

Monday, November 27, 2023

From: Frank DiGialleonardo

To: gacommissionersandadministrator@qac.gov

Cc: Amy Moredock, Carolyn Brinkley

Subject: Proposed Amendment to County Comprehensive Water and Sewer Plan by the Town of Centreville

Dear Commissioners,

As a long-standing partner with Centreville and the County in the restoration and preservation of the Corsica River and watershed, the Corsica River Conservancy has been aware for some time of Centreville's need to upgrade and expand its wastewater capacity. The plan as the Town currently envisions it will include new and expanded discharge into the Corsica. We are continuing to learn about Town plans but have several concerns from what we know now.

The proposal to replace the current plant with a new one using a bioreactor membrane also includes moving the discharge point downstream into the main channel and dramatically increasing the amount of discharge annually released directly into the Corsica. The Corsica is a fragile shallow water ecosystem and even seemingly small changes could have significant effects. These include the potential for:

1. A degraded marine habitat from increased effluent that may result in temperature and salinity changes.
2. Damage to the upper Corsica anadromous fish spawning area and to state designated oyster sanctuaries.
3. Decreased benefit from nutrient uptake that now occurs in the extensive wetland area of the current discharge point if that point is moved to the main channel.
4. Increased toxins from pharmaceuticals and microplastics, which are not filtered out by the membrane technology, as discharges increase.

These are some initial concerns to consider along with envisioned benefits. We have not had the opportunity to review the Town's plan in detail nor receive an independent assessment. We will continue to learn more. This proposal represents a significant decision that needs to be very carefully considered lest it impact the progress in restoring the Corsica River that has been undertaken over the last 16 years and the natural resource legacy it aims to preserve.

Respectfully,

Frank DiGialleonardo

President, Corsica River Conservancy