**Seminary Ridge Civic Association**

**Resolution Against Natural Channel Design Project for Strawberry Run**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The City of Alexandria claims that the upper portion of Strawberry Run (north of the footbridge) needs restoration and that doing so will improve water quality in the Chesapeake Bay. However, independent analysis shows that there is very little sediment, phosphorus, or nitrogen present in Strawberry Run and that following the City’s plans for restoration may actually create more water quality problems.

2. The City intends to employ Natural Channel Design (“NCD”). NCD already has failed on Strawberry Run. It was used on the lower portion (south of the footbridge) in 2010 and its failure is demonstrated by: (1) blown out stream engineering structures (cross vanes, J-hooks); (2) washed out imported fill such as landscape cloth; and (3) a widened, eroded channel due to the misguided NCD design.

3. Properties backing up to Strawberry Run are likely to experience flooding if NCD is used and fails, as expected by independent experts.

4. This project will destroy the old-growth tree canopy and do irreparable harm to the habitat and ecology of Strawberry Run including, but not limited to, providing invasive species an opportunity to propagate.

5. This project is costing more than $1 million annually in City staff time and will cost taxpayers $1.6 million in city and state funds.

6. We are concerned that the motivation for this project will not address Chesapeake Bay water quality issues, because it is being done using predictive “pollution credits” instead of measured pollution credits from the Commonwealth.

7. We are concerned that the City has not explored any alternatives to NCD, but rather is only relying on the recommendation of one NCD industry consultant.

8. We are concerned that the City has refused to do any environmental impact studies on the potential effects of this project.

9. We are concerned that this project was approved based in part on the City Manager’s misrepresentation in September 2018 that the City had contacted and met with impacted residents.

10. We understand all of the above based on information from Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) requests and independent experts in the field.

**Be it therefore RESOLVED:**

11. SRCA, requests that the City delay this project for up to one year to fully address the community’s concerns and to explore alternatives to Natural Channel Design.

**Approved by the Board of the Seminary Ridge Civic Association (SRCA) Board on: February 4, 2021**