



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

May 12, 2010

Jon M. Capacasa, Director
Water Protection Division (3WP00)
US EPA Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Shari T. Wilson, Secretary
Maryland Department of the Environment
1800 Washington Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21230

Jack Johnson, Prince George's County Executive
County Administration Building
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive, Suite 5032
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772-3050

Ike Leggett, Montgomery County Executive
Executive Office Building
101 Monroe Street, 2nd Floor
Rockville, MD 20850

Christophe A. G. Tulou, Director
District Department of the Environment
1200 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Attn: Anacostia Trash TMDL

Dear Mr. Capacasa:

The Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee has reviewed the *Draft Total Maximum Daily Loads of Trash for the Anacostia River Watershed, Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland and the District of Columbia*. We are pleased with the cooperative approach by the District of Columbia and State of Maryland in dealing with the severe problems caused by trash. The purpose of the TMDL is to establish reductions and allocations amongst the sources of trash. The TMDL establishes a target of 100 percent reduction of trash discharged to the watershed. This target is only enforceable through the various point source permits in Maryland and DC.

c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300
Washington DC 20002-4329
anacostia@mwcog.org



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We have the following comments and recommendations which are about the implementation aspects of the TMDL.

1. The District of Columbia has enacted a 5 cent fee on plastic bags from stores selling food items. Based upon revenue to date from the fee it appears that there has been a tremendous reduction in the number of plastic bags used by the citizens of the District. We are greatly disappointed that the Maryland Department of the Environment chose to oppose a similar bill in their own legislature. This is an ill omen of the States' willingness to implement the trash TMDL.
2. Efforts are underway to establish a municipal food composting center in the Anacostia Watershed. If such a facility were established then it would be possible to use legislation to reduce Styrofoam packaging of takeout food. This would further reduce one of the prevalent trash categories found in the Anacostia River. It will require cooperation between all of the jurisdictions.
3. We recommend that all of the permits which have received an allocation for reduction in the TMDL be reopened immediately and have conditions added to implement the TMDL. This includes all Federal facilities, the City of Takoma Park, the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, school systems, the University of Maryland, and all other MS4 permit holders.
4. We recommend that the Maryland State Highway permit be reopened immediately and trash reduction requirements be added. In particular, storm drains and bridges need to be retrofitted such that trash is not drained straight to the waterways that they cross or feed into. Bridges that have structural support members in the stream channel should be surveyed biannually and the trash accumulations removed.
5. Montgomery and Prince Georges County transportation departments should be required to implement design standards for storm drains and bridges such that trash is not discharged to the waterways and the structural supports do not accumulate trash. Their permits should include requirements for biannual maintenance of storm drains and bridges which chronically accumulate trash.
6. We believe that the public participation requirement of the development of each implementation plan should include adequate public notice and at least one public forum.
7. We commend both the District of Columbia and Montgomery County for extending their trash reduction efforts to basins such as Rock Creek and the Potomac. The Prince Georges County MS4 permit should contain similar language.
8. The State of Maryland, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the District each need to insure that their stormwater regulations are updated to include trash reduction BMPs. All new BMPs installed in their jurisdictions should include the capability to reduce trash discharges to zero. Each stormwater permit for development or redevelopment in the Anacostia watershed should be evaluated by

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the issuing agency in light of required reductions for each individual pollutant for which a TMDL has been approved. These pollutants should be listed in those permits such that the developer is clear on the requirements that must be maintained over the life of the project.

We believe that this Fall at the Alice Ferguson Foundation Trash Free Potomac Summit, there should be a special session dedicated solely to the development and implementation of the Anacostia Trash TMDL. This would serve as the example for the rest of the region, as agreed to in the original summit. We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in the decisions regarding the future of the Anacostia River and look forward to seeing the allocations included in the permits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike R. Smith".

Mike Smith
AWCAC Chair, 2009-2010