

CRITICAL AREA COMMISSION
CHESAPEAKE AND ATLANTIC COASTAL BAYS
1804 West Street, Suite 100
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

MEMORANDUM

To: Critical Area Commission

From: Michael Macon, Natural Resources Planner

Date: April 15, 2026

Subject: Wicomico County Critical Area Mapping Update - Request for Extension to Approve Map Adoption

Natural Resources Article, §8-1807 Annotated Code of Maryland allows a local jurisdiction 24 months to accomplish local approval of their draft Critical Area 1,000-foot boundary map updates. March 19, 2026, was the 24-month deadline for Wicomico County to adopt their updated Critical Area map; however, the County was unable to meet this deadline. Wicomico County is currently performing a comprehensive review of their Critical Area Program and is waiting to adopt the Critical Area Program update before adopting the updated Critical Area Map. The Wicomico County Planning Commission held a public hearing on February 19th, 2026, for the County's Critical Area map update but the County Council's adoption process extended beyond the March 19th deadline. As such, Wicomico County requests a 6-month extension of the Critical Area updated map adoption timeline. The new deadline for local approval of the Critical Area maps will be September 16, 2026.

COMMISSION STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Commission staff recommends that the Critical Area Commission approve the requested time extension for local adoption of the Mardela Springs Critical Area maps to September 16, 2026.