



Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
John R. Griffin, Secretary
Joseph P. Gill, Deputy Secretary

April 26, 2010

Mr. Mike Smith
AWCAC Chairman
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capital St. NE Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002-4329

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for your letter to Governor Martin O'Malley regarding InterCounty Connector (ICC) mitigation. The Governor reviewed your letter and has asked me to respond on his behalf.

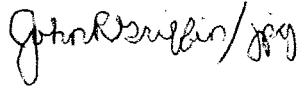
Both the Governor and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are committed to the restoration of the Anacostia River. Over the last two years, the State, along with the Army Corp of Engineers and local government agencies, has worked to develop the soon to be released Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan. The plan identifies over 3,018 restoration opportunities as well as policy changes that are needed to restore the watershed. You will be happy to know that in the Governor's recent Federal aid request he included \$10 million dollars for implementation of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan. You can be assured that we will continue to work with the Maryland Congressional Delegation to secure Federal funding for the restoration of the Anacostia.

In response to your specific issues concerning ICC mitigation, DNR staff has met with the State Highway Administration (SHA) to discuss the issue. The reason for the reduction in the environmental projects by SHA is simply that they worked hard to reduce direct impacts to wetlands in the ICC construction corridor. SHA included significant financial incentives to contractors to minimize wetland disturbance and that resulted in the contractors finding ways to avoid direct wetland impacts in a number of areas. The reduction in their direct wetlands impact has resulted in a reduction in the amount of wetlands mitigation that they are required to do. We are pleased that SHA's contractors have taken additional steps to reduce direct wetland impacts.

Finally, the issue you raise concerning the deficit between the number of trees that were lost due to ICC construction and the new forest planting that are being planned in the Anacostia Watershed is an important one. I have directed DNR staff to immediately make a copy of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan available to the State Highway Administration and to work with SHA staff to see if additional tree planting sites in the Anacostia Watershed can be found.

Thank you again for your letter. Governor O'Malley appreciates hearing from you, and on his behalf, I thank you for your efforts in restoring the Anacostia Watershed. If you have additional questions, feel free to contact Ken Yetman toll free 877-620-8367 extension 8812, direct 410-260-8812, or email kyetman@dnr.state.md.us. He will be pleased to assist you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Griffin/jrg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John R. Griffin
Secretary