**FAIRFAX COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

**LETTER TO PWC DEPUTY COUNTY EXECUTIVE & ACTING PLANNING DIRECTOR HORNER – 032122**

It is our understanding that the Prince William County Planning Office has simultaneous efforts underway that may shape the future of the County for decades to come… we encourage Prince William County to embrace a holistic and comprehensive approach to land use analysis…

While the Occoquan Reservoir is an important supply to many across Northern Virginia, communities in most areas of Eastern Prince William County rely on the Occoquan Reservoir as their primary supply of drinking water, as do the City of Alexandria, Fort Belvoir, and portions of Fairfax County.

…As the most populous jurisdiction in the Occoquan watershed and the one with the largest land area, substantial changes in land use patterns in areas of Prince William County will impact water quality in the watershed and Reservoir.

***Recommendation: To ensure continued protection of the Occoquan Reservoir, we ask that Prince William County request that the Occoquan Basin Policy Board convene and oversee a Comprehensive Study of the proposed Planning initiatives – the Comprehensive Plan Update, Digital Gateway Corridor, and Data Center Opportunity Overlay District – to evaluate their impact on water quality in the Occoquan Reservoir. The Model, already developed and available to the NVRC member jurisdictions, is a valuable tool that should be leveraged for these planning efforts, along with the expertise and data resources of the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory.***

Given the historic investment and achievements already made by the watershed communities over the preceding five decades to improve and protect the Reservoir as a vital water resource, and the magnitude of the Planning initiatives under consideration by Prince William County, a study through the Occoquan Basin Policy Board utilizing the Model is an essential input to the land use decision process.