

Amended Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Regulations

State Water Control Board mandated amendments to local Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area regulations (9 VAC 25-830-155) to address coastal resilience and adaptation to sea-level rise and climate change. Additionally, changes are required to preserve mature trees during development. This would require revisions to DCSM Section 740 and Zoning Ordinance Part 32-504.

Here is a summary of the key changes.

1. **Coastal Resilience/Adaptation:** The first change requires assessing the impacts of sea level rise and storm surge for development projects within RPA only and taking adaptation measures to overcome any impact. These areas are generally confined to tidal coastal areas of the County. Developers can use Virginia's AdaptVA site to determine if their project is located within coastal areas affected by sea level rise and storm surges.
2. **Preservation of Mature Trees and Planting of Trees:** The second change applies to preserving mature trees during development. Staff have determined that the existing Tree Canopy Requirements in Section 802.20 of DCSM can be used to satisfy this new requirement. Therefore, while the preservation of mature trees appears to be a big change, the County's regulations are already compliant with this change.