



Department of Community Development  
12007 Courthouse Circle  
Post Office Box 150  
New Kent, Virginia 23124  
(804) 966-9690

January 23, 2024

Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation  
Attention: Virginia Community Flood Preparedness Fund  
Division of Dam Safety and Floodplain Management  
600 East Main Street, 24th Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219

**RE: Letter of Support for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation,  
Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant Application**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to support PlanRVA's application for a Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant to develop a Regional Flood Resilience Plan. This Plan would include project recommendations and an update of the Flood Aware mapping tool, which are critical to be able to significantly and positively impact flood preparedness and resilience.

Given the Region's increasing vulnerability to flooding, developing a Regional Resilience Plan is a proactive and strategic step toward providing the region and its localities with essential tools to protect lives and property in the future.

New Kent County recognizes the value of the following benefits of a Regional Flood Resilience Plan:

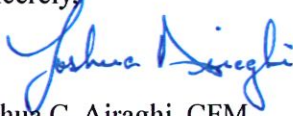
1. **Enhanced Preparedness:** A Regional Flood Resilience Plan will enhance awareness and understanding of this region's specific flood risks and vulnerability leading to reduced loss of life and property damage.
2. **Economic Resilience:** By mitigating flood risks and enhancing resilience, the region will be better equipped to maintain economic stability and attract future business investment, both of which are essential to sustainable growth and prosperity.
3. **Project Recommendations:** The Plan will identify potential locality-specific resilience projects which will assist communities to establish priorities toward incorporating projects into their regular funding cycles.
4. **Access to Additional Funding:** Securing the DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund Grant and subsequently developing a Regional Resilience Plan will support expanded and collaborative flood planning initiatives by enabling both the region and its localities to apply for future funding from both DCR and other sources.

New Kent County appreciates PlanRVA's leadership on this initiative consistent with their regional role and efforts to convene and educate stakeholders on climate resilience, community flood preparedness, and

hazard mitigation. New Kent County agrees to support this planning effort as stipulated in previous communications with PlanRVA.

New Kent County therefore urges DCR to consider and approve the grant application submitted by PlanRVA. By supporting this initiative, we continue to promote the physical and economic health of our community and look forward to the positive impacts and opportunities this initiative will have on the community and region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joshua C. Airaghi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joshua" being more prominent.

Joshua C. Airaghi, CFM

Director – Community Development