

**James City County
Citizens Coalition**

**P.O. Box 5322
Williamsburg, VA 23188
jcc.citizens.coalition@gmail.com**

Working together to protect and preserve our environmental resources and quality of life

March 5, 2009

Board of Supervisors
James City County
101 C Mounts Bay Road
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8784

Gentlemen and Madam:

Our group was not surprised to learn that the recently completed *Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency Study* found that our local government operated at a “**very high level of efficiency.**” We agree with the finding that “James City County government provided very good-to-excellent quality service to the citizens of the County.” During our frequent interactions with county staff, we are always impressed with the high degree of professionalism that we encounter. The J4C believes that this successful operation comes from astute hiring and strong management practices.

The J4C also endorses the consultant’s recommendation to reinstate the stormwater utility fees. As you know, the J4C strenuously objected when the board eliminated the stormwater utility fee in early 2008, just as we did when the board voted to rescind the stream buffers (and for the same reason). The recently released *Updated Impervious Cover Estimate* clearly shows the importance and the urgency of restoring our watersheds. The Stormwater Division is an understaffed group of professionals charged with “adequately protecting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens” and ensuring that the county complies “with federal, state and local regulations.” The Division’s mandate has been ignored and underfunded for too long, as pointed out by the consultants’ finding that there exists “a 20-year backlog of drainage infrastructure issues.” Stripping the Division of this dedicated source of revenue did not reduce the need for the expenditure, nor did it save taxpayers any money.

The J4C membership respectfully requests that the fee be reinstated as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Jack Haldeman, J4C

cc: Fran Geissler