

## Environmental & Intergovernmental Reviews

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.

**Environmental reviews** can include:

- **Environmental Assessments and Impact Reports** - Virginia code requires state agencies to prepare an environmental impact report (EIR) for each major state project.
- **Coastal Consistency Determinations and Certifications** - Due to receipt of Federal funds or permits, proposed projects must prove consistency with the enforceable policies of Virginia's Coastal Zone Management Program.
- **Groundwater Withdrawal Permits** - PlanRVA staff receives notice of Groundwater Withdrawal Permits in the Eastern Virginia Ground Water Management Area (GWMA). The eastern portion of PlanRVA is located in the Eastern Virginia GWMA. All jurisdictions in the Eastern Virginia GWMA are notified of pending permits as part of this process, therefore PlanRVA receives review requests for projects outside of the Richmond region. For more information about the Eastern Virginia GWMA see <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/Programs/Water/WaterSupplyWaterQuantity/WaterWithdrawalPermittingandCompliance.aspx>.
- **Virginia Water Protection (VWP) Permits** - DEQ issues VWP Permits for activities related to the quality of surface waters in the Commonwealth including the filling, dredging, draining or excavation of wetlands, streams, or other state waters. Surface water withdrawals are also permitted through VWP permits.
- **Virginia Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (VPDES) Permits** – DEQ issues VPDES permits to any person who discharges any pollutant into surface waters of the Commonwealth from a point source.

**Intergovernmental reviews** can include:

- State Agency grant applications for Federal funding, including:
  - CERCLA grant funds from US EPA (Superfund programming and site remediation)
  - Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
  - Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) State Clean Diesel funds from US EPA
  - Capitalization funds for the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund for wastewater treatment facility improvements from US EPA
- FHWA Section 5310 funding for projects involving transit and mobility enhancements for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

For additional information on the reviews, please go to the following:

<https://planrva.org/environment/reviews/>.



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March 2021 - April 2021

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## Located within the Richmond Region

### **Watermark Gardens Apartments**

*Chesterfield*

The Watermark Gardens Apartment complex will be a new housing development project involving a 2.886-acre site consisting of two, four-story buildings with 80 apartment units for elderly tenants. On-site parking spaces will total 96 spaces. The development will meet the requirements of Earthcraft Platinum Certification.

This project may affect only one species on the subject property. The threatened Northern Longeared bat is known to roost in the entire east coast of North America. However, after using the FWS Determination Key, it has been determined that the bat will not be adversely affected in this area since actions will be followed such as not removing trees during the roosting months. Copies of the Winter habitat and roost tree map, a biological assessment, verification letter further describing this specie can be found included in this letter. No other listed or unlisted species was found in this search and therefore this project will have no effect on this policy. This development project will comply with all applicable regulations regarding wildlife and inland fisheries.

The property is proposed to be an affordable housing development with municipal water and sewer that are already located along on Iron Bridge Road. This development project will comply with all applicable regulations regarding sanitation. PlanRVA staff received no comments from locality staff. PlanRVA staff responded with no comments about the proposed project.

### **Nutri-Blend Hanover**

*Hanover*

Nutri-Blend, Inc. has applied for a permit reissuance to include 2,479.9 acres of agricultural land at 5 sites. The permit authorizes the land application of biosolids and WTP residuals as fertilizer to specific sites in Hanover County, and limits the application of nutrients, metals, and pathogens contained in these materials to amounts that protect water quality and human health. No comments or questions were submitted by member locality staff. PlanRVA staff responded with no comments on the proposed permit. For site-specific information about this proposed modification and additional information about the DEQ permitting program for biosolids and WTP residuals, visit the following website:

<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/permits-regulations/public-notices/water/land-application-virginia-pollution-abatement>

DEQ's preliminary decision is to reissue a permit.

## **Sherwood Crossing II**

### *Hanover*

The Subject Property is planned for multi-family residential development. A total of four (4) three-story multifamily residential structures, totaling 90-units is planned. Site amenities include a clubhouse, recreational center, common area, and a total of four covered parking garages (246 total parking spaces). Based on the proposed development plan, HUD has determined that the construction and operation of the Sherwood Crossing II will have no adverse effect on the coastal uses and/or natural resources of Virginia that are addressed by the nine (9) enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program. PlanRVA staff received no comments from locality staff. PlanRVA staff responded with no comments about the proposed project.

## **VCU Hardy Street Acquisition**

### *Richmond*

The proposed activity involves the acquisition and subsequent re-development of the subject property, including demolition of the existing building on-site. While plans are not available at this stage, the concept for the future redevelopment includes a large athletic facility for Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). The subject property is comprised of a single parcel totaling approximately 0.15-acres and is identified as City of Richmond Parcel No. N0001304012 located at 2700 Hardy Street in Richmond, Virginia (Figure 1a, Appendix I). The project site is currently developed with two small buildings, including the existing James River Distillery building and associated storage/boiler room. It is located in a mixed light industrial and commercial area of the City of Richmond. A desired start of construction has not yet been determined and plans or design for future development is still in the very preliminary planning phase. The VCU athletic programs have been located within the same facilities since the 1990s. The University has grown in size along with the City of Richmond, and now requires expanded and modernized athletic facilities to support both the University's programs and community activities. In the collegiate athletic realm, modern training and practice facilities are required to attract and retain young talented athletes and remain competitive with other schools. Given the relatively low ecological value of the area, previously disturbed nature of the subject site, and developed surrounding landscape, irreversible impacts associated with the proposed project and acquisition of the site are expected to be limited. PlanRVA staff received no comments from locality staff. PlanRVA staff responded with no comments about the proposed project.

## **VCU Athletic Village**

### *Richmond*

Over a period of time, Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) proposes to demolish structures currently located within the project area and construct a large, multi-faceted athletics facility. The project area consists of eight parcels within the area bounded by Hermitage Road (west), Robin Hood Road (north), Hardy Street (east), and Rhoadmiller Street (south). In the absence of any natural features or conditions of interest, and in view of the nature of the project, proceeding with the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect the natural environment. The proposed project will have a conspicuous direct (demolition) effects on historic architectural historic resources. The proposed project will also have indirect (visual) effects on adjacent resources that are also included in the Hermitage Road Warehouse Historic District. VCU will be working with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to evaluate any mitigation measures that may - or may not - be warranted. No comments or questions were submitted by member locality staff. PlanRVA staff responded with no comments on the EIR.

## **New Tunnel from General Assembly Building to Capital**

### *Richmond*

The project site is located at 1000 Bank Street in Richmond, VA and is located within the northwest corner of the Capitol Square grounds. The proposed project includes constructing a new, below grade tunnel that will connect the GAB and the Capitol Building, providing secure access points into both buildings. The Capitol Building is located to the south of the GAB. The proposed tunnel alignment will pass to the north and east of the Virginia Washington Monument. The tunnel will connect to the GAB at the lower-level elevation through the original 1912 historic façade. An egress stair would provide an exit into the landscaping of Capitol Square just north of the Virginia Washington Monument. On the Capitol Building side, the tunnel will connect to the building extension at the lower level near the kitchen between the plaza and roof levels. The construction of the tunnel will occur in two phases. This will be done to limit disturbance to the site during the 2022 Gubernatorial Inauguration. The exact location of the phased construction limits is still being determined and will be coordinated with the owner to ensure all site activities can be accommodated. PlanRVA staff received no comments from locality staffs. PlanRVA staff responded with no comments about the proposed project.