

RESOLUTION NO. 2890

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA TO URGE THE
AGENCIES TO PRESERVE THE 2015 CLEAN WATER RULE**

WHEREAS, the 2015 Clean Water Rule clarified the term “Waters of the United States,” which defines the extent of waters protected under the Clean Water Act’s suite of pollution prevention, control, and clean-up programs; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Act is the fundamental federal law protecting the Waters of the United States from pollution, degradation, and destruction; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Act is “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters;” and

WHEREAS, this goal cannot be met unless headwater, ephemeral, and intermittent streams, and wetlands are considered “Waters of the United States,” because these resources have the potential to impact the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of larger, permanently flowing water bodies; and

WHEREAS, more than 1,000 peer reviewed scientific studies have confirmed that headwater, intermittent, and ephemeral streams and wetlands affect the quantity and quality of water in larger bodies of water downstream; and

WHEREAS, these critical streams and wetlands supply drinking water, protect communities against floods, filter pollution, and therefore provide an extraordinary value for the protection of public health, recreational resources, and economic livelihood; and

WHEREAS, strong federal standards are needed because water does not respect state boundaries and flows from one state to another; and

WHEREAS, the Clean Water Rule finalized in 2015 by the EPA and the Corps reflected input from stakeholders nationwide received during more than 400 meetings and from over one million public comments submitted during a 207-day comment period, the majority of which supported the rule; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2018 the EPA and the Corps proposed to replace the 2015 Clean Water Rule with a much narrower definition of “Waters of the United States,” that, if finalized, would exclude ephemeral streams, as well as geographically isolated lakes, ponds, and wetlands from Clean Water Act protections; and

WHEREAS, excluding certain streams and wetlands from Clean Water Act protections puts all of the Nation’s waters at risk because polluting or destroying these resources has the potential to impact the water quality of rivers and larger water bodies downstream.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA :**

Calls on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to preserve the broad definition of “Waters of the United States,” which includes the Clean Water protections for headwaters, ephemeral, intermittent streams, and wetlands, as defined by the 2015 Clean Water Rule.

Adopted: June 11, 2019


JUSTIN M. WILSON MAYOR

ATTEST:


Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk