PRINCE GEORGE'S
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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October 25, 2021

POLICY MEMORANDUM 03-2021

TO: All Consultants, Developers, Regulatory Agencies and Others

THRU: Steven E. Darcey, CPESC
Executive Director

FROM: John B. Tarr, P.E.
Chief Engineer/Program Manager

SUBJECT: Use of Legacy and Current Precipitation-Frequency Datasets for Design and Analyses

Policy Statement

Hydrologic and hydraulic systems shall be designed and/or analyzed utilizing the most current precipitation-frequency datasets, or as required for a specific occasion. The selection of a dataset for use in retrofit situations shall be governed by whichever provides the higher overall climatic resiliency. This policy is supplemental to the District's policy memorandum on *Rainfall Distributions for Design Based on NOAA Atlas 14 Rainfall Depths*.

Background

Hydrologic and hydraulic systems – sediment basins, stormwater management facilities (ponds and environmental site design (ESD) practices), embankments, dams, culverts and others – are designed utilizing the rainfall intensities and distribution datasets in effect at design. However, applicable datasets are routinely updated to reflect changes in climate patterns and characteristics. Future analyses of existing systems, and/or retrofits thereto, may thus encounter differing governing criteria/datasets between initial designs and those in effect when an analysis is undertaken. Both criteria shall be evaluated in these situations and compared. The governing criteria/dataset shall be whichever provides the higher/highest overall climatic resiliency for dam safety.

Where this Policy Applies

This policy shall apply to all previously noted hydrologic and hydraulic systems, and is effective immediately.

Additional Information

Please contact the District at 301.574.5162 EXT. 3 should you have questions or require additional information relating to this policy.