

WHEREAS, The Commission, the local governments represented on the Commission, and the Maryland General Assembly adopted the original Patuxent River Policy Plan (the Plan) in 1984 in order to serve as a policy guide for the Commission, State agencies, and local governments in carrying out programs in the Patuxent River watershed; and

WHEREAS, §§ 5-805 and 5-806 of the State Finance and Procurement Article provide that the Commission and the State Department of Planning shall periodically review and evaluate pertinent information, trends, and issues regarding the Patuxent River watershed in light of the Plan and the Commission's activities; and

WHEREAS, §§ 5-805 and 5-806 of the State Finance and Procurement Article also provide procedures for updating the Plan through an amendment process; and

WHEREAS, Review and evaluation by the Commission have determined that development within the Patuxent River watershed has expanded significantly since 1984, and this expanded development has resulted in the loss of forest cover, agricultural land, open space, and wildlife habitat with a corresponding increase in impervious surface area, thus elevating the level of nutrient and sediment pollution in the Patuxent River; and

WHEREAS, Drawing on the outcome of several relevant Patuxent River studies and projects, including "The Patuxent Watershed Demonstration Project", the Commission addressed these issues and the management of the watershed in a draft addendum to the Plan; and

WHEREAS, In November 1997, the Commission adopted an addendum, known as the 1997 Addendum, as an amendment to the 1984 Plan, and this was done for the purpose of updating the Plan; and

WHEREAS, Effective October 24, 2000, all local governments represented on the Commission adopted by resolution the 1997 Addendum; and

WHEREAS, § 5-805 of the State Finance and Procurement Article provides that, on approval by resolution of an amendment by at least six of the eight local jurisdictions represented on the Commission, the amendment shall be presented to the General Assembly for approval; and

WHEREAS, The Patuxent River Policy Plan Amendment has been approved by these local jurisdictions, and the General Assembly also finds itself in agreement with the Plan Amendment; and

WHEREAS, Upon approval by the General Assembly, this Amendment to the Plan is to serve as a policy guide for the Commission, State agencies, and local governments in enhancing restoration and protection of the Patuxent River watershed; and

WHEREAS, Under § 5-805(d)(2) of the State Finance and Procurement Article, the effective date of an amendment is immediate upon approval by joint resolution of the General Assembly, unless otherwise provided in the amendment, and there being