reviewed the Four Mile Run Master Plan and wholeheartedly endorses the Master Plan and applauds the efforts by all those associated with developing the Master Plan. The EPC is particularly encouraged by the following elements of the Master Plan:

1. This Master Plan integrates in a very positive and creative way: flood protection; advanced designs to improve corridor and stream habitat for aquatic and near-aquatic organisms; and urban life aesthetics and recreation opportunities.

2. It provides a model for developing and achieving long-term environmental goals involving multiple jurisdictions.

3. It is planning on a grand scale that establishes an ultimate vision while still providing opportunities for flexibility in timing and funding. The EPC believes that the incremental steps allowed in the Master Plan will lead to the most efficient use of funds for all jurisdictions involved.

4. The Master Plan is supportive of and consistent with the Water Quality Management Plan adopted by the City Council in 2001, and stresses providing access to and opportunities for public education and outreach.

5. The Master Plan is supportive of the Nature Center concept and incorporates elements that reduce litter and encourage recycling in conjunction with the nature center.
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The EPC also recommends that:

1. As implementation of the Master Plan moves forward, the EPC encourages that baseline environmental conditions be evaluated and measurements for stream restoration success be established and monitored.

2. The EPC strongly recommends including monies for implementation of the Master Plan in its annual capital improvements budget. Such funds could be used for matching grants and federal funding.

3. The EPC encourages the City Council to lend its support to the Master Plan as expeditiously as possible.

The EPC looks forward to continued participation in the monitoring and implementation of the Four Mile Run Master Plan.

Should you have any questions regarding this recommendation, please contact us.

Sincerely,

[signature]

Danielle Fidler
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

cc: James K. Hartmann, City Manager
Rich Baier, Director, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services