



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
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September 29, 1997

Mr. Anthony W. Farrington
Special Projects Coordinator
Regional Council of Rural Counties
1020 Twelfth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Anthony:

You left no stone unturned to make my recent visit to California exceedingly pleasurable, and I thank you for your hospitality and your attention to every detail in making the arrangements for my participation in the 1997 Annual Conference of the Regional Council of Rural Counties. I enjoyed the meetings, the social events, and I found the luncheon on Friday in Sacramento especially challenging.

As I mentioned in my talk and in the luncheon discussion on Friday, the two most important lessons we have learned here in the Mid-Atlantic Region that might be transferable to the San Francisco Bay Watershed would be the need for a governance structure spanning the entire watershed, and the need for political leadership at the highest levels of the executive and legislative branches of state government and the full participation of the appropriate agencies of the federal government. I am enclosing a copy of last year's edition of the Chesapeake Bay Program publication entitled A "Who's Who" in the Chesapeake Bay Program. On page 3, you will find a chart which sets forth the structure under which the Chesapeake Bay Watershed is managed. The membership of the Chesapeake Executive Council is set forth on page 4. You will note from the list of members that the highest political officers in the participating jurisdictions are represented, and the legislatures of the three states are represented by the Chairman of the Chesapeake Bay Commission. The membership of the Commission is set forth on page 89 of the enclosed publication. The committees and sub-committees are made up of agency personnel and citizens throughout the watershed. Although the organizational structure may seem cumbersome, it does provide for initiatives that come from the top down, and also initiatives that come from the bottom up. I think it is extremely important that you have both in a successful watershed program.

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Although we have the structure with which to address the multitude of problems with which the Chesapeake Bay Program is faced, we do not always have the political will necessary to deal with the problems in a manner that is uniformly applicable throughout the watershed. That is the ongoing challenge with which we must deal.

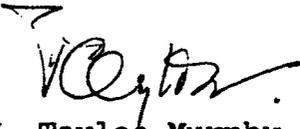
It is critically important to set measurable goals which we have done. In order to achieve those goals, however, we must have a comprehensive and coordinated plan that applies to the head waters of the Susquehanna River in New York State to the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay in southeastern Virginia. We must also implement strategies that apply to the major tributaries that have their origins in the Allegheny Mountains stretching from western Pennsylvania through western Maryland and Virginia. In order for a watershed management program to be effective, all areas of the watershed must be dealt with simultaneously, and the problems cannot be dealt with one at a time, but must be addressed contemporaneously so that the cumulative effect of all of the programs promotes the overall improvement of conditions in the watershed.

I hope the enclosed publication, as well as the publications that I left with you upon my departure, will be of some assistance to you as you continue your efforts to protect the quantity and quality of the surface and ground water of the San Francisco Bay Watershed. If you can successfully meet that challenge, you will have provided the habitat necessary to protect the fisheries and other living resources that are indigenous to your waters.

Thank you, again, very much for your invitation to participate in the 1997 RCRC Annual Conference. I hope that I shall be able to return your hospitality when you next visit the Washington area, and I hope that I will get back to your beautiful part of the country in the near future.

With warmest regards and my very best wishes always, I remain

Sincerely,


W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr.

WTMJR/jh
enclosure