

As described in the “Natural Resources” chapters for Oakwood Beach, New Creek, and South Beach watersheds, (Chapters 3.9, 4.9, and 5.9, respectively), the proposed project would have unavoidable significant adverse impacts to vegetation and trees. These impacts are directly related to the specific locations for proposed BMPs which need to be sited along stream channels within the watershed and sized according to the drainage area in order to achieve the stormwater management, flood reduction and wetland enhancement objectives of the proposed project. Therefore, the adverse impacts associated with the proposed project are unavoidable. As described in greater detail in the “Project Description” chapters (Chapters 1.1, 3.1, 4.1, and 5.1) and Chapter 8.1, “Mitigation,” potential adverse significant impacts to natural resources were reduced to the greatest extent possible as part of the development of the proposed amended drainage plans. As multiple capital projects are initiated to implement the Bluebelt Program for the Mid-Island watersheds, the pre-design protocol described in Chapter 8 “Mitigation” would be used to obtain timely, meaningful and relevant data about existing natural resources conditions prior to final designs and ensure that the mitigation identified in this DGEIS minimizes potential significant adverse impacts to the greatest extent feasible. *