



Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership

c/o The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4239
202-962-3322
www.anacostia.net

December 2, 2009

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
U.S. House of Representatives
1707 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Van Hollen,

On behalf of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership, thank you very much for your support for the development of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan. Without your vision and commitment, the Plan would not be nearing completion and there would be no comprehensive navigation chart for restoring this important resource in the National Capitol Region.

As you know, the Anacostia river and its watershed are among the most polluted in the nation, a condition that results, in part, from polluted stormwater runoff from federal facilities (which comprise 12.3 percent of the watershed). If federal government-*related* development in the watershed were considered, this percentage would be even greater.

As you also aware, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 directed the US Army Corps of Engineers to develop the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan. The Plan, which is nearly complete, will propose nearly 2700 projects to green the watershed and clean the waters of the Anacostia. The Plan represents the first time that our partners have a unified plan for restoration. Although the Plan will contain many different kinds of proposed projects, the Plan could be considered to be an approach for systematically replicating, throughout the watershed, the successful approach of the Town of Edmonston “green street” project.

The local jurisdictions in our Partnership will contribute substantially to the implementation of the Plan, but they also need the help of the federal government to “jump start” the restoration. Concurrently with the State of Maryland, we are requesting an authorization in the upcoming Water Resources Development Act of \$50 million for implementing the Plan.

Again, we are grateful for your thoughtful leadership and energetic support, and we look forward to working with you on Plan implementation.

Sincerely,

Dana Dunmire Minerva, JD, MSP
Executive Director

cc: Mr. Frank Dawson, Assistant Secretary
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Ken Yetman, Director of Watershed Services,
Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Mr. Robert G. Hoyt, Director
Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection

Mr. Charles W. Wilson, Director
Prince George's County Department of Environmental Resources

Mr. Hamid Karimi, Deputy Director, Natural Resources Administration
District of Columbia Department of the Environment

Mr. Robert Pace, Chief
Planning Division, US Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District

