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DRAFT

# REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

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Prepared by
Richmond Regional Planning District Commission

December 1992

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U.S. GOVERNMENT
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## REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES

Background

As a regional planning body, the RRPDC is responsible for a variety of regional planning activities. One portion of this responsibility is the area of environmental planning. To this end the Commission takes part in a variety of environmental activities. These include the preparation of reports related to the region's environment and the review of the potential environmental impacts of federal and state projects.

The Commission also assists its member governments in the area of environmental planning. This is done through assistance with local environmental planning projects and the preparation of local plans and ordinances related to the environment. In addition, the Commission assists local governments in the review of local development projects when requested.

To date, this environmental planning responsibility has been carried on in a vacuum. The Commission has not had an overall set of guidelines to direct its environmental planning activities. It also has not had a framework to offer to its member governments for dealing with their environmental issues.

Environmental Framework

To address this deficiency, the Commission has prepared a series of environmental goals, objectives and policies statements. The intent of these statements is to provide:

1. A framework for the discussion of regional environmental issues and actions to address those issues.

2. An environmental policy framework for guiding Commission review and comment on development proposals requiring Commission review.

3. A framework for local government consideration in dealing with local environmental issues.

4. A basis for the preparation of detailed environmental plans and studies by the RRPDC and a guide for use by its member governments in the preparation of local environmental plans and studies.

5. Guidelines to be used in the development of the Commission's local technical assistance program and for assisting member governments in their environmental planning efforts.

6. A framework to aid in the development of RRPDC work programs regarding the environment.

These statements will be used by the Commission in its continuing effort to deal effectively with the environment in the region. They will also be available to member governments to supplement individual environmental planning activities, if desired.

These are not an attempt by the RRPDC to usurp any local power. Nor are they an attempt to duplicate any local efforts. These statements merely establish the framework for RRPDC action regarding the region's environment. Hopefully, these statements will serve as a beginning point for further discussions about the environment in the region and in each local government.

Definitions

Goals and objectives tend to be long range statements which serve as the basis for future decision making. Policies range from very specific, short term to broader, long term statements. In addition, policies are meant to be flexible, subject to reevaluation and modification based on existing and future needs, priorities and opportunities. The following definitions have been used in the preparation of this document:

| | |
|---|---|
| Goal | A general statement which represents a desired end state to which the RRPDC and its members should strive. |
| Objective | A specific statement stating the means by which a goal can be achieved. An objective should be measurable whenever possible. Some objectives may help achieve more than one goal. |
| Policy | An action or strategy taken to achieve an objective. It is a statement of commitment to a specific course of action to guide regional decision making. Policies may support more than one objective. |

## WATER RESOURCES

**GOAL:** Maintain the quality and quantity of the region's water resources to protect and enhance the region's environmental quality, preserve its existing and future water supplies, strengthen its economic health, and preserve its historic character, recreational potential and aesthetics.

**OBJECTIVE 1.0 Drinking Water**

To provide the region's population with a safe drinking water supply in quantities sufficient to meet demand.

**POLICIES:**

1.1 Encourage the region's public water treatment facilities to maintain compliance with the requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and Virginia Health Department regulations.

1.2 Encourage coordinated intergovernmental efforts, such as recommended in the adopted Regional Water Resources Plan, to plan for and implement the expansion of water treatment capacity to meet current and future demand.

1.3 Explore and encourage the adoption of appropriate land use measures designed to protect unspoiled surface and groundwater supply sources and to improve degraded sources.

1.4 Support the work of the RRPDC's Regional Water Resources Task Force in the completion of the remaining elements of the Regional Water Resources Plan, and support regularly scheduled updates of the Plan to keep it current.

**OBJECTIVE 2.0 Point Source Discharges**

To ensure municipal point source discharges in the region meet or exceed all state and federal regulations.

**POLICIES:**

2.1 Review and comment on data and reports generated from state water quality monitoring programs that assess the impact of point source discharges on the water quality of the region's rivers, streams, and lakes.

2.2 Work with state and local government agencies to correct deficiencies found in the assessment of monitoring data.

2.3 Provide input to the State Water Control Board, on the adequacy of existing water quality monitoring programs to accurately portray the health of the region's water resources.

2.4 Support and provide assistance to the State Water Control Board, in the development and maintenance of the area-wide water quality management plans for the James and York river basins.

**OBJECTIVE 3.0 Nonpoint Source Discharges**

To minimize the effects of land use activities that contribute environmentally degrading pollutants to the region's rivers and streams.

**POLICIES:**

3.1 Encourage the region's localities to exercise authority granted by applicable state programs to conscientiously implement and enforce measures to reduce pollution from nonpoint sources.

3.2 Encourage and provide technical assistance to local government efforts that are aimed at determining the nature and impact of nonpoint pollution loadings caused by land use activities, and aid them in the development of effective control programs .

3.3 Utilize and encourage further development of the existing data base on nonpoint source loadings in the region maintained by the Virginia Division of Soil and Water Conservation.

3.4 Support the Virginia Division of Soil and Water Conservation and State Water Control Board in the development of nonpoint source pollution programs.

**OBJECTIVE 4.0 Stormwater**

To encourage action to mitigate the effect of stormwater discharges on water quality.

**POLICIES:**

4.1 Support local efforts to comply with NPDES and Virginia stormwater discharge regulations.

4.2 Promote intergovernmental approaches to stormwater management.

4.3 Provide technical assistance to local governments in their efforts to address stormwater management.

4.4 Support the City of Richmond's effort to address combined sewer overflows.

**OBJECTIVE 5.0 Ground Water**

To protect and improve the quantity and quality of the region's ground water.

**POLICIES:**

5.1 Evaluate the need for additional modelling studies of the region's ground water resources to improve understanding of the resource (particularly the western portion of the region).

5.2 Encourage and assist, where requested, local efforts to identify existing and abandoned development sites that have the potential to pollute the ground water.

5.3 Identify land areas that are highly susceptible to ground water contamination through techniques such as DRASTIC mapping.

5.4 Develop a regional ground water management plan in cooperation with State Water Conservation Districts and the State Water Control Board.

**OBJECTIVE 6.0 Instream Flow**

To encourage the proper management of water withdrawals from the region's rivers and streams in order to minimize their impact on naturally occurring instream flows and beneficial uses.

**POLICIES:**

6.1 Revise the RRPDC's outdated regional instream flow policies based on current state law.

6.2 Encourage local governments to adopt regional instream flow policies consistent with the RRPDC policies.

6.3 Consider adopted RRPDC instream flow policies when reviewing water withdrawal proposals submitted for comment by the State Water Control Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Council on the Environment, and others.

6.4 Encourage and assist, where requested, local government efforts to prepare instream flow studies and evaluations.

**OBJECTIVE 7.0 Water Conservation**

To implement water conservation and demand management measures that result in a per capita reduction in water demand and more efficient use of the region's water resources, and protects the region in drought.

**POLICIES:**

7.1 Seek changes in the Statewide Uniform Building Code that establish increased water efficiency standards for new and replacement plumbing fixtures.

7.2 Encourage local governments to adopt more stringent water conservation standards as permitted by the Statewide Uniform Building Code.

7.3 Develop regional conservation and demand management strategies that result in long term per capita reductions.

7.4 Develop, in conjunction with the Regional Water Resources Plan, regional conservation strategies for short-term droughts.

7.5 Develop a water conservation education program for citizens and local government.

**OBJECTIVE 8.0** Public Access

To increase public access to the region's rivers and streams in a manner that is compatible with the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and respects private property rights.

**POLICIES**

8.1 Encourage state and local efforts to improve public access to rivers and streams, compatible with the natural environment.

8.2 Encourage and assist, where requested, local government efforts to plan for and regulate water dependent uses in a manner that improves public access while protecting water quality, environmentally sensitive areas, significant habitat, and property rights.

8.3 Consider the impacts on public access when reviewing development proposals; support those proposals that improve access while protecting the environment.

## LAND RESOURCES

**GOAL:** Promote a land development pattern which minimizes the impact of development on land resources while providing sufficient space for living, working, recreational and open space needs.

**OBJECTIVE 1.0 Land Resource Planning**

To promote regional development patterns that recognize and respect the potentials, limitations and hazards of the region's land resources.

**POLICIES**

1.1 Develop a regional process for identifying and mapping significant regional land resources. (Significant regional land resources shall include environmentally sensitive areas as well as prime agricultural, forestal and mining lands. Environmentally sensitive areas include wetlands, floodplains, steep slopes, areas with a high water table, highly erodible and highly permeable soils, areas with high shrink-swell potential and areas with potential geologic hazards. Emphasis will be upon resources of greater than local significance and resources of a multi-jurisdictional nature.)

1.2 Identify existing and potential threats to the region's significant land resources and investigate measures that can be taken to alleviate these threats. (Emphasis will be upon resources of greater than local significance and resources of a multi-jurisdictional nature. These threats will be mapped where possible.)

1.3 Ensure that the protection and preservation of land resources is an important consideration in the preparation of regional development, transportation, solid waste and other plans.

1.4 Ensure that potential impacts on the region's land resources are evaluated and commented on during the Commission's review of development proposals as part of its intergovernmental review mandate.

1.5 Support legislation to enhance regional and local environmental protection and conservation planning and implementation efforts.

**Objective 2.0 Local Planning**

To promote environmentally sensitive land use planning and site design at the local level.

2.1 Encourage local governments to identify land resources of local and wider significance and existing and potential threats to these resources; assist with these efforts where requested.

2.2 Promote the preparation of local plans, ordinances, procedures, and polices that protect land resources, assist with the preparation of such documents when requested.

2.3 Encourage local governments to consider the potential impacts on land resources when reviewing development proposals; provide assistance with this review when requested.

## AIR RESOURCES

**GOAL:** Maintain a level of air quality which protects public health while providing economic development opportunities in the region.

**OBJECTIVE 1.0 Improved Air Quality**

To maintain and, where necessary, improve air quality to a level that meets or exceeds National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, particulates and other pollutants.

**POLICIES**

1.1 Participate in the development of the State Implementation Plan (SIP) as required by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 as the principal legal mechanism to protect and improve air quality.

1.2 Incorporate efforts to improve air quality into the development of regional development, solid waste management, transportation and other plans.

1.3 Consider and comment on the potential air quality impacts when preparing reviews as mandated by state and federal requirements.

1.4 Encourage local governments to consider air quality issues in the local land use and transportation plans and assist in this work when requested.

1.5 Ensure that potential impacts on air quality are considered and commented on during required regional reviews of public and private development proposals.

1.6 Encourage local governments to consider potential air quality impacts when reviewing local development proposals; provide assistance with this review when requested.

1.7 Promote transportation initiatives that have a positive impact on regional air quality such as the use of public transit, car and van pooling and other alternatives to single occupancy automobiles as the primary transportation mode.

1.8 Promote the development and use of a workable emergency program to limit emissions and to minimize harmful exposures during air stagnation periods.

## SCENIC, CULTURAL AND OPEN SPACE RESOURCES

**GOAL:** Protect the region's visual, aesthetic and cultural resources for the benefit of existing and future populations while responding to the economic needs of the region.

**OBJECTIVE 1.0 Scenic and Cultural**

To protect scenic and cultural resources in the region, as appropriate, both for the aesthetic and economic benefits they provide.

**POLICIES**

1.1 Develop a regional process to identify and map significant scenic, cultural and other unique features including important views and vistas, scenic waterways, historic and archeological sites, and other exceptional environmental features. (This will be done in cooperation with member local governments and appropriate state agencies.)

1.2 Promote local and regional efforts to preserve and protect the region's scenic and cultural resources.

1.3 Develop a list of recommended implementation tools for the preservation and protection of scenic and cultural resources.

1.4 Encourage the use of the regional data base to aid local efforts to assess and map scenic and cultural features.

1.5 Encourage and assist, where requested, local efforts to develop plans and implementation tools that aid in the protection of important scenic and cultural resources.

1.6 Evaluate the potential impact on scenic and cultural resources when reviewing and commenting on federal and state development proposals requiring RRPDC comment. (Encourage local governments to also consider these factors in their reviews of these proposals.)

1.7 Encourage local governments to consider potential impacts on scenic and cultural resources when reviewing local development proposals; provide assistance with these reviews when requested.

**OBJECTIVE 2.0 Open Spaces**

To preserve and enhance the region's open spaces.

**POLICIES**

2.1 Develop an inventory of the region's significant open space areas.

2.2 Promote efforts to preserve and protect open space in the region.

2.3 Encourage and assist with local and state efforts to expand public open space in the region both for recreational, habitat and environmental protection purposes.

2.4 Promote intergovernmental efforts to link development nodes and important attractions via greenbelts both for recreational purposes and to provide additional habitat and open space areas.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

**GOAL:** Develop a comprehensive environmental program which protects and enhances the region's water, land, air, scenic and cultural resources.

**OBJECTIVE 1.0 Data Base Management**

To create and maintain a regional environmental data base for local and regional planning purposes.

**POLICIES**

1.1 Develop and maintain a computerized regional environmental information data base, incorporating computerized geographic data systems where possible.

1.2 Develop a system to monitor regional development patterns and their impacts on the region's environment.

1.3 Develop a process to locate and map land use activities which may have negative impacts on the environment. (These activities include, but are not limited to, waste disposal sites, significant sources of noise, soil erosion and uncontrolled storm water runoff.)

1.4 Develop and maintain up-to-date computer hardware and software systems to track and map information necessary for the protection and preservation of the region's environment resources.

**OBJECTIVE 2.0 Environmental Planning Program**

To foster activities that protect and preserve the region's environment.

**POLICIES**

2.1 Develop regional strategies for protecting and enhancing environmental resources of regional significance.

2.2 Encourage local governments to develop plans, ordinances and policies to preserve and protect environmental features of local and regional significance, assist with this effort as requested.

2.3 Promote and assist with the development and adoption of common standards within the region for assessing the environmental impacts of public and private development plans.

2.4 Promote interregional environmental planning through periodic meetings with neighboring planning district commissions as needed.

2.5 Monitor federal and state programs related to environmental issues to ensure that the concerns of this region are considered and addressed.

2.6 Monitor, review and comment upon proposed state and federal environmental legislation and ensure that local and regional concerns are made known to state and federal agencies.

2.7 Support state and federal efforts to provide the planning district and local governments with up-to-date information and maps of environmental resources.

2.8 Use the Regional Environmental Technical Committee to provide comments and technical advise to the Planning District Commission on environmental issues.

**OBJECTIVE 3.0 Technical Assistance**

To improve local government planning capabilities and information flow regarding the environment.

**POLICIES**

3.1 Assist local government's efforts to obtain state and federal financial and technical assistance to aid in their environmental planning efforts.

3.2 Encourage training for regional and local staffs as a means to improve local and regional environmental planning.

3.3 Assist local governments with the development of environmental planning and protection tools as requested.

3.4 Continue to use the Regional Environmental Technical Committee as a platform to discuss local environmental issues and to share ideas regarding the environment.

**OBJECTIVE 4.0 Public Information and Education**

To promote greater public awareness and understanding of the need for and issues involved in environmental planning and protection.

**POLICIES**

4.1 Promote the development and dissemination of information about the region's environment and existing and potential threats to the environment disseminate this information to local business and labor groups, schools, local governments, environmental organizations and the general public and include information on environmental quality in RRPDC publications.

4.2 Prepare briefing papers and special reports on various environmental issues as needed or requested.

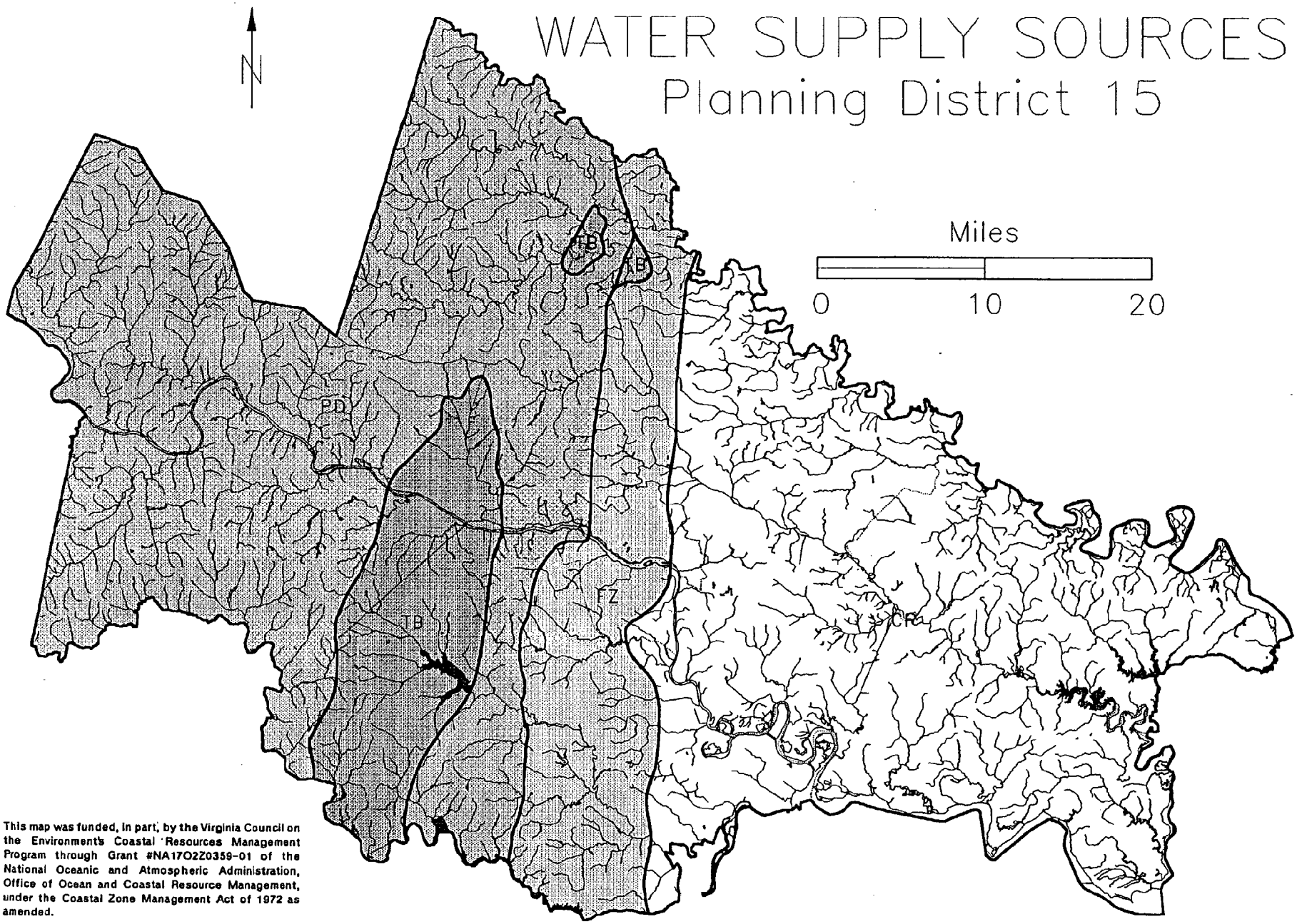
4.3. Sponsor and/or assist with public education programs, seminars and similar efforts of local, regional, state and federal agencies.

4.4 Promote the exchange of environmental information with other regional agencies, state and federal agencies, and other agencies and organizations engaged in environmental planning, regulatory activities and advocacy.

4.5 Promote the dissemination of environmental information through presentations at RRPDC meetings, articles in the Regional Quarterly, and other communication techniques.

4.6 Develop a speaker's bureau to assist in disseminating environmental information.

# WATER SUPPLY SOURCES
## Planning District 15

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Prepared by Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, 12/92

# WATER SUPPLY SOURCES
## Planning District 15

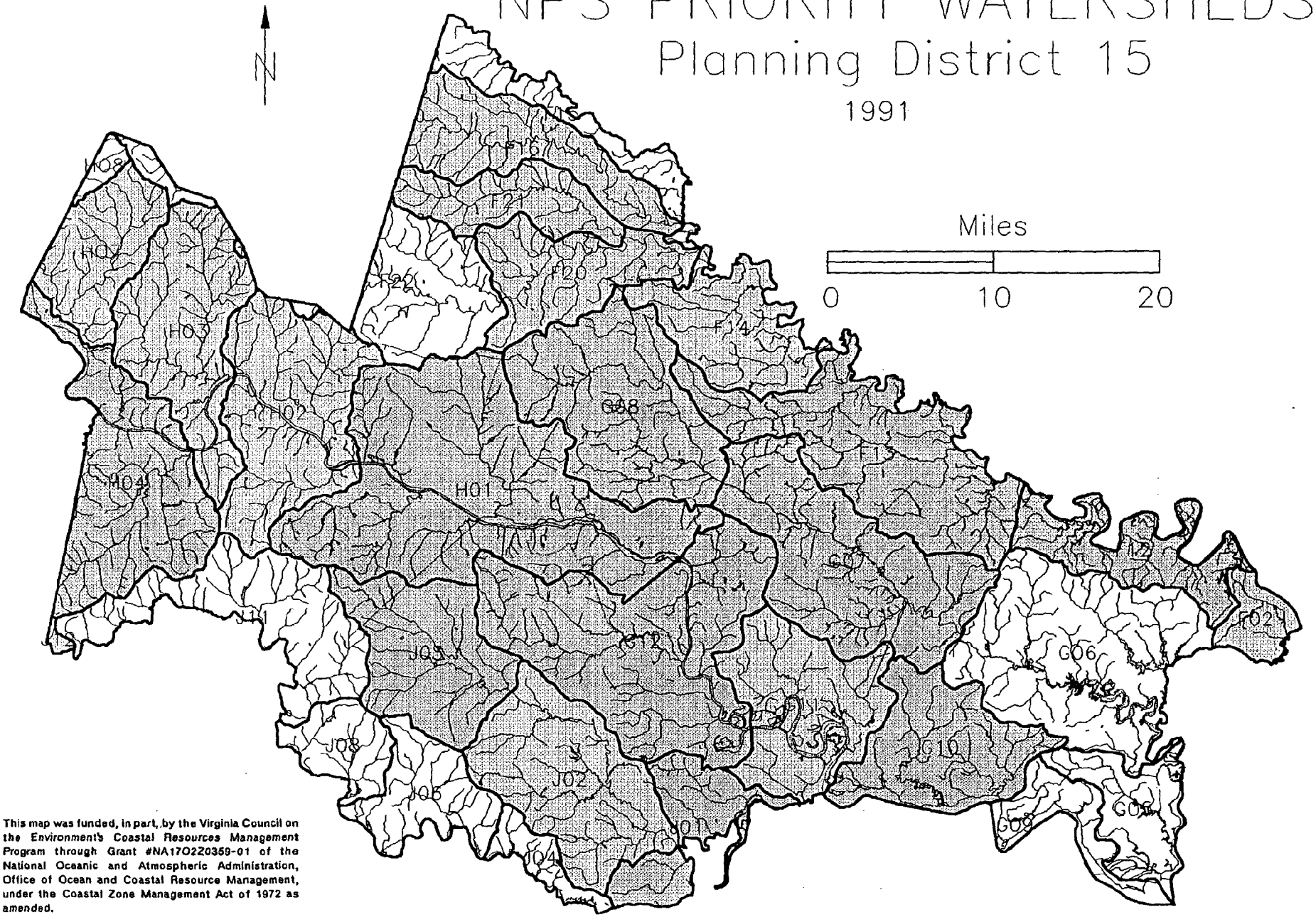
- Piedmont (PD)
- Triassic Basin (TB)
- Fall Zone (FZ)
- Coastal Plain (CP)
- Reserviors

Source: Virginia Water Control Board

# NPS PRIORITY WATERSHEDS

## Planning District 15

1991

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# NONPOINT SOURCE PRIORITY WATERSHEDS
## Planning District 15

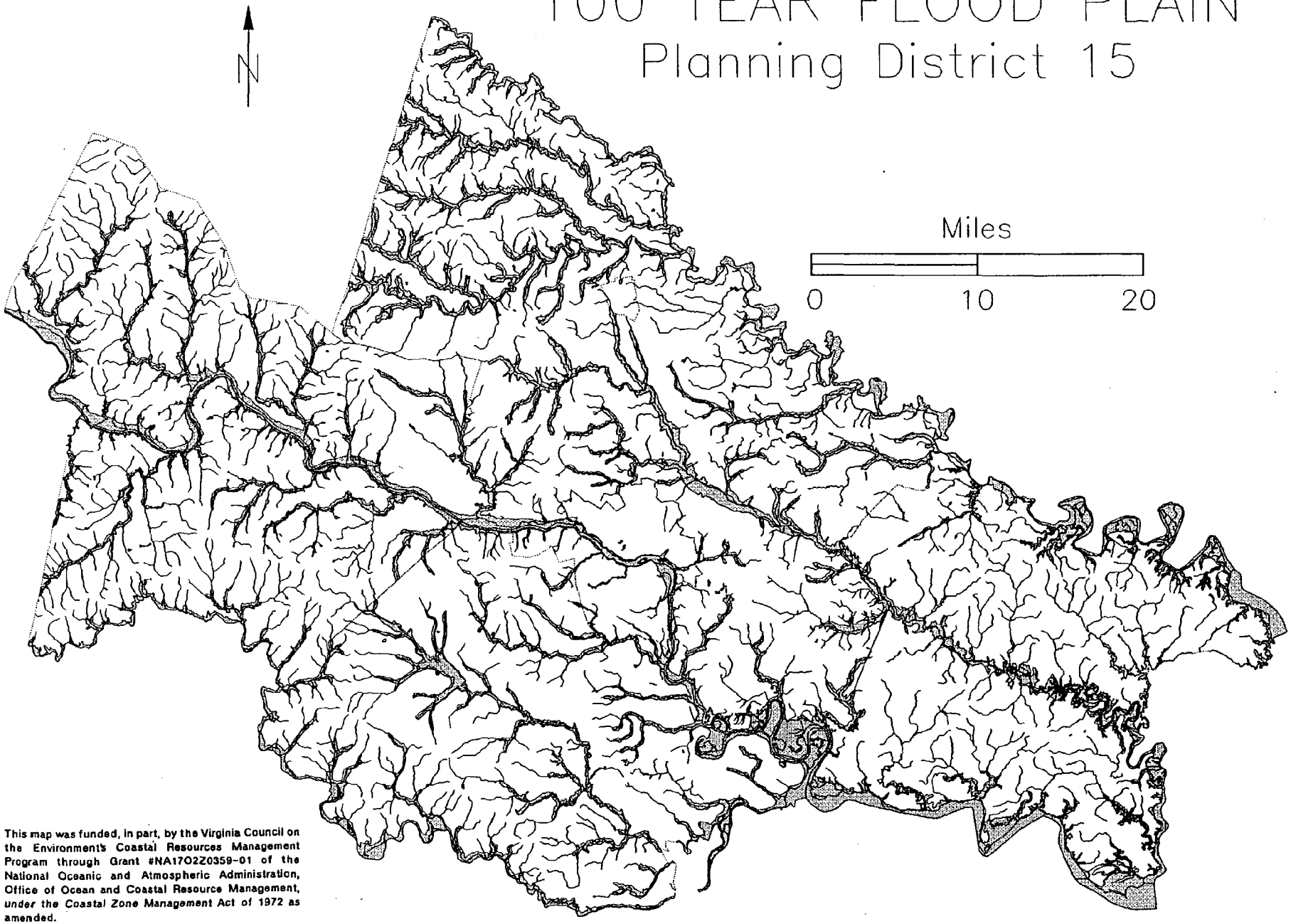
1991

1991 Priority

- Low Priority
- Medium Priority
- High Priority

Note: Priority rankings provided by the
Virginia Division of Soil and Water Conservation

# 100 YEAR FLOOD PLAIN
## Planning District 15

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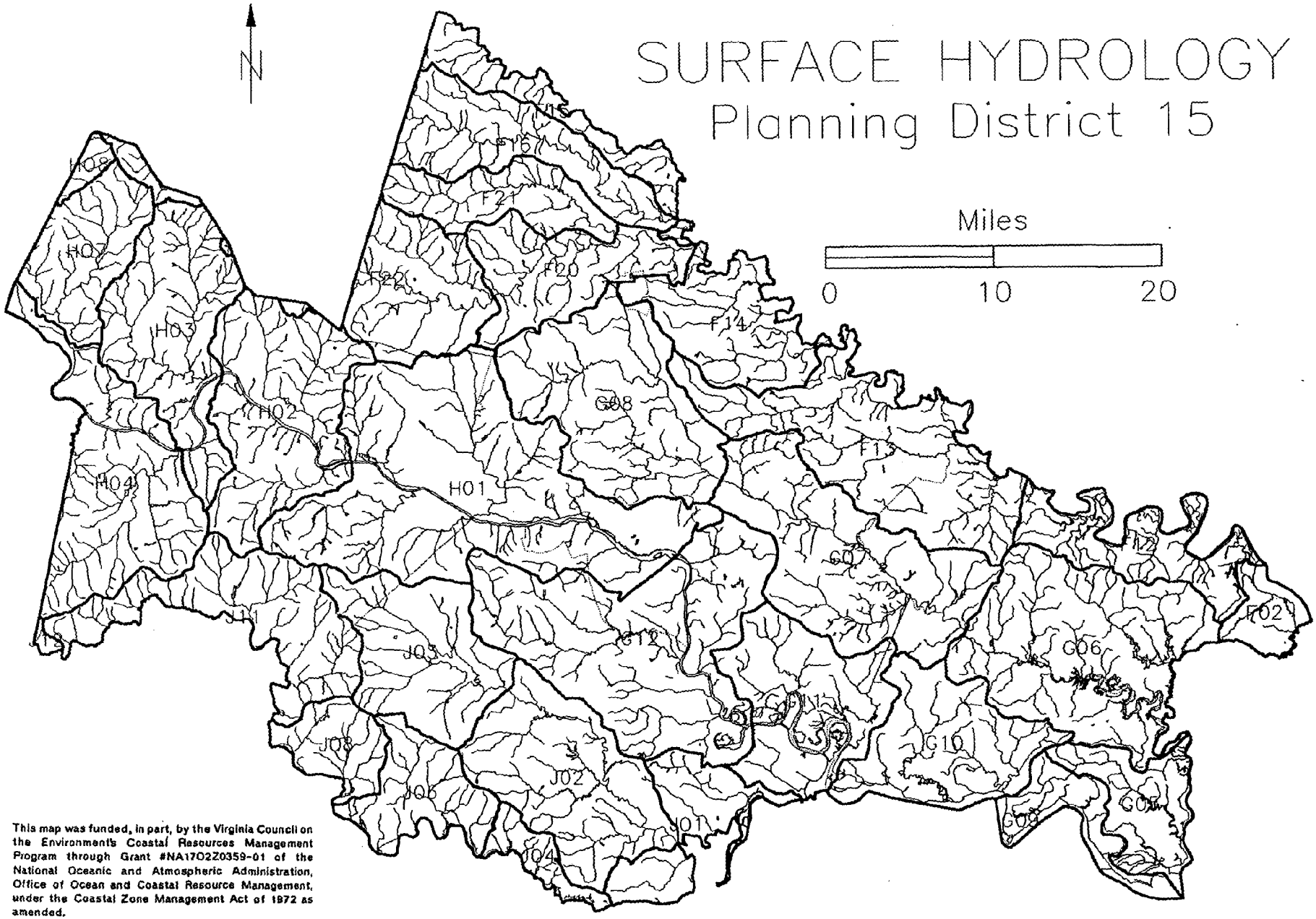
# SURFACE HYDROLOGY
## Planning District 15

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York River Drainage

| | |
|---|---|
| F02 | Poropotank River/Hockley Creek |
| F12 | Lower Pamunky River/Black Creek |
| F13 | Schiminoe Creek/Middle Pamunky River |
| F14 | North Anna River/Pamunkey River |
| F15 | North Anna River/Lake Anna Tributaries |
| F16 | Little River |
| F20 | South Anna River |
| F21 | Newfound River |
| F22 | Taylors Crk./S. Anna River |

Lower James River Drainage

| | |
|---|---|
| G05 | Morris Creek/Chickahominy River |
| G06 | Chickahominy River/Diascund Creek |
| G07 | Chickahominy River/Possum Creek |
| G08 | Upper Chickahominy River/Stony Run |
| G09 | James River/Wards Creek/Mapsico Creek |
| G10 | James River/Powell Creek/West Run |
| G11 | James River/Turkey Island Creek |
| G12 | Cornelius Creek/Falling Creek/James River |

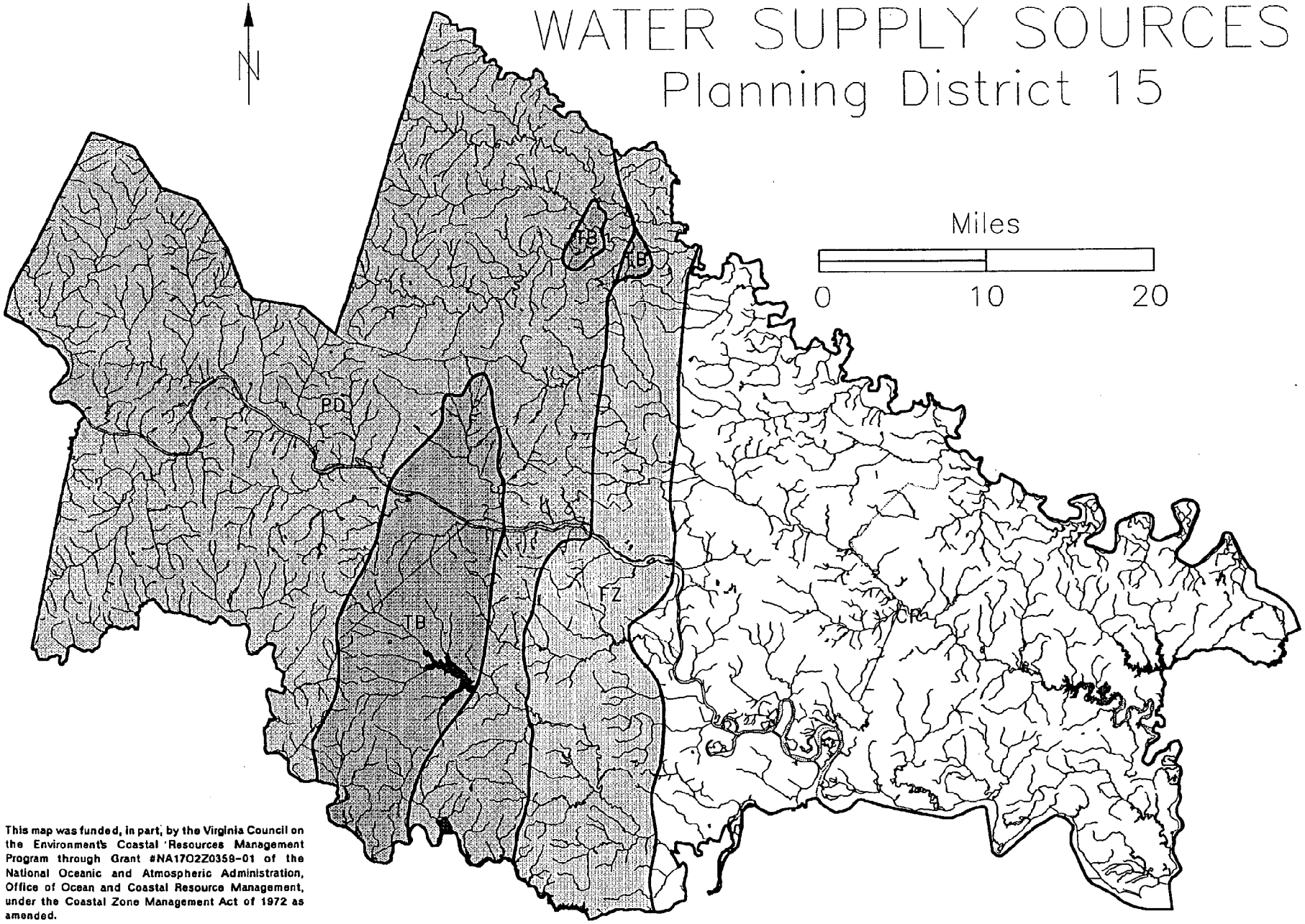
Middle James River Drainage

| | |
|---|---|
| H01 | Dover Creek/Tuckahoe Creek/James River |
| H02 | Beaverdam Crk. |
| H03 | Lickinghole Crk. |
| H04 | Muddy Crk./Deep Crk./James River |
| H07 | Lower Byrd Crk./Little Byrd Crk. |
| H08 | Upper Byrd Crk. |

Appomattox River Drainage

| | |
|---|---|
| J01 | Swift Creek/Ashton Creek/Cattail Run |
| J02 | Swift Creek/Long Swamp |
| J03 | Swift Creek Reservoir |
| J04 | Appommattox River/Lake Chesdin/Whipponock Creek |
| J06 | Appomattox River/Winterpock Creek/Winticomack Creek |
| J08 | Appomattox River/Lower Chesdin |
| J11 | Appomattox River/Skinquarter Creek |
| J12 | Big Guinea Creek/Saylers Creek/Appomattox River |

# WATER SUPPLY SOURCES
## Planning District 15

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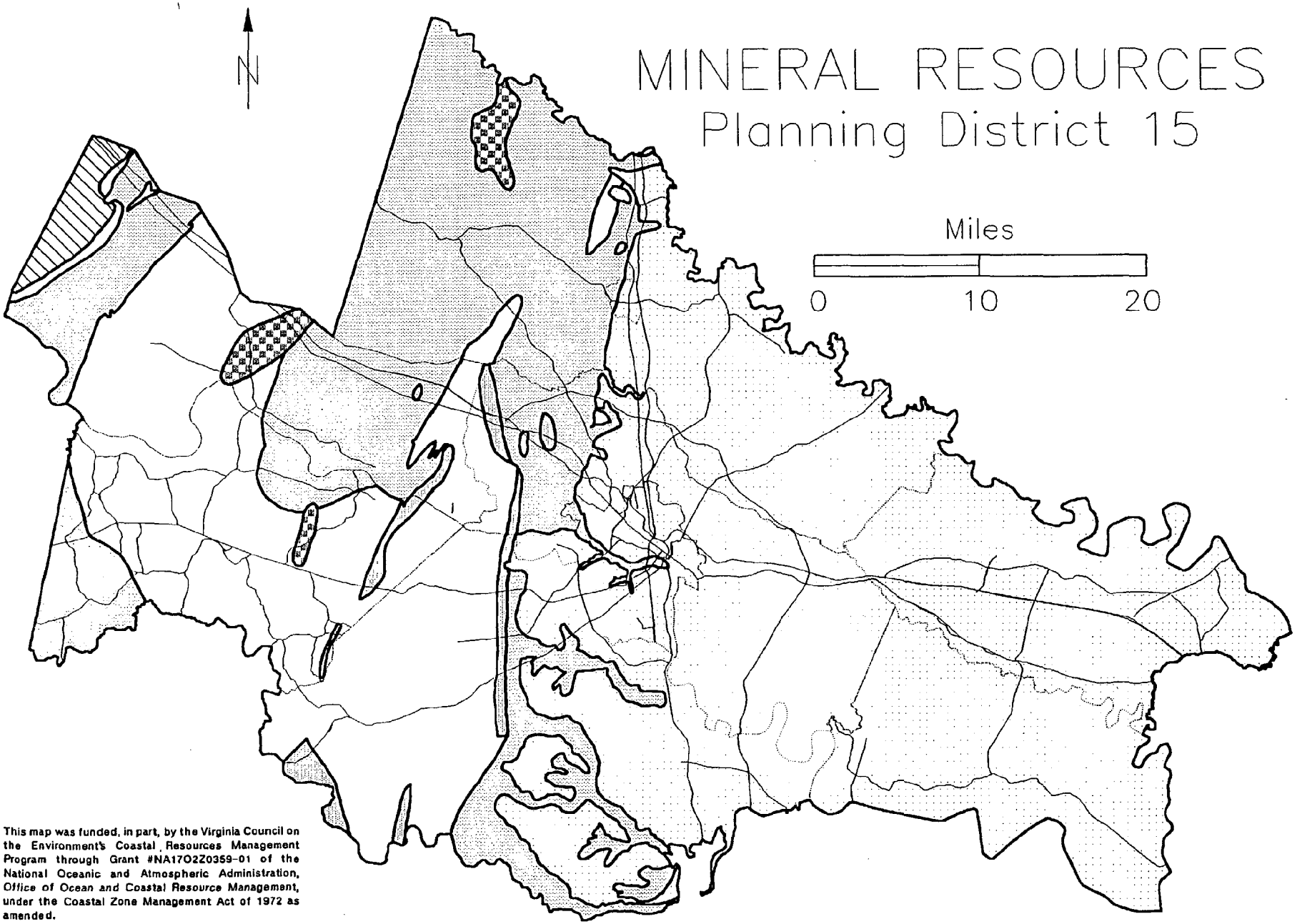
# WATER SUPPLY SOURCES
## Planning District 15

- Piedmont (PD)
- Triassic Basin (TB)
- Fall Zone (FZ)
- Coastal Plain (CP)
- Reserviors

Source: Virginia Water Control Board

# MINERAL RESOURCES
## Planning District 15

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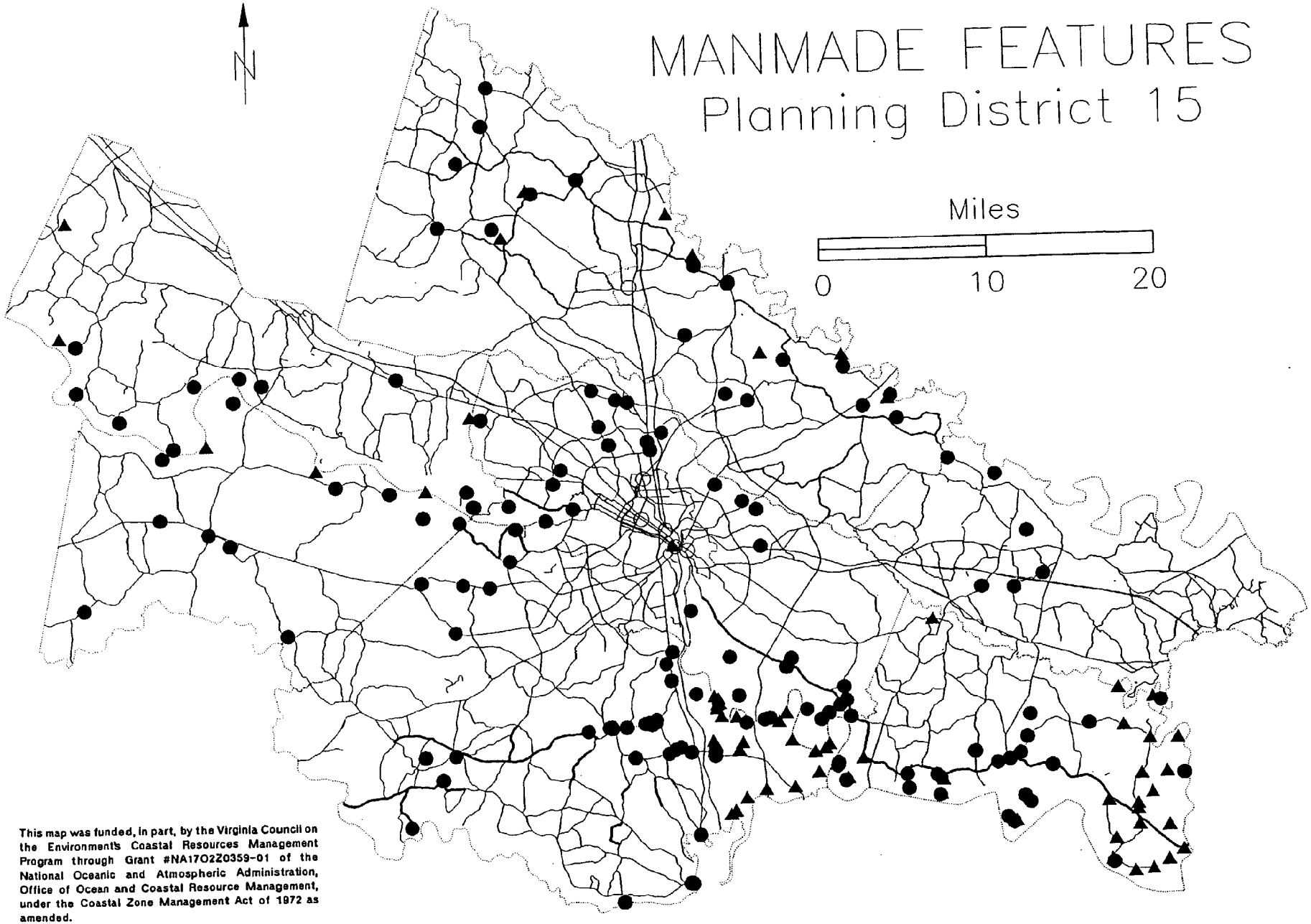
- Titanium
- Granite or Granitic Rocks
- Sulfide Mineralization
- Eastern Coal Fields
- Mica and Feldspar Areas
- No Known Significant Mineral Resources
- Principally Sand and Gravel

# MANMADE FEATURES
## Planning District 15

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Prepared by Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, 12/92

# MANMADE FEATURES
## Planning District 15

— Scenic Byways

— Scenic Highways

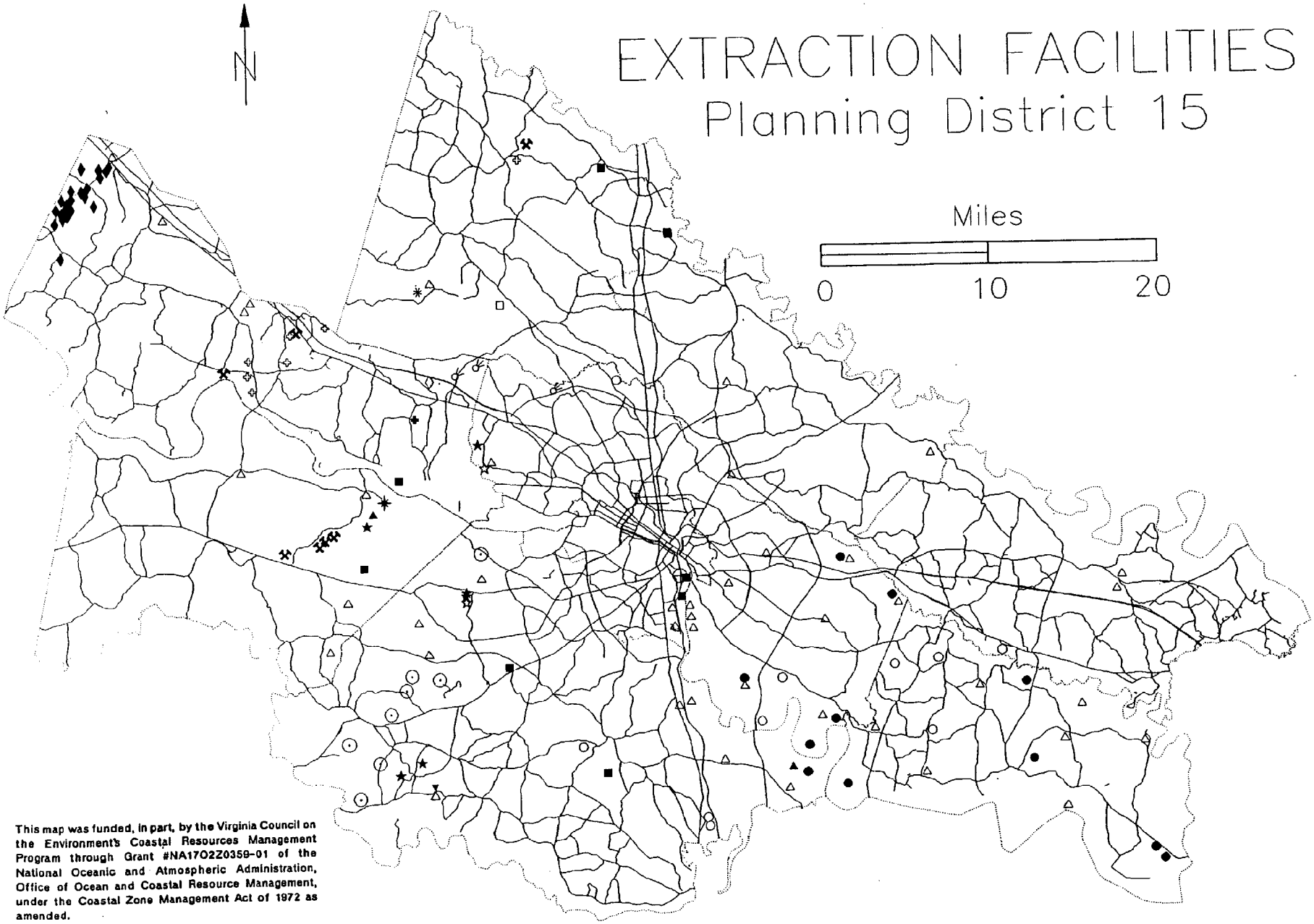
▲ Archeological Sites

○ Historic Districts

● Historic Sites

Prepared by Richmond Regional Planning District Commission, 12/92

# EXTRACTION FACILITIES
## Planning District 15

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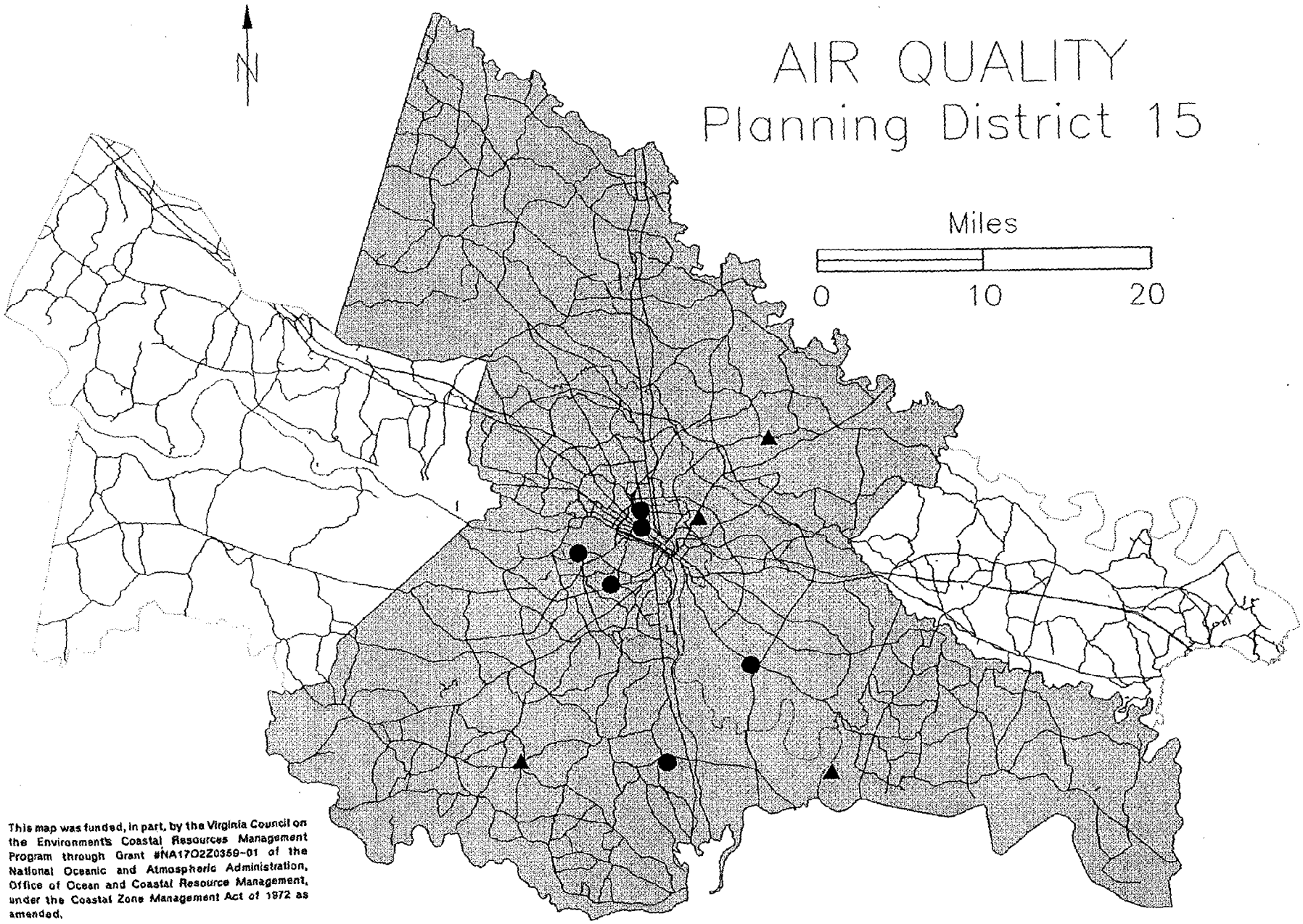
# EXTRACTION FACILITIES
## Planning District 15

- ☆ Abandoned Coal Mine (Adit)
- ★ Abandoned Coal Mine (Shaft)
- ⊕ Brick Processing Plant
- △ Clay Material With Potential Use
- ▲ Clay Pit
- ✶ Diamond Drill
- ✳ Feldspar Quarry With Processing Plant
- ⊙ Fossil Fuels Dry Hole
- ♦ Gold Mine (Inactive)
- ■ Granite Quarry
- □ Granite Quarry (Inactive)
- ✚ Graphite Prospect
- Metavolcanic Rock Quarry
- ⚒ Pegmatite Mine (Inactive)
- ✚ Pegmatite Prospect
- ● Sand and Gravel Pit
- ○ Sand and Gravel Pit (Inactive)
- ▼ Schist
- ◊ Titanium Mine (Inactive)

Source: Virginia Division of Mineral Resources

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# AIR QUALITY
## Planning District 15

Jurisdictions

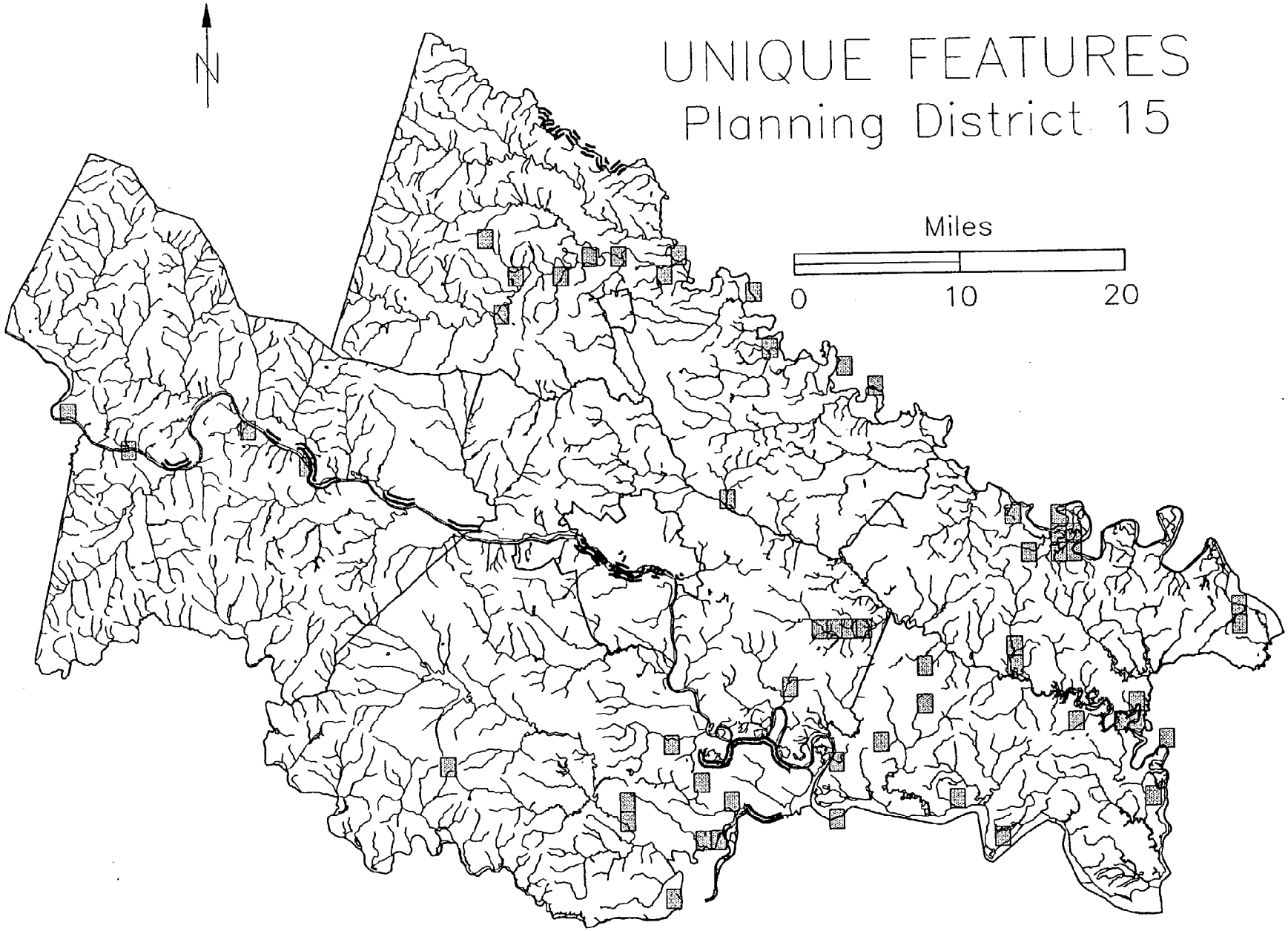
Moderate Ozone Nonattainment Area

Roads

Other Air Monitoring Stations

Ozone Monitoring Stations

Source: Virginia Department of Air Pollution Control, 1990

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Rare and Endangered Species

Spectacular Bluffs

White Water Rivers

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