

Development, the Council became an independent agency in 1986 (Chapter 861, Acts of 1986).

The Council is an association of the local governments of Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties. It serves as a regional planning and development agency for the tri-county area. By effectively using State aid, the Council fosters the physical, economic and social development of Western Maryland.

The Council receives planning assistance funds from the federal Economic Development Administration and the Appalachian Regional Commission. In conformance with their program guidelines, the Council uses planning assistance funds for administrative expenses which directly support the formulation and implementation of economic development programs. These programs are designed to create or retain full-time permanent jobs and improve income characteristics, particularly for the unemployed and underemployed in the most distressed areas of the region. To facilitate planning, the Council may prepare studies of the region's resources; gather and analyze social and economic data; and join with other government agencies, educational institutions, and private organizations in coordinating research.

The Council's work program enhances the quality of economic development activities in the region and strengthens relationships among the various local units of government.

The Council's program for direct business assistance and enterprise development includes a Revolving Loan Fund program, Procurement and Export Assistance, and Data Center Services. The program for local government assistance focuses on grantsmanship and data base resource capabilities as well as facilitating intergovernmental cooperation.

Annually, the Council submits its proposed work program and operating budget for the following fiscal year to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The Council is comprised of twenty-seven members. Twenty-three are voting members and four are nonvoting. From each county, the Council has three representatives of county government appointed by the county commissioners, and one elected municipal official chosen by the respective municipal governments of the county. Also serving on the Council are the county economic development directors; three private sector representatives; as well as House of Delegates members who represent Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties; and the two State Senators who reside in the tri-county area (Code 1957, Art. 20A, secs. 1-101 through 3-102).

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## WASHINGTON SUBURBAN SANITARY COMMISSION

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Henry T. Arrington, *Chairperson*, 1991  
Waymond D. Bray, *Vice-Chairperson*, 1991

Ada Koonce Blumenschein, 1989; Robert M. Potter, 1991; Gilbert B. Lessenco, 1991; Robert P. Will, 1991.

Richard G. Hocevar, *General Manager*

4017 Hamilton St.  
Hyattsville, MD 20781                      699-4000  
   customer services: 699-5600  
   public affairs: 699-4172  
   24-hour emergency service: 699-4555

Engineering Department  
8103 Sandy Spring Rd.  
Laurel, MD 20707    441-4002

The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the governing body of the Washington Suburban Sanitary District, was created in 1918 (Chapter 122, Acts of 1918).

The Commission provides for the construction, maintenance, and operation of water supply and sewerage systems in Prince George's and Montgomery counties and regulates and inspects plumbing and gas-fitting installations in both counties. The Commission also administers, maintains, and operates the Anacostia River Flood Control and Navigation Project.

The two major sources of water supply for the Commission system are the Patuxent River, through the Patuxent Filtration Plant, and the Potomac River, through the Potomac River Filtration Plant. Much of the sewage from the Commission service area is transported through trunk sewers into the District of Columbia and is treated at the regional Blue Plains Pollution Control Plant in Washington, DC. Sewage disposal plants operated by the Commission are near Laurel, at Piscataway Bay, and at the western branch of the Patuxent River. The Commission also operates several smaller waste water plants.

Ten-Year Water and Sewer Plans for Montgomery and Prince George's counties, formerly drafted by the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, are now prepared by the respective county governments. The Commission's annual budget is subject to joint approval by the governing bodies of the two counties. The Commission sets customer rates for its suburban Maryland service area.

Through its Public Affairs Office, the Commission distributes information on all facets of its operation free of charge. The Plumbing and Gas-Fitting Regulations are available for a fee. An active speakers' bureau also is managed by the Public Affairs Office.

The Commission consists of six members: three from Montgomery County and three from Prince