

# COG Regional Water Quality Partnerships

Presentation to Potomac Watershed Roundtable

October 2, 2015

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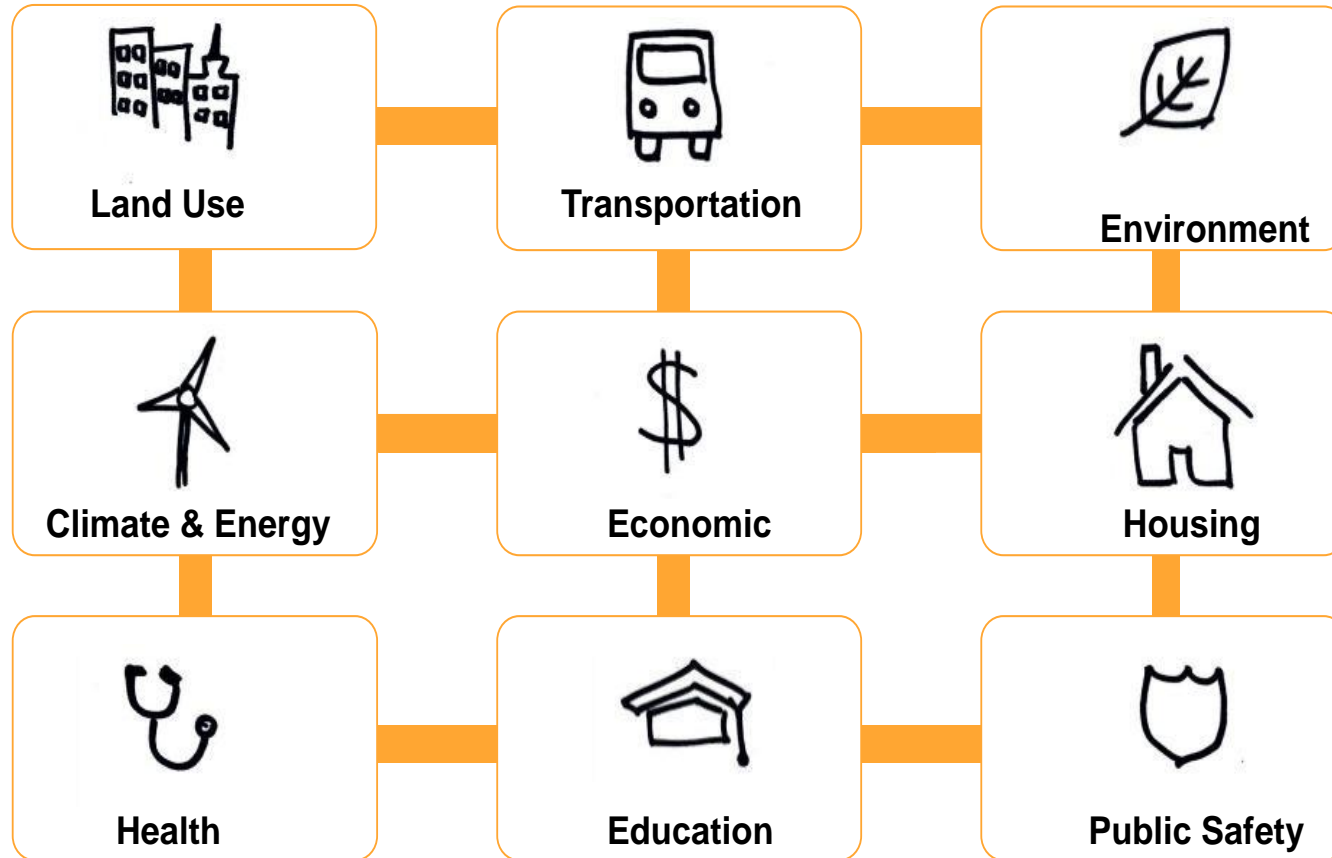


METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  
Council of Governments

# Overview of COG

- ▶ **What is the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG or MWCOG)?**
  - ▶ Independent, nonprofit association (created in 1957)
  - ▶ Brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in DC, suburban MD & Northern VA
  - ▶ Membership - 300 elected officials/22 local governments, MD & VA state legislatures, & U.S. Congress
  - ▶ Policies set by: COG Board, National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, & Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (a broad range of issues under COG umbrella)
  - ▶ Supporting committees help shape programs
    - ▶ Made up of wide array of dedicated public servants - from police chiefs to social workers, and wastewater operations & stormwater management staff & managers
  - ▶ For more than 58 years, COG has helped tackle the region's biggest challenges: restoring the Potomac River, ensuring Metro system was fully built, & strengthening emergency preparedness after Sept. 11, 2001
  - ▶ Supported by financial contributions from its participating local governments, federal and state grants and contracts, and donations from foundations and the private sector.
- ▶ **COG Vision - *Region Forward***
  - ▶ It's a commitment by COG and its member governments, who together seek to create a more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable National Capital Region.
- ▶ **COG Mission - To Make *Region Forward* Happen**
  - ▶ By being a discussion forum, expert resource, issue advocate, and catalyst for action.

# WATER supports/impacts all of these activities!



# Partnerships for Regional Water Quality Protection & Management

## Regional Water Quality Management Program

- ▶ Policy & Technical Support to COG's local governments and utilities on broad range of water issues:
  - ▶ Water Quality / Water Resources / Water Infrastructure
  - ▶ Wastewater treatment
  - ▶ Stormwater management
  - ▶ Climate related issues/flooding
  - ▶ Workforce issues
  - ▶ Regional drought plan, monitoring and management (during drought periods)
  - ▶ Related security & safety matters
- ▶ Includes active coordination/work with, for example:
  - ▶ EPA - Region III and Chesapeake Bay Program
  - ▶ States - MD & VA, and other Bay States, and ICPRB
  - ▶ Federal Government - USGS, USFW, NOAA
  - ▶ National organizations - NACO, WEF, AWWA
  - ▶ Local/Regional utility organizations - VAMWA/VAMSA & MAMWA/MAMSA
  - ▶ Local government organizations - NVRC, VML, MACO



## Blue Plains Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA)

- ▶ Secretariat, Technical & Policy Support to Blue Plains Parties:
  - ▶ District of Columbia, and DC Water, DC
  - ▶ Fairfax County, VA
  - ▶ Prince George's & Montgomery Counties and WSSC, MD
- ▶ COG active support since before 1985

Potomac Watershed Roundtable

10/2/2015

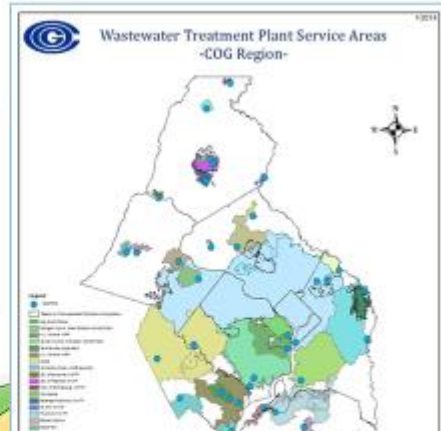
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# Water Issues Complex - Partnerships Critical to Success

## Wastewater

### Region's Population

- 90% Served by Wastewater Treatment Plants
- 10% Served by On-site Septic & Community Systems



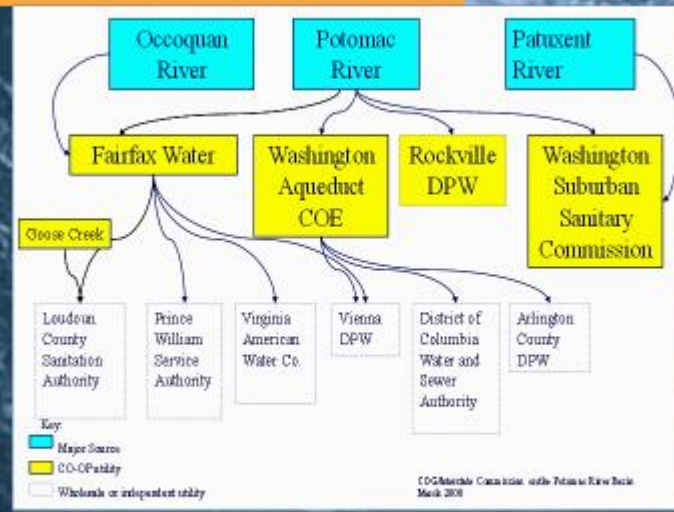
## Wastewater



### Metropolitan Region at a Glance

- 24 Plants – 19 Major
- 16 Collection Systems
- 722 MGD Capacity
  - Blue Plains – 370 MGD
- 544 MGD Average Treatment (2013)
- Two Combined Sewer Systems
  - District & Alexandria

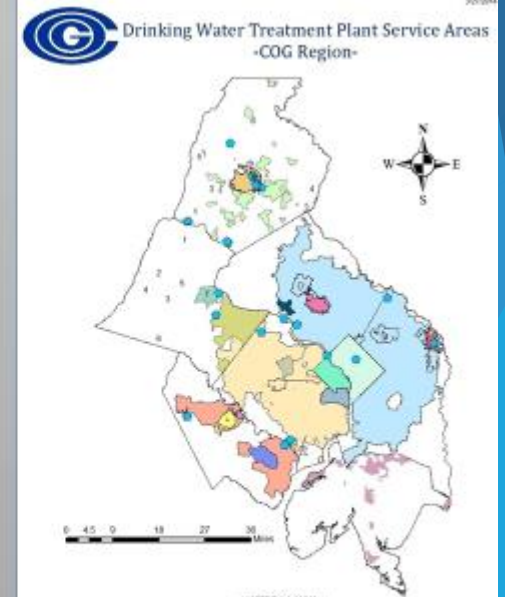
## NCR Water Supply System Schematic



Potomac Watershed Round

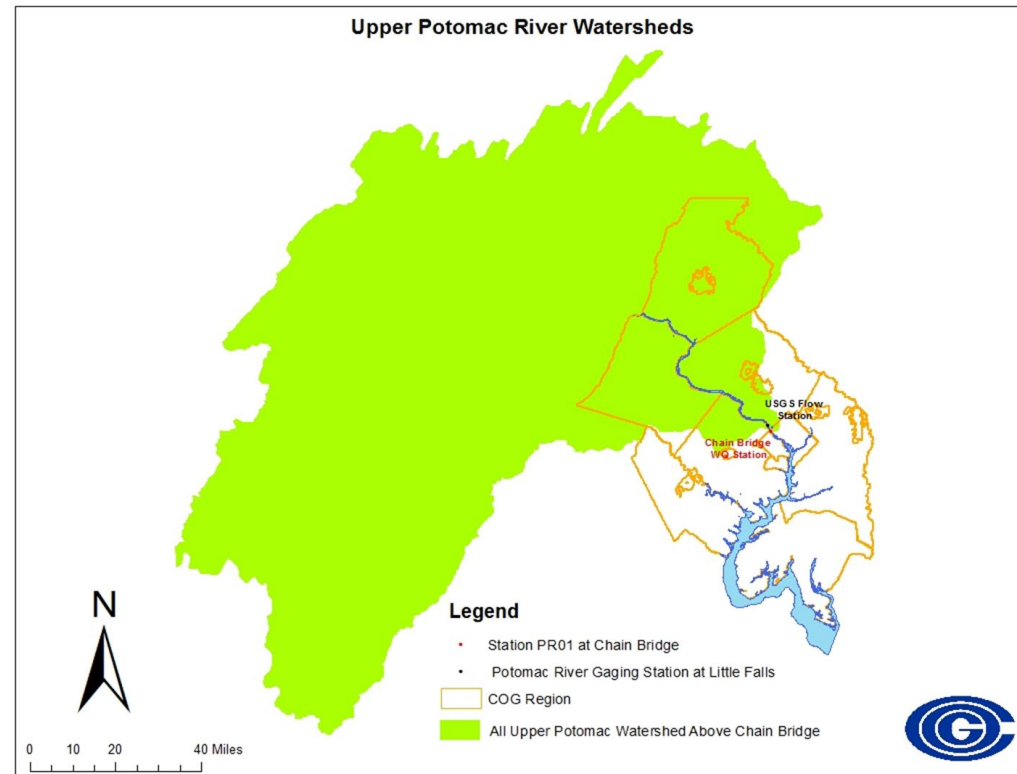


## Drinking Water Providers



# Partnerships for Water Quality & Quantity Monitoring

- ▶ Work with Occoquan Watershed Monitory Lab
  - ▶ Long-term monitoring of water quality in Potomac River at Chain Bridge
  - ▶ Analysis of long-term trends in the Potomac
- ▶ Cooperative funding with USGS to fund the Little Falls streamflow gauge



# Partnerships for Local Watershed Restoration

## ▶ Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership

- ▶ Anacostia Restoration Plan
- ▶ Coordination with DC, Montgomery Co, Prince Georges Co, MDE, MDNR
  - ▶ Steering Committee, Management Committee - probably not worth mentioning the Leadership Council as it has not met in forever
  - ▶ Targets and indicators to track progress in improving the water quality
  - ▶ Anacostia Watershed Citizen's Advisory Committee
  - ▶ Coordination with other efforts such as DC Toxics work, stormwater programs etc.
- ▶ Specific projects such as Trash TMDL monitoring, water quality monitoring, anadromous fish studies, riparian restoration, etc.



### Participating Organizations

District of Columbia Department of the Environment  
Environmental Protection Agency, Water Protection Division  
Green Developers  
Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources  
Maryland Department of the Environment  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection  
Municipalities  
National and Local NGOs  
National Park Service  
National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration  
Summit Fund of Washington  
University of Maryland  
US Army Corps of Engineers

# Partnerships for Climate Change Prevention & Preparedness

- Chesapeake Bay Climate Adaptation Workgroup
  - Work plan to support Bay resilience
- Climate Adaptation Assistance to/with local governments
- NOAA / US EPA / WERF / WaterRF / CTC / Noblis/MWCOG and DC Water
  - Extreme Weather Events Workshop and subsequent Case Study Fact sheet focused on *Water Resources Management in Response to Extreme Weather / Climate Events in the National Capital Region* (using the Derecho and Hurricane Sandy as guideposts)
- NASA/MWCOG/NCPC/Smithsonian/GSA/USGCRP
  - Series of climate change vulnerability and adaptation workshops and resulting report called Building a Climate Resilient National Capital Region
- Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee
  - COG's largest multi-stakeholder policy committee with representation from non-profits, academia, think tanks, energy-related companies, and utilities, along with local government representatives
  - Works towards goals in the Climate & Energy Action Plan and advises the COG Board on climate & energy





# Partnerships on Other Water Issues

## ▶ Drinking Water Protection

- ▶ Work with ICPRB and local drinking water utilities & local governments
- ▶ Real-time water quality monitoring & coordinating responses; public messaging on incidents such as the upstream latex spill; coord. with public health officials
- ▶ RESF-3, Public Works and Engineering for water infrastructure
- ▶ Water system flushing protocol development
- ▶ Drinking water supply resiliency/redundancy studies and projects
- ▶ Water - energy nexus planning - energy supply chain/cascading impacts of outages; energy efficiency. Renewables & microgrid support at water plants, pumping stations, etc.

## ▶ Community Education Campaign

- ▶ Work with local wastewater & drinking water utilities & local governments
  - ▶ Protect your Pipes/Do Not Flus / TapIt / Wise Water Use

## ▶ Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition

- ▶ Support implementation of clean fuel vehicles in fleets, including water & wastewater - Fairfax Water and DC Water were GWRCCC award winners in 2014

## ▶ Forestry and Ag programs to promote preservation/growth of ag and forestry open space with one of its primary goals of protecting water quality

## ▶ Other public education - Fact sheets & COG's Infrastructure report



# Questions?

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