

Support HB 1137 (Morgan) (Virginia Water Commission Bill) – Helps increase General Fund to pay for the program

- Water supply is a state and local responsibility
- Funding is solely dependent on state general fund
- State budget cuts will have a greater impact on state water programs than those receiving federal funding or are mandated under the Clean Water Act.
- 1993 the maximum fee was \$2,000 and was increased in 2002 to \$6,000.
(Virginia Water Protection Permit-withdrawing surface water-\$25,000-30,000)

Background:

- Total program cost - \$1.3 million annually. (approximately \$889, 890 personnel; \$227,500 is for contracted program support, including a contract with USGS
 - For a hydrologic framework to help in determining where aquifers are located.)
 - 12 people staffing the groundwater permit
 - Permit fees provide the salary of only 2 of the 12.
 - Amount of fees generated from permits vary significantly year-to-year.
 - In FY 2006-\$210,000 in fees FY 2009-only \$61,000.
 - One-time fee for the term of the permit which covers up to 10 years.
- 14 permit renewals each year: at \$6,000 per permit \$84,000; at \$12,000, \$168,000
50% are local public water supplies
13% are industrial withdrawers
1% commercial
2% other
34% agriculture
- **Provision to allow State Water Control Board to establish a schedule for annualizing the groundwater permit fee.**
 - **By prorating the one-time fee over the term of the permit, any cost burden on the permittee is diminished** and the agency will have a more consistent annual stream of revenue.

Support HB 1135 (Morgan) Wastewater Discharge Permits

- Removes Nutrient removal exemption of those less than 40,000 gallons
- Creates even playing field – smaller have to obtain general permit, get offsets, buy credits. Nitrogen and Phosphorous are big culprits in Bay degradation
- Grandfathers current group of smaller “community” dischargers
- Approximately 18 plants in process - subject to permit after January 1, 2011
- 2005 – Virginia took big steps to reduce N and P but further reductions are needed – this is next step for point sources and helps advance Bay cleanup



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