



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

October 11, 2010

Dave Anderson
Commander and District Engineer
US Army Engineer District, Baltimore
P.O. Box 1715
Baltimore, MD 21203-1715

Dear Colonel Anderson:

I would like to begin by thanking Anthony Carey and Steve Goldere, for meeting with representatives of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership (AWRP), the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee (AWCAC) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) on September 7th, 2010, and courteously providing a tour of the Anacostia River between Bladensburg, MD and the CSX Bridge in the District of Columbia. We would also like to thank Bill Hilker for setting up the tour. The issue of large debris and submerged debris above the CSX Bridge was discussed in detail.

In short, the AWCAC requests that the USACE remove large debris from this section of the river *at least* every March and August, as well as when our rowers observe and mark large items that may be immediate hazards. This request stems from the fact that the river sees heavy use by crew teams based out of Bladensburg, including two college and five high school teams, and many other crew teams that operate out of the Anacostia Community Boathouse. Damage from large debris can be considerable, and crippling for teams with small budgets. Removal of the debris at the beginning of the spring and fall rowing seasons help reduce this hazard and increases safety. The USACE does an amazing job cleaning the lower tidal section of the river, and we would like to see the same for the upper section.

Again, we would like to thank your staff for going through the effort of meeting with us on the river, which clearly shows USACE's interest in addressing the debris issue. We understand that there have been some problems getting the required boats under the CSX Bridge, so we have included CSX representatives in this correspondence in hopes of more easily having the Bridge raised when needed in the future. Please feel free to contact the AWCAC member coordinating the debris issue, Gabe Horchler, at ghor@loc.gov or Mr. Aubin Maynard of COG at amaynard@mwkog.org .

Sincerely,

Mike Smith
AWCAC Chair, 2010-2011

cc: Stephen Flippin, CSX; Frank Dawson, AWRP

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