



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries

March 31, 2011

Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Montgomery County Councilmembers,

I am here to testify on behalf of the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee (AWCAC), which exists to advise the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership (www.anacostia.net), the multi-jurisdictional effort to restore the Anacostia River. With 34% of the total drainage area of the Anacostia located in Montgomery County, you are a critical part of the Anacostia Partnership. Your full buy-in is needed if the Anacostia is going to be restored. Please pass Bill 8-11 and charge a fee for carryout plastic bags provided at specified retail stores in the County.

Last August, the Maryland Department of the Environment released a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for trash in the Anacostia, which may be found online at <http://www.epa.gov/reg3wapd/pdf/AnacostiaTMDLPortfolio.pdf>. Montgomery County is required to remove 889.5 pounds daily of the trash now entering the Anacostia under the law (pg. 44). How is the County going to do this?

To achieve this, as well as other water quality improvements, the Department of Environmental Protection has created a draft strategy which is online at <http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/dectmpl.asp?url=/Content/dep/water/countywideStrategy.asp>. It is interesting to note that the restoration strategy identified by Montgomery County as having the potential to remove the most pounds of trash in the County's part of the Anacostia is the one related to plastic bags. On Appendix C, page 5, a chart lists "Plastic Bag Ban, and Miscellaneous Enforcement" as having the potential to remove 63, 546 lbs/yr of trash in the Montgomery County part of the Anacostia, which is more than any other strategy identified. The chart is reproduced here.

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Rank	Restoration Strategy	Potential Trash Reduction (lbs/yr)	Incremental Cost (Million \$)	Unit Cost (lbs/Million \$)
1	Recycling Education and Investigations	51,654	0.2	238,837
2	Plastic Bag Ban, and Misc. Enforcement	63,546	1.3	48,882
3	Anti-litter Campaign, Education	23,761	0.9	26,930
4	Retrofit of Underperforming BMPs	1,144	1.2	954
5	Completed Projects	6,598	9.5	696
6	High Priority Projects	2,786	6.4	439
7	Other Potential Projects	56,341	254.3	222
8	Habitat Restoration	266	1.4	188
9	Street Sweeping	204	1.2	164
10	Public Property ESD Retrofits	25,348	236.6	107
11	Priority Neighborhoods ESD Retrofits	12,529	132.8	94
12	Private Non-residential ESD Retrofits	7,547	80.2	94
13	Stream Restoration	-	93.0	-
14	Pet Waste Education	-	0.9	-

It is thus estimated that a plastic bag ban would bring about 174.1 of the 889.5 pounds of the daily trash reduction the County needs to achieve for the Anacostia and bring Montgomery County well on the way to meeting its requirement under the law.

It is time for Montgomery to join the District of Columbia in its efforts to reduce plastic bag trash in the Anacostia River. Please pass Bill 8-11. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Smith
2010-2011 AWCAC Chair