

Virginia State Water Control Board Says “Yes” to New Ragged Mountain Dam

On Wednesday, December 14, the State Water Control Board heard arguments and public comment with respect to RWSA’s application to amend its Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Protection Permit to allow for the phased implementation of the expanded Ragged Mountain Reservoir. After hearing a presentation from DEQ staff followed by public comments for close to two hours, including comments from citizens who oppose the reservoir expansion, the Board voted unanimously to approve RWSA’s application.

“This action validates the work done by RWSA staff to comply with state law and regulations,” stated Mr. Tom Frederick, Executive Director of the Authority. “It also validates the decision on phasing the new reservoir that our elected officials from both City and County agreed to in February 2011. The Ragged Mountain Reservoir expansion has now repeatedly been confirmed as the ‘least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative’ that has the capacity to secure the future water supply needs of our community. The project also takes care of our natural resources, by providing more natural stream flow patterns through water releases from dams compared to past practice.”