

Environmental and Intergovernmental Reviews

August 2020

In cooperation with State Agencies, PlanRVA routinely is requested to provide environmental and intergovernmental reviews. PlanRVA staff circulate the review requests among member locality staff for comments and questions prior to submitting a response to the requesting State Agency.

Located within the Richmond Region

Coastal Zone Management 35th Year

Coastal Virginia

DEQ is requesting \$2,968,500 in Federal Funds to be matched with a pool of \$2,450,500 comprised of state, PDC, and other program partner funds for a total program cost of \$5,419,000. These funds will enable the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program to function for its 35th year. The CZM Program supports many Coastal planning and data management projects: ocean planning, local technical assistance, marine debris & litter, habitat & native plants, public access to waterways, working waterfronts, etc. You can learn more about the CZM Program by visiting their website: <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/programs/coastalzonemanagement.aspx>. PlanRVA receives grants from the CZM Program for local technical assistance (e.g. Environmental TAC & regional coordination and Don't Trash Central Virginia) and the Lower Chickahominy project. PlanRVA staff received no comments from locality staff. PlanRVA staff responded with support for the grant application.

New Kent Airport Easement

New Kent

This project is proposed for the purposes of maintaining a safe and efficient airfield to safely and effectively serve the flying public; and, to provide hangar storage facilities to accommodate anticipated demand. The Proposed Action includes land acquisition (avigation easements), obstruction mitigation (tree removal, trimming, and/or lighting), and hangar construction. Tree removal is expected in the RPA. Air pollution resulting from the projects is expected to be minor and temporary in nature and would principally consist of minor fugitive dust emissions from construction activities as well as emissions from construction vehicles utilized during the construction. PlanRVA staff received no comments from locality staff; PlanRVA staff responded with no comments about the proposed project.

Harris Hall Expansion

Richmond

The proposed activity involves the expansion of the existing Harris Hall building on VCU's Monroe Park campus. While detailed site plans are not yet available, the concept for the proposed project includes an expansion from the existing building footprint in order to accommodate the relocation of facilities currently located in the Temple Building, located across Main Street to the southeast of the subject property. The Temple Building will be demolished to allow for the future construction of the new University Student Commons. Both the demolition of the Temple Building and construction of the new Student Commons will be conducted under separate funding and projects sometime in the future. In addition, the Master Plan also calls for an Iconic Green open space to be placed to the east of the Harris Hall addition, but that too will be completed under a separate project. The proposed project subject to this EIR includes only the proposed expansion of Harris Hall to allow for the relocation of the Temple Building facilities. Environmental impacts from the proposed project are expected to be minor due to the currently developed nature of the area. PlanRVA received no comments from locality staff. PlanRVA staff responded with no comments to DEQ.

2020 Water Use Data and Research

Virginia

DEQ is requesting \$122,643 in Federal funds for a data and research project studying the recent past and current use of irrigation by agricultural producers. These data are often under- and un-reported to DEQ. The overall goal of this project is to develop estimates of non-reported agricultural irrigation withdrawals at the county level and improve DEQ's understanding of the potential impact of these withdrawals on water supply, particularly during dry periods. The data produced by this analysis will be used in the Virginia water supply planning process and in other resource management decisions at DEQ. The data will also be shared with USGS and the methodology should be transferable to other states. PlanRVA staff received no comments from locality staff. PlanRVA staff offered support for the grant application.

