

# Carroll County Water Resource Coordination Council

Hampstead \* Manchester \* Mt. Airy \* New Windsor  
Carroll County Health Department



\* Sykesville \* Taneytown \* Union Bridge \* Westminster  
Carroll County Government

## WRCC Meeting Summary

March 26, 2025

### **Attendees:**

#### Municipalities:

- Kevin Hann, Chair, Hampstead
- Jim Wieprecht, Vice Chair, Taneytown
- Zac Amoss, Westminster
- Gary Dye, New Windsor
- Delbert Green, Manchester
- Greg Howell, Westminster
- Mayor Perry Jones, Union Bridge
- Rodney Kuhns, Manchester
- Matt Leister, Manchester
- Mark Mellendick, Westminster
- Mike Rawlings, Westminster
- Jim Roark, Hampstead
- Kevin Rubenstein, Sykesville
- Kevin Smeak, Taneytown
- Vance Summerhill, Westminster
- Dick Swanson, Mount Airy

#### CC PLM:

- Brenda Dinne
- Glenn Edwards
- Andrew Gray
- Chris Heyn, PLM Director
- Claire Hirt
- Byron Madigan
- Mitch Masser
- Denise Mathias
- Zach Neal
- Janet O'Meara

#### Health Department:

- Richard Brace
- Nicole Bowman

#### CCG Others:

- Andy Watcher, CC DPW
- Bryan Bokey, CC DPW
- Ashlee Treece, CC DPW

#### Guest Speakers:

- Greg Busch, MDE (MS Teams)
- Lainey Reed, MDE (MS Teams)

### **1. Opening Statement**

#### **Chair**

Mr. Hann opened the meeting at 2:33 pm.

#### **Vice Chair**

Nothing additional.

### **2. Approval of Meeting Summary – February 26, 2024**

Approval of the February meeting summary was discussed. No changes were made.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion was made by Jim Wieprecht and seconded by Kevin Rubenstein to approve the February 26, 2024, meeting summary. Motion carried.

### 3. Recycle Coach App Update – Ashlee Treece, CC DPW

- Ms. Treece shared that the Recycle Coach app is now available and demonstrated the search feature on the website. The search feature is specific to each jurisdiction. She offered to help any interested municipalities add the search feature to their own websites. She provided rack cards with a QR code for the app to place at the Town/City Halls.
- Ms. Treece also announced the Household Hazardous Waste & Medication Takeback and Document Shredding event. It will be held on April 12, 2025. She made a flyer available for the WRCC members to take.

#### *Reference/Attachment:*

- Rack Card: [Recycle Coach App QR Code](#)

### 4. Maryland Drought Status and Adaptation/Mitigation Measures – Greg Busch and Lainey Reed, MDE Water Supply Program

- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) representatives virtually presented information about MDE's drought monitoring program and how drought status is determined.
- Ms. Reed provided an overview of the drought monitoring program, discussed current drought conditions, and explained Maryland's drought response.
- Carroll County is part of the Central region for drought monitoring. Four indicators are evaluated – rainfall, streamflow, groundwater, and reservoir storage.
- She indicated that a drought watch was declared for Central Maryland on November 18. Despite some rainfall, these conditions have persisted. MDE is preparing to issue a drought warning in April.
- No streamflow monitors are located in Carroll County. A monitor on the Monocacy is used for Carroll County. In addition, only one United States Geological Society (USGS) monitoring well is located in the county, which is located at Union Mills.
- She described the different stages of drought. The fourth stage is a state of emergency, which must be declared through an executive order by the Governor. During a state of emergency is the only time when mandatory restrictions would be put in place at the State level.
- Chris Heyn is the designated Drought Coordinator for Carroll County.
- Ms. Reed noted that climate change impacts to drought conditions include higher temperatures, which leads to higher evapotranspiration. While total precipitation may be going up, the trend is for more intense storms, which tend not to lead to good recharge for aquifers in the spring. In addition, "false droughts" occur, which are rapid onset droughts that are usually caused by something other than precipitation levels, such as a heat wave.

#### *Reference/Attachment:*

- PowerPoint: [Carroll County Water Resources Coordination Council Presentation on Drought](#)

### 5. Water Resources Element (WRE 2024) Update – Brenda Dinne

- The timeline for the review and adoption process was revised to replace the dates with the amount of time each step would ideally take.
- The revised initial draft plan doc is almost done. Once it is ready, the next step will be to review it with each of the planning commissions. The end goal is to have each planning commission give approval to send the draft plan out for State-required 60-day review period, during which the draft plan is reviewed by State agencies and is available for public review.

#### *Reference/Attachment:*

- n/a

## 6. Municipal Stormwater Projects Update – Janet O’Meara

- Ms. O’Meara updated the WRCC on the status of the stormwater projects upcoming and in progress in the municipalities.
- Resource Management staff will be meeting with the Roberts Field Homeowners Association (HOA) on April 17 to share plans and status of projects for that community.

### *Reference/Attachment:*

- *Municipal Project Status, March 2025*

## 7. Legislative Update – Brenda Dinne

- Ms. Dinne provided a summary of the water- and/or environment-related bills introduced to date in the Maryland General Assembly that may impact the municipalities or the NPDES MS4 permit work. The crossover deadline has March 17. Sine Die is April 7. Some bills are expected to be amended and pass even though they missed the crossover deadline.

### *Reference/Attachment:*

- *WRCC Legislative Update, March 26, 2025*

## 8. PFAS Discussion

- Taneytown is still waiting for a formal announcement on funding of PFAS-related projects.

### *Reference/Attachment:*

- *n/a*

## 9. Other

- April Meeting: The next meeting will be held on April 23, 2025. A speaker is still to be determined.
- Water & Sewer Master Plan, Spring 2025 Amendments: Mr. Gray stated that approval by MDE on the fall 2025 amendments is still pending. Information is being gathered from the municipalities for which a spring amendment will be processed. The four planning commissions and the County Planning Commission will need to certify the amendment(s) consistency with the relevant comprehensive plans. It will then move forward to the Board of County Commissioners before sending it to the State for review and approval.
- NPDES Good Housekeeping Plans (GHPs): Mr. Edwards shared that over 250 properties were under consideration at the beginning of the process, but it has been narrowed down to 30 properties that will need to develop a good housekeeping plan. Onsite work is just about finished.
- Salt Management Plans (SMP): Mr. Edwards noted that five municipalities already have a salt management plan completed. The permit requires the salt management plans to be completed by June 30, 2025; they will need to be submitted with the fall annual report. The others are getting close. He hopes to have them complete by the end of April.

### *Reference/Attachment:*

- *n/a*

## 10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:37 PM.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT:** Motion was made by Dick Swanson and seconded by Gary Dye to adjourn the March 26, 2025, meeting. Motion carried.

### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- ☐ *Regular Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, April 23, 2025*



**Maryland**  
Department of  
the Environment

# Carroll County Water Resources Coordination Council Presentation on Drought

March 26, 2025

Lainey Reed • [lainey.reed@maryland.gov](mailto:lainey.reed@maryland.gov)  
Greg Busch • [gregory.busch@maryland.gov](mailto:gregory.busch@maryland.gov)



# Agenda

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1. Drought Monitoring Overview
2. Current Drought Conditions
3. Drought Response



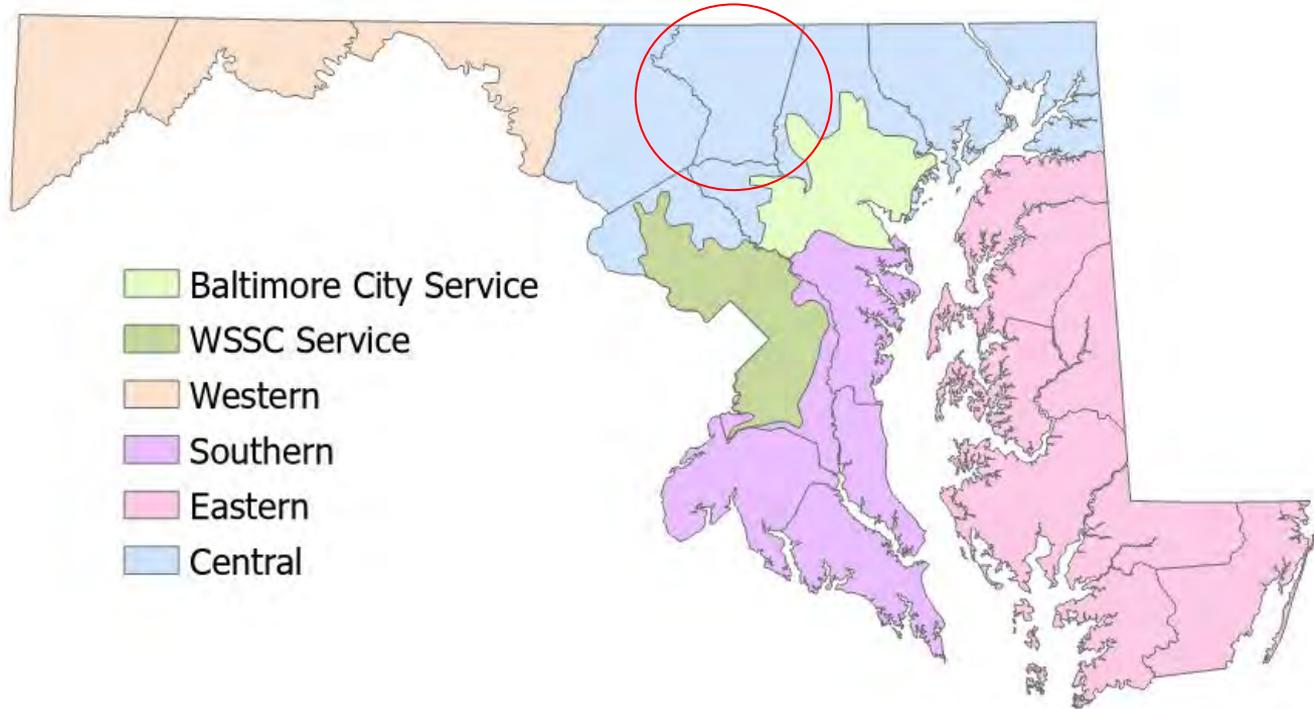
Determining the drought status

# Drought Monitoring Overview



# Drought Monitoring

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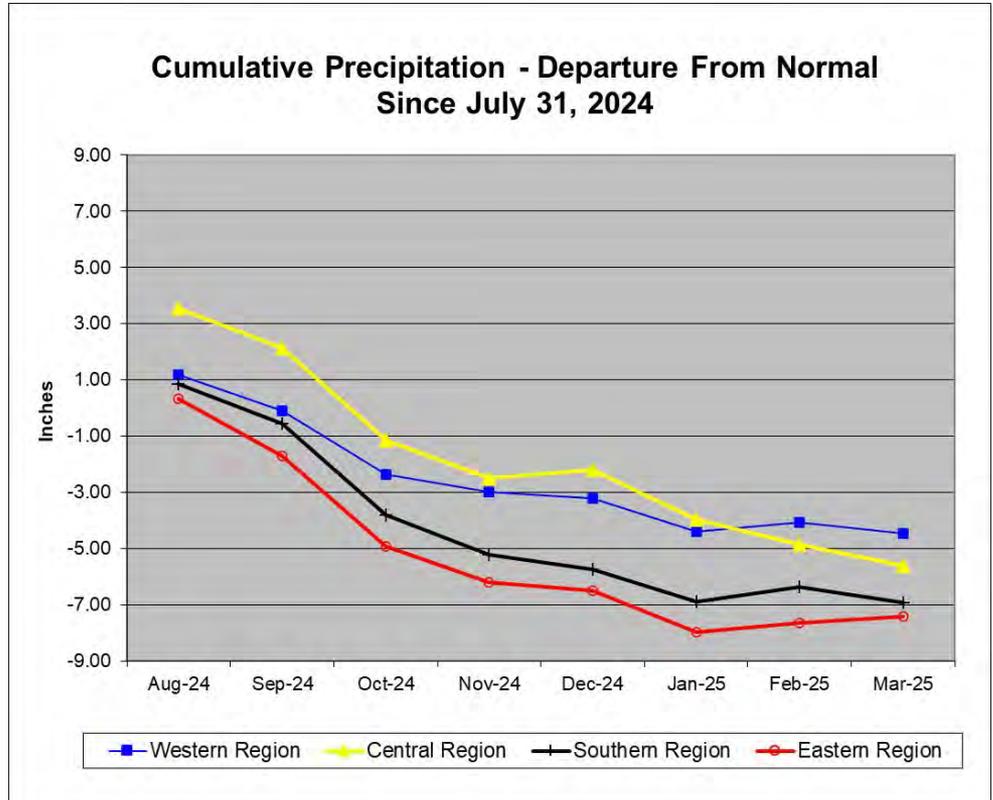


Four Regions, Four Indicators: Rainfall, Streamflow, Groundwater, Reservoir Storage



# Drought Monitoring - Rainfall

- Data source is the Mid-Atlantic River Forecast Center
- County precipitation totals + departures
- Status is based on departure from water year cumulative precipitation

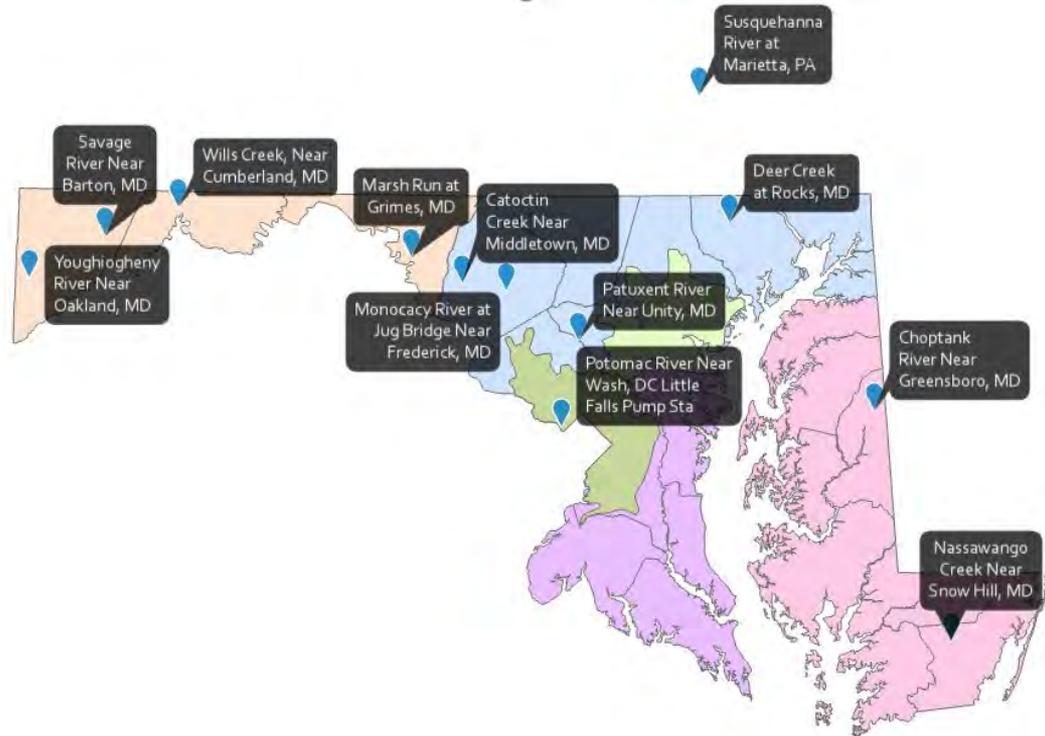




# Drought Monitoring - Streamflow

30-day average of USGS instantaneous monitoring gages

- 4 Western
- 4 Central
- 2 Eastern
- Potomac/Susquehanna



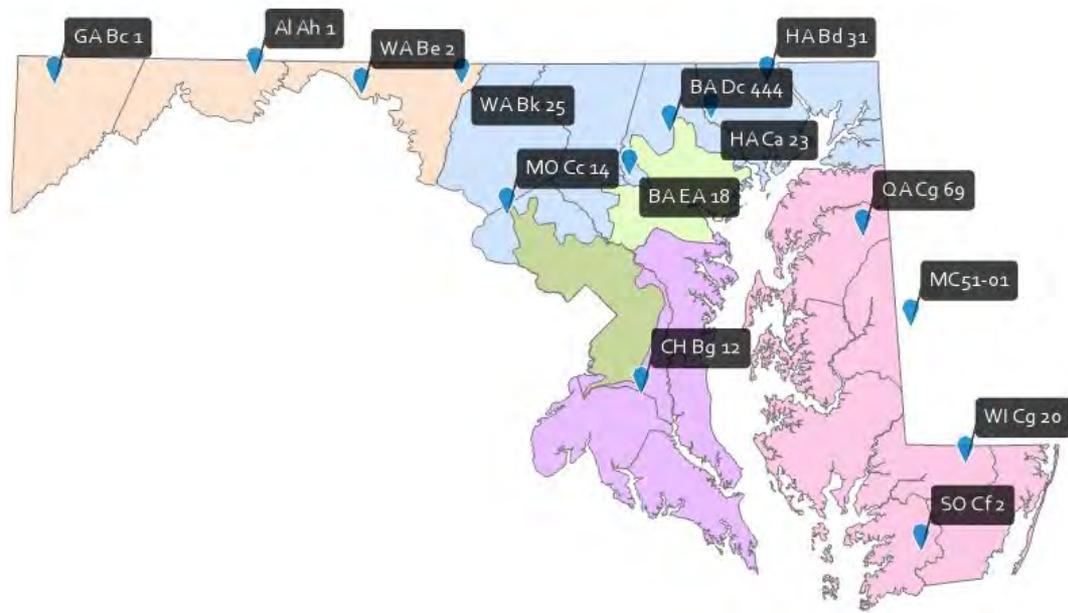
Status is based on departure from normal for 30 day average



# Drought Monitoring - Groundwater

## USGS Groundwater Data Field Measurements

- 5 Western
- 8 Central
- 4 Eastern
- 1 Southern  
(+1 Confined)
- Interim monitoring uses real-time data



Status is based on departure from normal for that month



# Drought Monitoring - Reservoirs

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- Central MD
  - Baltimore City
  - WSSC
- Western MD
  - Cumberland
  - Frostburg
- Status is determined by number of days of storage:

Normal	Watch	Warning	Emergency
>120 Days	90-120 Days	60-90 Days	<60 Days



# Overall Status

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- At least two indicators have to be of a given status
  - For example, if two indicators are in **Warning**, then that region is assigned an **Warning** Status
  - No more than one indicator can be outside **Normal** to be given a **Normal** status
- Use judgement based on time of year, recent trends
- Rate of monitoring goes increases based on status (monthly, biweekly, weekly)



# Summer 2024-Current Drought



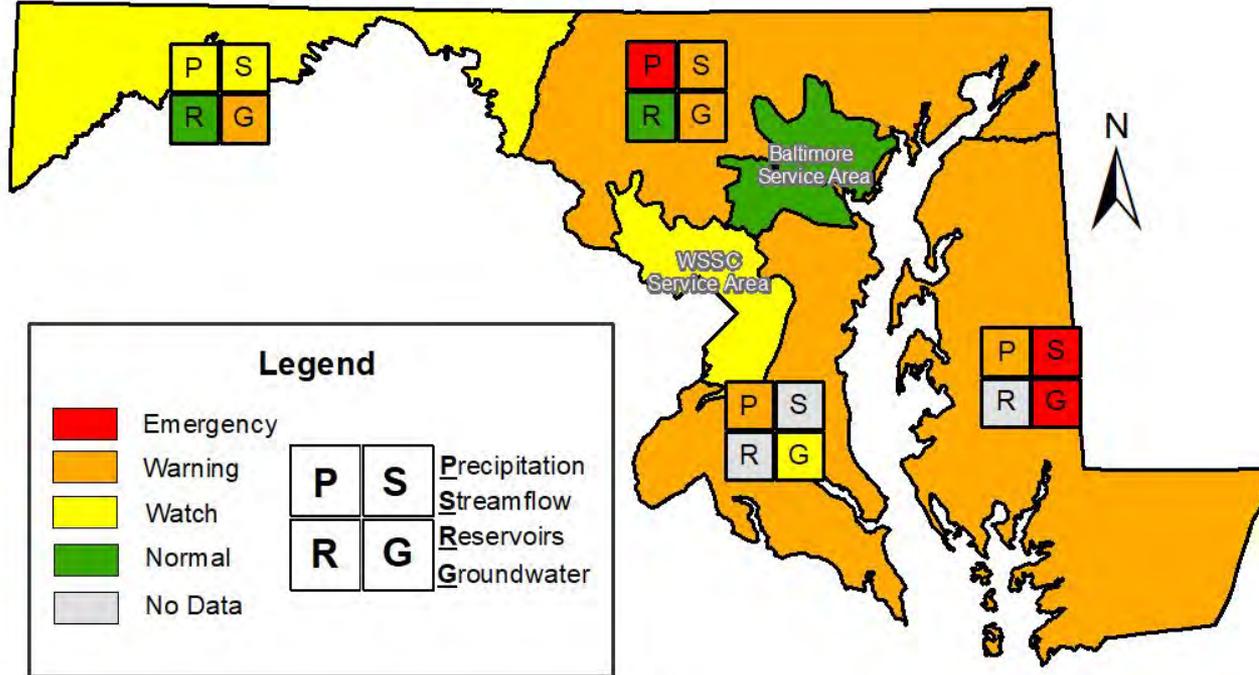
# Timeline of Drought

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- July 11th, Drought Watch for Eastern Shore
- July 23rd, Drought Watch for Western MD
- November 18th, Drought Watch for Central MD, Southern MD and Eastern Shore move to Warning

# Drought Status in Maryland

## March 15, 2025



Note: Drought Monitoring for Eastern MD does not include Reservoir data, Southern MD does not include Stream or Reservoir Data. The Groundwater Status for Southern Maryland is based on confined and unconfined wells, please refer to the full report.

# U.S. Drought Monitor Maryland

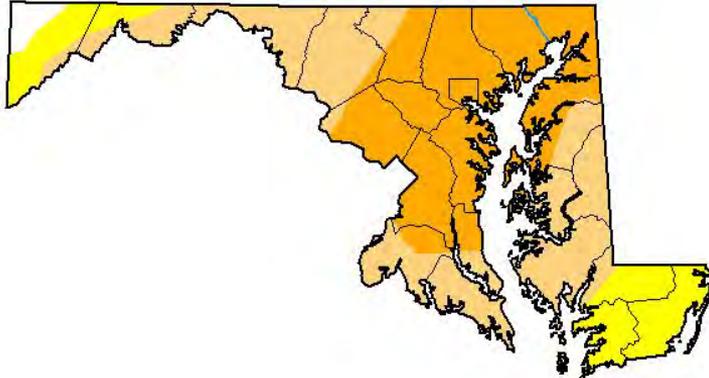
**March 18, 2025**

(Released Thursday, Mar. 20, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	1.95	98.05	81.57	42.14	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>03-11-2025</i>	1.95	98.05	92.54	34.89	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>12-17-2024</i>	0.00	100.00	96.87	51.57	2.51	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>01-07-2025</i>	1.19	98.81	95.30	51.57	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>10-01-2024</i>	18.77	81.23	21.65	9.89	4.07	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>03-19-2024</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



*Intensity:*

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

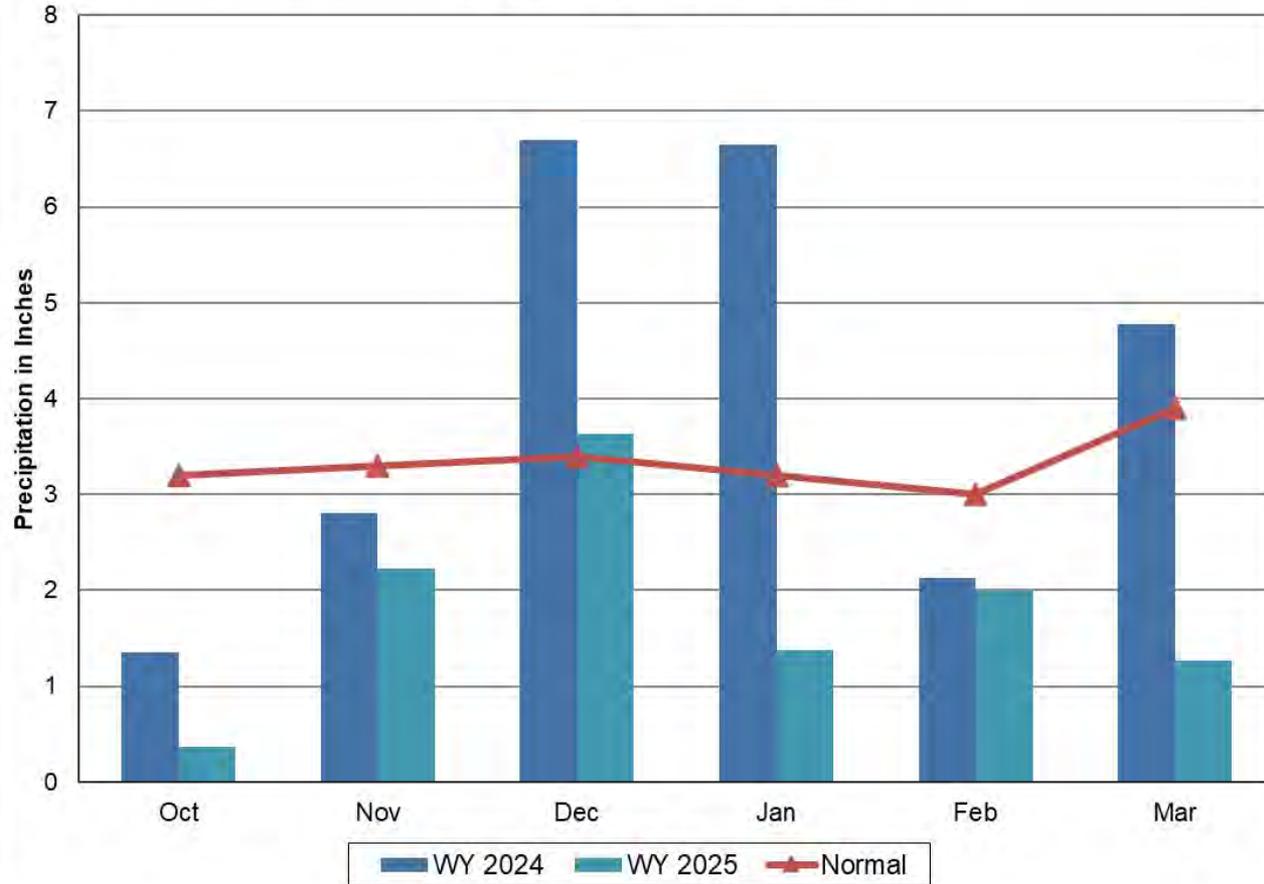
*Author:*

Brad Rippey  
U. S. Department of Agriculture



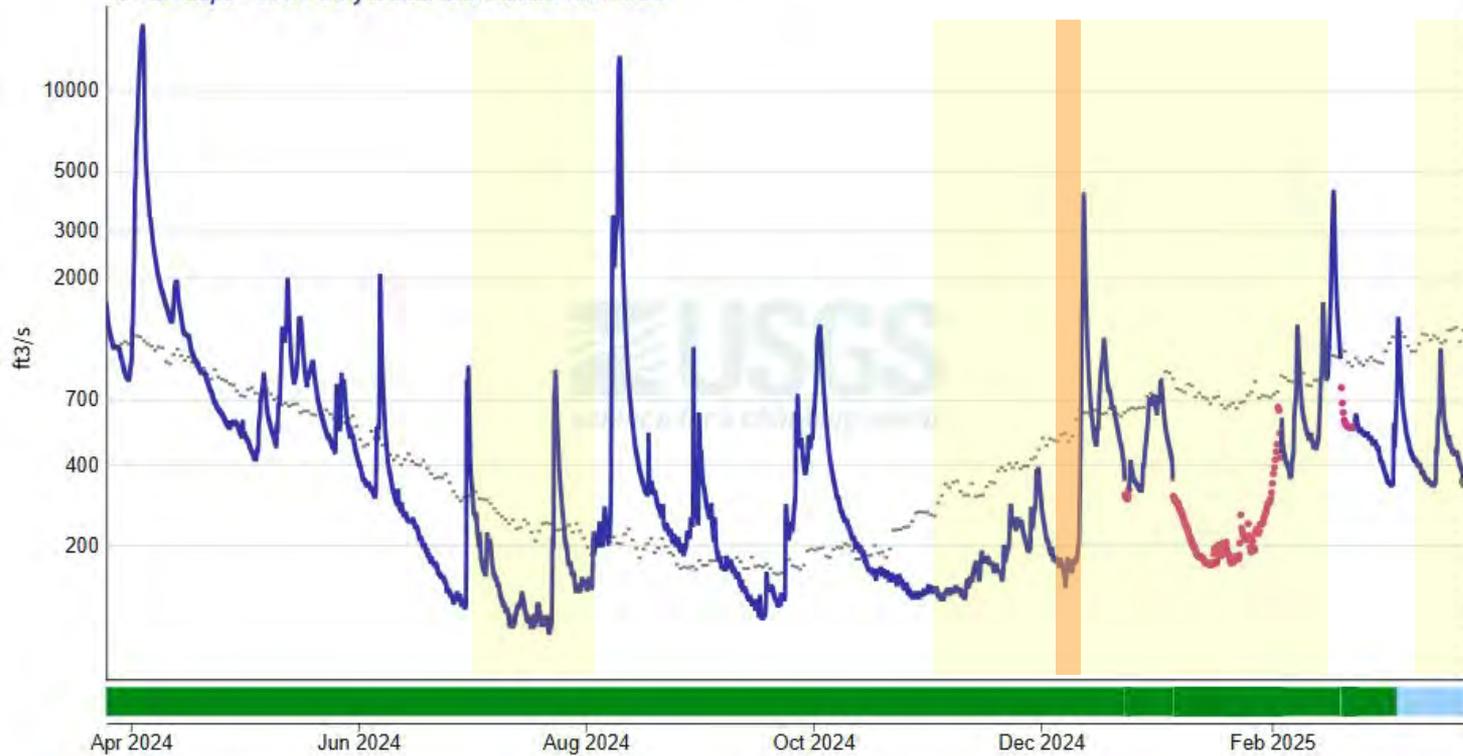
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## Central Region Average Monthly Precipitation Totals for 2024 and 2025



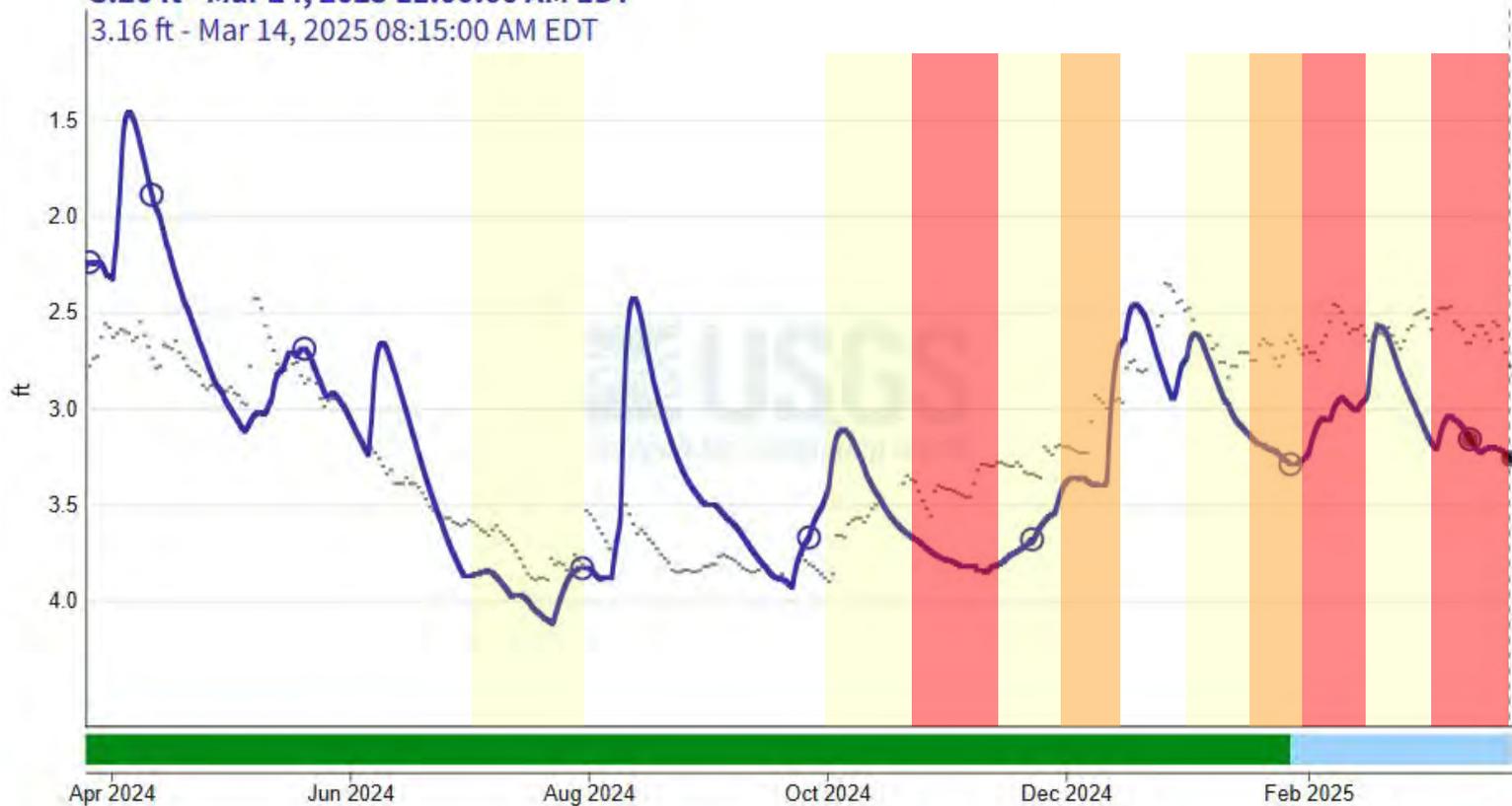
March 25, 2024 - March 25, 2025  
Discharge, cubic feet per second

346 ft<sup>3</sup>/s - Mar 25, 2025 08:30:00 AM EDT

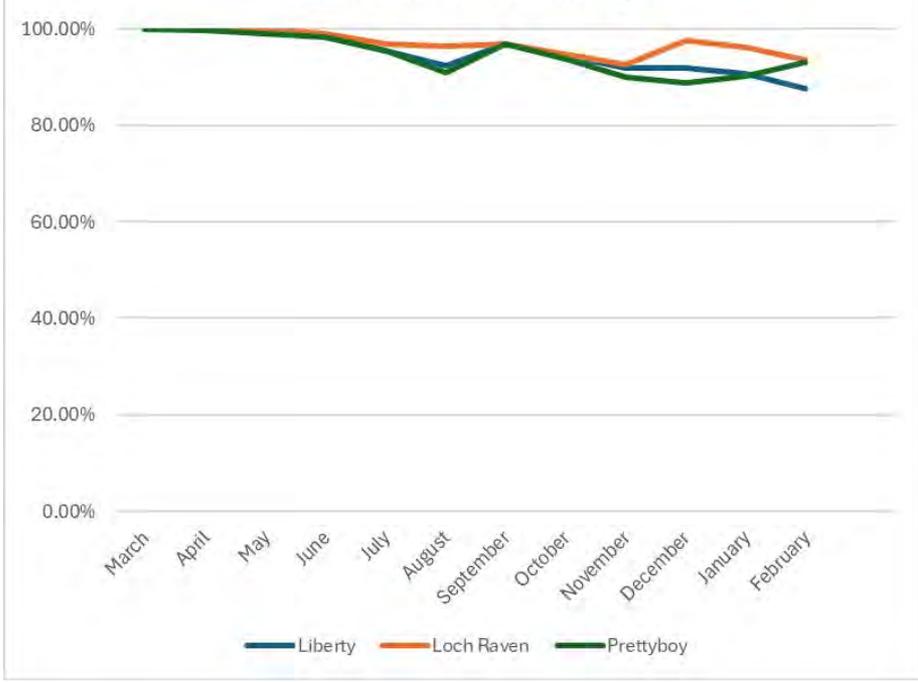


March 25, 2024 - March 25, 2025  
**Depth to water level, feet below land surface**

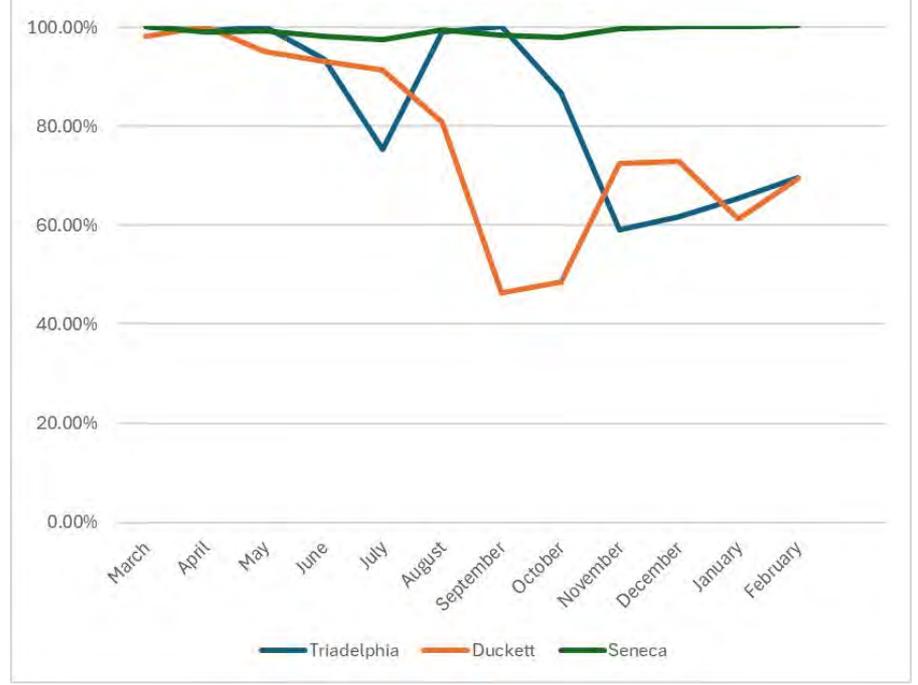
**3.26 ft - Mar 24, 2025 11:00:00 AM EDT**  
3.16 ft - Mar 14, 2025 08:15:00 AM EDT



Baltimore Reservoir Storage



WSSC Reservoir Storage



WSSC declared drought July 29th, 2024



Drought Actions Based on Status

# Drought Responses



# Stages of Drought Monitoring

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Normal	Watch	Warning	Emergency
Promote Water Conservation	5%-10% Reduction Goal	10%-15% Reduction Goal	15%-20% Reduction Goal



# MDE Actions Based on Status

Normal	Watch	Warning	Emergency
Promote Water Conservation	5%-10% Reduction Goal	10%-15% Reduction Goal	15%-20% Reduction Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MDE and public media implement a “Drought Index” public awareness campaign to provide citizens with regular updates about drought status (similar to Air Quality Index)</li> <li>• Media promotion of wise water use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MDE advises public of changes to indicators, and initiates Statewide or regional “Drought Watch”</li> <li>• Notifies municipal and county governments, and other agencies</li> <li>• Drought conditions evaluated biweekly</li> <li>• Verify contact information for local drought coordinators</li> <li>• Increase monitoring of any problems incurred by water systems</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MDE notifies municipal and county governments, and other appropriate agencies of drought warning status</li> <li>• MDE and water systems advise public of changes to indicators and initiates Statewide or regional “Drought Warning”</li> <li>• Drought conditions evaluated on a weekly basis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governor declares a “Drought Emergency” by executive order</li> <li>• MDE notifies municipal and county governments, and other appropriate agencies of Drought Emergency status</li> <li>• Drought conditions evaluated at least weekly</li> <li>• Implement mandatory restrictions on nonessential water uses</li> <li>• Drought Hotline</li> </ul>



# Suggested Actions for Water Suppliers

Normal	Watch	Warning	Emergency
Promote Water Conservation	5%-10% Reduction Goal	10%-15% Reduction Goal	15%-20% Reduction Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Develop drought plan as part of Emergency Contingency Plan</li> <li>● Develop ordinances for enforcement</li> <li>● Initiate broad-based public education</li> <li>● Maintain accurate water monitoring and consumption records</li> <li>● Implement leak detection and repair</li> <li>● Develop meter installation replacement and calibration program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Activate Water Conservation Plan</li> <li>● Alert public</li> <li>● Distribute information on water conservation</li> <li>● Activate water conservation measures</li> <li>● Aggressively pursue leak detection surveys, repairs</li> <li>● Reduce water usage for flushing and park irrigation</li> <li>● Caution industrial users to reduce water usage</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Increase public awareness, interest</li> <li>● Request and/or require that active conservation measures be practiced</li> <li>● Individually contact industrial users to reduce water usage</li> <li>● Discontinue flushing water lines, fire hydrants and distribution equipment</li> <li>● Distribute water conservation kits to large volume customers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Notify consumers of severity of water shortage</li> <li>● Comply with mandatory nonessential water use restrictions</li> <li>● Conduct field surveillance of abuses, leaks, etc.</li> <li>● Execute enforcement of water conservation violators</li> <li>● Verify availability of alternate water source or interconnection</li> </ul>



# Suggested Actions for Private Residences

Normal	Watch	Warning	Emergency
<b>Promote Water Conservation</b>	5%-10% Reduction Goal	10%-15% Reduction Goal	15%-20% Reduction Goal
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repair leaks and drips. Install water conserving fixtures during new construction and rehabilitation</li><li>• Practice water conservation on an ongoing basis</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reduce lawn watering</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Voluntarily comply with nonessential water use restrictions</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Comply with mandatory nonessential water use restrictions</li></ul>



# Role of Drought Coordinator

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## **Who appoints?**

- The county executives or county commissions for each county.
- WSSC and Baltimore City will each appoint their own.

## **Purpose?**

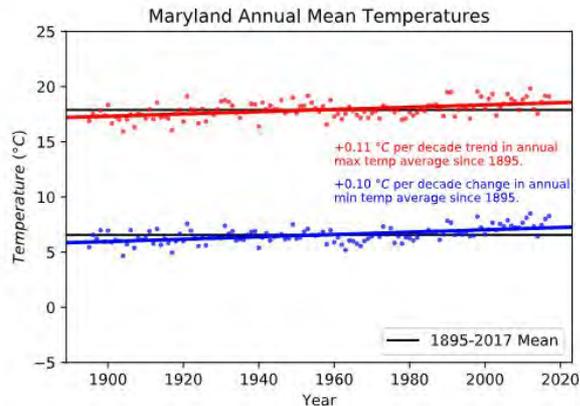
- Maintain communications and coordinate with MDE regarding drought assessment and response throughout a drought emergency
- Issue exemptions or variances to mandatory restrictions during a drought emergency
- Establish local drought emergency public information and education programs
- Current Drought Coordinator: Chris Heyn, Dept of Planning



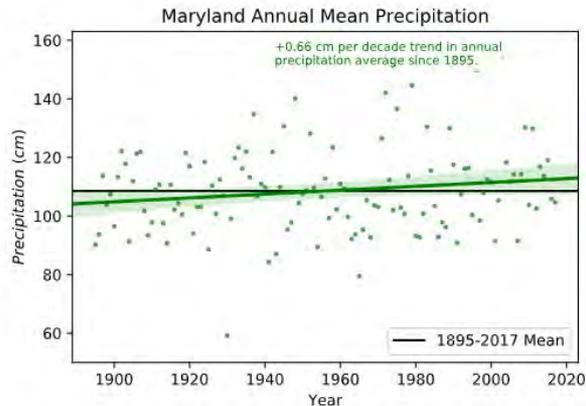
# Climate Change and Drought

- More total precip, more intense storms
- Higher evapotranspiration, longer growing season
- Flash Droughts

Temperature



Precipitation





# Questions?

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Contact:

Lainey Reed

[lainey.reed@maryland.gov](mailto:lainey.reed@maryland.gov)

410-537-4104

# MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PROJECT STATUS

March 26, 2025

## FUTURE PROJECTS:

**Michael's Property (Hampstead)** – Project is on hold until Town has obtained approval from property owners to move forward.

**Hampstead Valley 2/3 (Hampstead)** – Hampstead Valley facilities 2 and 3 will be retrofit as a stream restoration project to decommission Sycamore Drive as a roadway embankment. The design will include a stream restoration beginning immediately downstream of the proposed Hampstead Valley 1 facility and continue to Sycamore Drive.

## CONCEPT DESIGN:

**Hampstead Valley 1 (Hampstead)** – Retrofit of existing detention basin to a surface sand filter. Site is located just south of Lower Beckleysville Road near a production well. Concept approval was issued January 22, 2025.

**Manchester East (Manchester)** – CLSI is working on the design of a new stormwater facility north of Manchester Valley High School, adjacent to the WWTP. The concept plan was approved. We continue to work on property acquisition for the land needed to construct the facility.

**Meadow Ridge Basin 2 (Westminster)** – Retrofit of existing facility to provide water quality through a surface sand filter. This site is adjacent to the pump station at the edge of the City limits. Century is currently working on a conceptual design. A concept submittal was received on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**New Windsor Wetland (New Windsor)** - A new wetland facility is proposed adjacent to the Maryland Midland Railroad tracks and Dickenson Run. The proposed improvements include removing the existing inlet adjacent to the intersection of Water St and Church St, replacing it with a diversion structure that will route the 1-year storm discharges to the proposed wetland facility. An onsite meeting was held with the Town and their engineer on March 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss improvements to their public works facility and the proposed stormwater facility.

**Public Safety Training Center (Westminster Well)**- A retrofit for the Public Safety Training Center pond is in progress for the facility design and PFAS remediation. The retrofit and site plan are currently under review by stormwater management.

## PRELIMINARY DESIGN:

## FINAL DESIGN:

**Hampstead Valley 4 (Hampstead)** – A new surface sand filter and stream restoration project is proposed between Century Street and Downhill Trail. CLSI is working on a dam breach analysis which is being requested from MDE Dam Safety. The county has emailed Army Corps of Engineers a response to all of their comments. *This project was submitted to DNR Grants Gateway for construction funding, we anticipate hearing if it was selected in June.*

**Roberts Field Wet Facility (Hampstead) (DNR Grant Award- \$1,000,000)**– Retrofit of wet pond to new hybrid wet pond/submerged gravel wetland. The recent concept submittal was approved with comments from the Town and Stormwater Management. Wallace Montgomery & Associates (WMA) is working on the preliminary plans. Comments were received by MDE Dam Safety, that we are working to address and respond back. The Army Corps of Engineers has issued their permit for this project.

## CONSTRUCTION:

## TREE PLANTING PROJECTS:

**All the municipal plantings have completed their maintenance period and are now the responsibility of the municipalities. Please make sure that these areas are being mowed at least three (3) times per season.**



# WRCC Legislative Update



## 2025 General Assembly Proposed Water/Environmental Resource Legislation

Status: As of March 26, 2025

Bill + Description	Status + Position
<p><b>HB 24</b>  <b>BAY RESTORATION FUND - AUTHORIZED USES - CONNECTION TO EXISTING MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER FACILITY</b>            Altering the authorized uses of a certain account of the Bay Restoration Fund to include the cost of connecting certain property using an on-site sewage disposal system to an existing municipal wastewater facility under certain circumstances.</p> <p><b>Bill:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0024F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0024F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing canceled</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Would add OSDS hookup in low-income area to be eligible for BRF \$</p>
<p><b>HB 38</b>  <b>SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING - SCHOOL ZONES AND ADEQUATE PUBLIC FACILITIES ORDINANCES</b>            Requiring each county board of education to submit a certain report to the Department of Planning and the Interagency Commission on School Construction each year; repealing the authorization of the Interagency Commission on School Construction to make an enrollment deduction under certain circumstances; prohibiting a county's adequate public facilities ordinance from restricting housing developments after a certain period of time; and generally relating to school zones, school construction, and adequate public facilities ordinances</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0038F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0038F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 2/4</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Could potentially impact ability to apply APFO school standards to certain development projects</p>

**NOTE:** According to MACo, this year, the crossover deadline may not have as much meaning as usual. Therefore, it's possible that any bill that has had a hearing but hasn't crossed over could still move.

Bill + Description	Status + Position
<p><b>SB 149/HB 128</b>  <b>RESPONDING TO EMERGENCY NEEDS FROM EXTREME WEATHER (RENEW) ACT OF 2025</b>            Establishing the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program in the Department of the Environment to secure payments from certain businesses that extract fossil fuels or refine petroleum products in order to provide a source of revenue for State efforts to adapt to or mitigate the effects of climate change and to address the health impacts of climate change on vulnerable populations; establishing the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; authorizing the Legislative Auditor to conduct certain audits of the Fund and of the appropriations and expenditures made for the purposes of the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program; and generally relating to the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0149T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0149T.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0128T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0128T.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> Passed Senate w/ amendments</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Passed House w/ amendments</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Could create additional funding source for climate change mitigation or adaptation projects</p>
<p><b>SB 245/HB 279</b>  <b>MUNICIPALITIES - ANNEXATION RESOLUTIONS - SUBMISSION TO DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING</b>            Adding the Department of Planning to the list of entities to which a municipality must send a copy of an annexation resolution with the new municipal boundaries; and generally relating to municipal annexation resolutions</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0245T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0245T.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0279T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0279T.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> Passed Senate; House hearing 3/25</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Passed House; Senate committee favorable</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> May create additional step in muni process</p>

## Bill + Description

## Status + Position

### SB 250

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT - FEES, PENALTIES, FUNDING, AND REGULATION

...; authorizing MDE to charge a fee for processing and issuing on-site sewage disposal permits and individual well construction permits under certain circumstances and requiring MDE to establish the fees by regulation; authorizing MDE to establish a certain fee for the Responsible Personnel Training Program Certification; requiring MDE to deposit certain fees into the Maryland Clean Water Fund; into the State provide certain information to MDE as a condition precedent to the issuance or renewal of the license; altering certain application fees under the wetlands and waterways program and requiring MDE to issue a public notice of certain adjusted fees in a certain manner; establishing the Private Dam Repair Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund to provide financial assistance for the repair, upgrade, or removal of private dams; authorizing MDE to provide loans from the Private Dam Repair Fund to certain dam owners for certain purposes; requiring the Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration to administer loans from the Private Dam Repair Fund in a certain manner; requiring interest earnings of the Private Dam Repair Fund to be credited to the Fund; requiring certain dam owners to register with MDE; requiring MDE to establish and collect certain registration and permit fees and deposit the fees into the Private Dam Repair Fund; altering certain penalties and requiring penalties for certain dam safety violations to be deposited into the Private Dam Repair Fund; altering certain dam safety requirements; ...; altering certain surface mining license and permit fees; and generally relating to fees and penalties assessed, funding provided, and regulation by MDE

#### Bills:

- **SB:** <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0250T.pdf>
- **HB:** n/a

#### > **Status:**

- ♦ **SB:** Passed Senate w/ amendments; House hearing 4/1
- ♦ **HB:** n/a
- > **Other:** Would impose annual registration and fees on all dams. Fees go into Private Dam Repair Fund.
- ♦ **PLM:** Oppose due to 1) increased fees and work for annual dam registration and 2) fees go into fund only available to private dam owners
- ♦ **MACo:** No position

### SB 265/HB 25

#### ENVIRONMENT – RESERVOIR AUGMENTATION PERMIT – ESTABLISHMENT

Establishing the Reservoir Augmentation Program in the Department of the Environment; requiring a person to obtain a permit from the Department to perform reservoir augmentation; providing for the issuance, modification, renewal, denial, or revocation of a reservoir augmentation permit under the Program; requiring certain revenues to be used for the operation and oversight of the Program; and generally relating to the establishment of the Reservoir Augmentation Program

#### Bills:

- **SB:** <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0265T.pdf>
- **HB:** <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0025T.pdf>

#### > **Status:**

- ♦ **SB:** Passed Senate w/ amendments; House hearing 3/26
- ♦ **HB:** Hearing 1/29; passed House w/ amendments
- > **Other:** Would require for placement of reclaimed water into a surface water reservoir used as a source for a drinking water treatment facility.
- ♦ Applies to Westminster
- ♦ *Amendments appear to establish this an official pilot program that would need to be extended in 2029*

Bill + Description	Status + Position
<p><b>SB 266/HB 286</b>  <b>LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING AND STATE ECONOMIC GROWTH, RESOURCE PROTECTION, AND PLANNING POLICY - PLANNING PRINCIPLES</b></p> <p>Altering the planning visions for local comprehensive planning to consist of certain planning principles; altering the State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy to consist of certain planning principles; requiring the publisher of the Annotated Code of Maryland, in consultation with the Department of Legislative Services, to correct cross-references and terminology in the Code that are rendered incorrect by this Act; and generally relating to local comprehensive planning and the State Economic Growth, Resource Protection, and Planning Policy.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0266T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0266T.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0286T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0286T.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>SB:</b> Passed Senate w/ amendments; House hearing 3/25</li> <li>♦ <b>HB:</b> Passed House w/ amendments</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Revises State planning visions for comp plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>PLM:</b> Comp plans will need to incorporate. No red flags but should incorporate ag land preservation/conservation as well due to State goals from 2023 Maryland the Beautiful Act.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SB 290/HB 362</b>  <b>NATURAL RESOURCES - ROADSIDE TREE REMOVAL PERMIT NOTIFICATION ACT</b></p> <p>Requiring an applicant for a roadside tree removal permit to provide certain notice to certain persons in a certain manner; and generally relating to roadside tree removal permits.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0290F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0290F.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0362F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0362F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>SB:</b> Withdrawn by sponsor</li> <li>♦ <b>HB:</b> Hearing canceled</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Requires additional public notification to abutting &amp; adjoining property owners by applicant to permit to cut tree in public ROW. Could create additional costs if done frequently.</p>
<p><b>HB 340</b>  <b>CLIMATE CHANGE - ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE RESTITUTION FUND, AND CLIMATE CHANGE RESTITUTION FUND ADVISORY COUNCIL</b></p> <p>Authorizing the Attorney General to investigate, commence, and prosecute or defend any suit or action that holds certain entities accountable for tortious or otherwise unlawful conduct that has contributed to climate change; establishing the Climate Change Restitution Fund as a special, nonlapsing fund; establishing the Climate Change Restitution Fund Advisory Council to provide information to the Governor, the Attorney General, and the General Assembly on climate change and the distribution of the Fund; etc.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0340F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0340F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>♦ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 2/11</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Would create a fund (from penalties for noncompliance by publicly traded coal, oil, or gas entities) to pay for programs that prevent, mitigate, or repair harms caused by climate change. Also, would establish advisory council, which would be required to prepare a report identifying climate change impacts/consequences and how to mitigate them. 1 member from MML. No big red flags.</p>

Bill + Description	Status + Position
<p><b>SB 430/HB 503</b>  <b>LAND USE - REGIONAL HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE GAP (HOUSING FOR JOBS ACT)</b>  Requiring the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Planning to calculate certain regional housing infrastructure gaps; providing for the apportionment of regional housing infrastructure gaps to counties and incorporated municipalities; authorizing local jurisdictions to reduce local housing infrastructure gaps in a certain manner; establishing that certain local jurisdictions have an affirmative obligation to expeditiously approve housing development project applications; etc.  <i>*Bill imposes a local government mandate, which is a directive in a bill requiring a local government unit to perform a task or assume a responsibility that has a discernible fiscal impact on the local government unit</i></p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0430F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0430F.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0503F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0503F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> Hearing 3/04</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 3/04</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Apportions gap in housing units to counties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Requested by Governor</li> <li>◆ <b>PLM:</b> Concerned w/ metrics for ratio &amp; what they're based on</li> <li>◆ <b>MACo:</b> Support w Amendments</li> <li>◆ <b>MML:</b> Support w Amendments</li> </ul> <p><b>Even though these bills haven't crossed over yet, MACo believes they will move &amp; pass w/ amendments, possibly close to Sine Die.</b></p>
<p><b>SB 461</b>  <b>ENVIRONMENT - MARYLAND WATER QUALITY REVOLVING LOAN FUND - RENAMING AND ALTERATIONS</b>  Renaming the Maryland Water Quality Revolving Loan Fund to be the Maryland Water Quality Improvement Revolving Loan Fund; altering the conditions under which the Maryland Water Quality Improvement Revolving Loan Fund may be used to include supporting certain projects; and requiring the Maryland Water Infrastructure Financing Administration to prioritize certain communities and to use a certain scoring system when creating a certain intended use plan.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0461F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0461F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> Hearing 3/11 (EEE)</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Changes name of Fund. Adds types of projects supported. Adds subject to scoring system.</p>
<p><b>SB 505/HB 532</b>  <b>LOCAL GOVERNMENT - MUNICIPAL ANNEXATION - PETITION AND REFERENDUM</b>  Allowing a certain redevelopment authority that owns real property in an area to be annexed with fewer than 20 eligible residents to sign a petition for annexation and vote in the annexation referendum.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0505F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0505F.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0532F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0532F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> Withdrawn by sponsor</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 1/30</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Applied to charter counties.</p>

Bill + Description	Status + Position
<p><b>SB 546/HB 768</b>  <b>MUNICIPAL INCORPORATION - COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OR COUNTY COUNCIL - REQUIRED APPROVAL OF REFERENDUM REQUEST</b></p> <p>Requiring a certain organizing committee to make certain determinations and provide a certain report to the county commissioners or county council of a certain county regarding a proposed municipal incorporation; requiring the county commissioners or county council to approve a certain referendum request in a certain manner if a valid petition to incorporate an area as a municipality is presented by at least 40% of the registered voters who are residents of the area proposed to be incorporated; etc.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0546F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0546F.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0768F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0768F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> Hearing 2/25</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 2/18</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Adds requirements for new municipal incorporation.</p>
<p><b>SB 732/HB 909</b>  <b>SEWAGE SLUDGE UTILIZATION PERMITS - PER- AND POLYFLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES - CONCENTRATION LIMITS</b></p> <p>Increasing from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the maximum amount of a criminal fine or municipal infraction that may be imposed by a municipality to enforce certain ordinances and resolutions enacted by the municipality.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0732F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0732F.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0909F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0909F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> Hearing 2/18</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 2/26</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Would limit the use of biosolids based on certain PFAS thresholds; would drive up costs significantly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>MACo:</b> Letter of Information</li> <li>◆ <b>MML:</b> Oppose</li> <li>◆ <b>MAMWA:</b> Oppose</li> </ul>
<p><b>HB 751</b>  <b>MUNICIPALITIES - ANNEXED LAND - LAND USE AND DENSITY</b></p> <p>Altering the restrictions on a municipality, for a period following an annexation of land, to authorize the development of certain annexed land for certain land uses or certain densities without obtaining the express approval of the county in which the municipality is located; and altering the authority of a municipality to authorize certain land uses or certain densities for certain annexed land with the express approval of the county in which the municipality is located.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0751F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb0751F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 2/18</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Changes basis for BCC waiver of 5-year waiting period to change zoning at certain % difference from zoning to land use designation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>MML:</b> Support</li> <li>◆ <b>MACo:</b> Oppose</li> </ul>

Bill + Description	Status + Position
<p><b>SB 820/HB 1506</b>  <b>MUNICIPALITIES - ENFORCEMENT OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS</b>            Increasing from \$1,000 to \$5,000 the maximum amount of a criminal fine or municipal infraction that may be imposed by a municipality to enforce certain ordinances and resolutions enacted by the municipality.  <b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0820T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0820T.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1506F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1506F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>SB:</b> Passed Senate w/ amendments</li> <li>♦ <b>HB:</b> Rules</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Increases maximum penalty for municipal infraction from \$1,000 to \$5,000.</p>
<p><b>SB 871/HB 1062</b>  <b>DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT - COMMUNITY WATER AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS - CYBERSECURITY PLANNING AND ASSESSMENTS</b>            Requiring the Department of the Environment to coordinate, in coordination with the Department of Information Technology and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management, cybersecurity efforts within community water systems and community sewerage systems; establishing the roles and responsibilities of various State agencies with respect to regulating, assessing, and promoting cybersecurity efforts within the water and wastewater sector; etc.* <i>Bill imposes a local government mandate, which is a directive in a bill requiring a local government unit to perform a task or assume a responsibility that has a discernible fiscal impact on the local government unit</i>  <b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0871T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0871T.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1062F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1062F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>SB:</b> Passed Senate w/ amendments; House hearing 3/26</li> <li>♦ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 2/26</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Adds cybersecurity awareness components for operators and superintendents. System operator to adopt State cybersecurity standards. Must conduct assessment. Reporting requirements. Require plans to address disruptions. Applies to systems serving &gt;3,300 customers or systems using IT/tech in operation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>MML:</b> Oppose</li> <li>♦ <b>MACo:</b> Support w/ Amendments</li> </ul>
<p><b>SB 891/HB 1466</b>  <b>LAND USE AND REAL PROPERTY - ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS - REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS</b>            Establishing the policy of the State to promote and encourage the creation of accessory dwelling units on land with a single-family detached dwelling unit as the primary dwelling unit in order to meet the housing needs of the citizens of the State; requiring, on or before October 1, 2026, the legislative body of certain counties or municipal corporations to adopt a local law authorizing the development of accessory dwelling units on land with certain single-family detached dwelling units subject to certain requirements; etc.  <b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0891F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0891F.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1466T.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1466T.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>SB:</b> Hearing 3/25</li> <li>♦ <b>HB:</b> Passed House w/ amendments</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Locals must adopt provisions to allow ADUs w no unreasonable restrictions or prohibitions. May not prohibit short-term rental of ADU.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <b>MML:</b> Oppose</li> <li>♦ <b>MACo:</b> Oppose</li> </ul>

Bill + Description	Status + Position
<p><b>SB 931/HB 1036</b>  <b>PUBLIC UTILITIES - GENERATING STATIONS - GENERATION AND SITING (RENEWABLE ENERGY CERTAINTY ACT)</b></p> <p>Altering the factors the Public Service Commission must consider before taking final action on a certificate of public convenience and necessity; establishing certain requirements for the construction of a certain solar energy generating station or energy storage device; requiring the Commission to conduct a certain study to establish a process by which the Commission may establish partnerships between electric companies and electricity suppliers for electricity generation projects; etc.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0931F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/sb/sb0931F.pdf</a></li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1036F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1036F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> Hearing 2/28</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 2/28</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Would impose siting standards on locals. Preempts zoning.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>PLM:</b> Oppose</li> <li>◆ <b>MML:</b> Oppose</li> <li>◆ <b>MACo:</b> Oppose</li> </ul> <p><b>Even though these bills haven't crossed over yet, MACo believes they will move &amp; pass w/ amendments, possibly close to Sine Die.</b></p>
<p><b>HB 1525</b>  <b>MUNICIPALITIES - ANNEXATION - LIMITATIONS</b></p> <p>Prohibiting a municipality from annexing land that is located in a different legislative district than a legislative district in which the municipality is located.</p> <p><b>Bills:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>• <b>HB:</b> <a href="https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1525F.pdf">https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2025RS/bills/hb/hb1525F.pdf</a></li> </ul>	<p>➤ <b>Status:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <b>SB:</b> n/a</li> <li>◆ <b>HB:</b> Hearing 3/12</li> </ul> <p>➤ <b>Other:</b> Prohibits annexing land in a different legislative district.</p>

FYI... *These bills do not appear to either be relevant to or impact the municipalities:*

- **SB 42 ENVIRONMENT - INTERJURISDICTIONAL WATERSHEDS - FLOOD MANAGEMENT**
- **SB 117/HB 131 ENVIRONMENT - BAY RESTORATION FUND - SEPTIC SYSTEM UPGRADE PROGRAM**
- **SB 399 NATURAL RESOURCES - WILDLAND AREAS - OVERHEAD TRANSMISSION LINES**