



Maryland Department of Planning

Sustainable. Attainable

August 1, 2013

The Honorable Kenneth S. Ulman
County Executive of Howard County
George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: MDP's review of adopted tier maps; No comments

Dear County Executive Ulman:

Thank you for providing the Maryland Department of Planning, on May 29, 2013, with a copy of the official Howard County Tier Map adopted by the Howard County Council and supplemental information from the Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning. The tier map was adopted per CB 1-2013 on February 4, 2013 as an amendment to the County's general plan, *PlanHoward 2030*. This action establishes growth tiers under Title 1, Subtitle 5 of the Land Use Article ("LU") of the Annotated Code of Maryland for Howard County.

Under LU §1-505, the Department may comment on mapped growth tiers when the Department determines that the growth tiers do not meet the statutory mapping criteria.

The Maryland Department of Planning is pleased to advise you that the official Howard County Tier Map adopted by the Howard County Council satisfies the criteria for designation of growth tiers under LU §1-508. The Department therefore has no comments on the adopted map.

The Department has provided technical assistance and informal feedback to Howard County to support the development of the adopted Tier Map. This joint effort resulted in resolution of significant outstanding issues related to designation of tier areas. The Department recognizes that the County is increasing its agricultural preservation efforts and understands that the County will amend its Tier Map over time to reflect the changes in county land use policy as well as decisions of property owners to either pursue agricultural

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

Richard Eberhart Hall, AICP, Secretary
Amanda Stakem Conn, Esq., Deputy Secretary

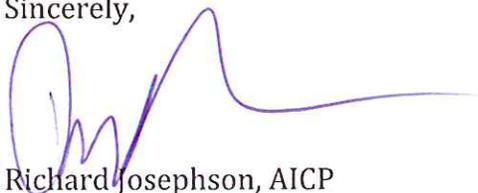
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preservation or development.

Please note that within the County's growth area, designated as Tier I by the County, there are several areas of land that are either planned for sewer or are not yet planned for sewer in the MDE-approved County water and sewer plan. Within the County growth area, areas planned for sewer are more appropriately designated as Tier II, and areas not yet planned for sewer are more appropriately designated as Tier IIA. In addition, the Department has identified two areas (see attached map) that are protected lands designated as Tier III by the County; these are more appropriately designated as Tier IV. MDP requests that the County amend its tier map as soon as possible to reflect these designations.

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Richard Josephson, AICP
Director of Planning Services

Attachment

cc: Marsha S. McLaughlin, Director, Howard County Department of Planning & Zoning
Richard Hall, Secretary, MDP
Jay Sakai, Director, Water Management Administration, MDE
Amanda Conn, Deputy Secretary, MDP
Jenny King, Chief-of-Staff, MDP
Peter Conrad, Director, Local Planning Assistance, MDP
Jason Dubow, Director, Environmental Planning, MDP
Stephanie Martins, Analysis Coordinator, MDP