

MEMBER JURISDICTIONS

September 19, 2013

CHESAPEAKE

Mr. Stephen W. Calhoun
Regulatory Coordinator

FRANKLIN

Department of Housing and Community Development

600 East Main Street

Suite 300

GLOUCESTER

Richmond, VA 23219

HAMPTON

RE: Proposed Regulation Amending the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, 13VAC5-63-210 R (72) and 13VAC5-63-320 (19), Rainwater Non-Potable Water Systems.

ISLE OF WIGHT

Dear Mr. Calhoun:

JAMES CITY

NEWPORT NEWS

The Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) supports the provisions for rainwater non-potable water systems as set forth in the proposed regulation amending the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, 13VAC5-63-210 R (75) and 13VAC5-63-320 (19). The proposed amendments will allow wider use of rainwater harvesting in voluntary green building applications to reduce or eliminate stormwater runoff through low impact development practices. The capture and use of rainwater reduces the environmental impact of development and protects the quality of streams and local waterways.

NORFOLK

POQUOSON

PORTSMOUTH

SOUTHAMPTON

In areas where stormwater runoff cannot be infiltrated on site, the use of rainwater harvesting as a stormwater best management practice and as a source of non-potable water can create financial incentives for otherwise nonviable projects. In these cases, the cost of installing and maintaining a rainwater harvesting system may be offset by savings from downsized stormwater infrastructure and reduced potable water use. The proposed amendments will allow local governments to achieve development needs and project compliance with stormwater regulations while promoting environmental quality and sustainability goals.

SUFFOLK

SURRY

VIRGINIA BEACH

WILLIAMSBURG

YORK

In future updates to this section of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, the HRPDC urges the Department of Housing and Community Development to continue coordination with the Department of Health and the Department of Environmental Quality to ensure that public health and environmental concerns are vetted through the code change process.

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If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Whitney Katchmark, HRPDC
Principal Water Resources Engineer, at (757) 366-4342 or wkatchmark@hrpdcva.gov.

Sincerely,



Dwight L. Farmer
Executive Director/Secretary

TS/jc