

TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2018 – 04

October xx, 2018

TO: All Engineers, Designers and Developers
THRU: Steven E. Darcey, CPESC, Executive Director
FROM: John B. Tarr, P.E., District Engineer/Program Manager
RE: Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG) Determination for Locally Occurring Soil Formations

The Prince George's Soil Conservation District ("District") herein provides guidance and clarification on the determination and use of Hydrologic Soil Groups (HSGs) in a project's analysis and design.

Identification of Site Specific Soil Formations

The national soil survey database – *Web Soil Survey* – published and maintained by the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) shall be the primary source for identifying site specific soil formations utilized in feasibility and project design.

Soil Complexes, Aggregation Method and Tie Break Rule Requirements:

A representative HSG shall be determined for all soil complexes located within a defined *area of interest* (AOI) employing the *Dominant Component Aggregation method*. In the event of a percent composition tie, a *tie-break rule which returns the higher attribute value as representative shall be utilized*.

The component percentages and corresponding HSGs for soil complex formations shall be obtained from the *Web Soil Survey* online portal.

The following shall be noted:

All "Urban Land" formations in soil complexes shall utilize a HSG of "D".

- I. All reclaimed sites shall utilize a HSG of "D".
- II. Regardless of the soil formation or complex identified for a specific site, all existing impervious surfaces shall utilize a HSG of "D" for analysis relating to quantity discharge measures.

The exception to these requirements shall be when the composition of soil formations and properties, for a specific site, are determined from actual soil borings and laboratory analysis.

Please contact the District at 301.574.5162 EXT. 3 should you require additional information and/or clarification of any item presented herein or related thereto.