



**For immediate release**

Contact: Joelle Jordan  
202-288-3241

## **Alexandria Sanitation Authority Prepares for Next Phase of Treatment Expansion to Improve Health of Potomac and Chesapeake Bay**

(Alexandria, VA, December 29, 2008) The Alexandria Sanitation Authority (ASA) announced today that it has acquired a ten acre parcel of land adjacent to its existing facility from Hooff Fagelson Tract LLC. ASA acquired the property by filing a certificate of take with the Alexandria Circuit Court and paying the appraised value of \$20.4 million into the court.

Under the action, ASA took immediate title and possession of the land that it will use to expand its current facility to meet tough new Virginia environmental regulations regarding nutrient removal designed to help restore the health of the Chesapeake Bay. The design of the new facility will begin immediately. The acquisition came after years of failed negotiations with the previous owners. The final amount of compensation to be paid by ASA will be determined by the Circuit Court at a trial to be scheduled next year.

“ASA took this important action today because any further delay in acquiring the land was not in the best interests of the City of Alexandria, its citizens, and the health of the Potomac and Chesapeake Bay,” said ASA Board Chairman Ed Semonian.

To meet tough new Virginia water quality standards to remove more nutrients from the reclaimed water that facilities throughout the watershed produce, ASA must expand its current facility under a very strict time schedule.

After extensive research, ASA analyzed all the surrounding properties and concluded that only the Hooff Fagelson site met all of its needs and would have the least impact on the surrounding area – both for the present and the future. In March 2008, both the City of Alexandria Planning Commission and City Council voted unanimously to amend the Master Plan to allow for the proposed plant expansion.

“We have to begin the design planning process immediately, as well as apply for special use permits from the City to meet the 2011 deadline. We could do neither unless we had actual title to the land; hence our legal action today,” ASA General Manager Karen Pallansch said.

“We have acted and negotiated in good faith throughout and offered the other party a fair price for the land based on appraisals from valuation experts,” added Mr. Semonian.

“To delay this important project for another six months to a year is unacceptable. It would be detrimental to the environmental health of the Bay and the Potomac and to the future growth and economic health of the City of Alexandria,” concluded ASA’s Pallansch.

###