

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH
THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION COUNCIL
FOR THE PURPOSE OF STRENGTHENING
THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP**

WHEREAS, the Anacostia watershed covers 176 square miles in the District of Columbia and Montgomery and Prince George's Counties, Maryland, and flows through the heart of the nation's capital; and

WHEREAS, for three hundred years, the Anacostia watershed has been extensively logged, farmed, mined, and urbanized, resulting in a major decline in water quality and habitat; and

WHEREAS, the Anacostia River and its tributaries have a direct impact on the quality of life in the neighboring communities and the Washington region; and

WHEREAS, about 25% of the population of the Washington region live in the Anacostia watershed such that the Anacostia has a significant water quality impact on the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Anacostia River and its tributaries have been identified and listed as impaired for nutrients, sediment, toxic contaminants, bacteria, and trash by the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, the correction of the listed impairments is required under the Clean Water Act; and

WHEREAS, restoration of water quality throughout the watershed must be addressed in a comprehensive and regional manner; and

WHEREAS, in 1978, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) officially recognized the regional importance of restoration of the Anacostia watershed through identifying the Anacostia as a priority "critical watershed" as part of the region's adopted water quality management plan; and

WHEREAS, in 1984 the State of Maryland and the District of Columbia officially recognized the need for restoration, leading in 1987 to the landmark "Anacostia Watershed Restoration Agreement" which both expanded the restoration partnership to include Montgomery and Prince George's Counties and resulted in the formation of the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee (AWRC); and

WHEREAS, the AWRC has served as the focal point for the federal – state – local partnership devoted to the restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries; and

WHEREAS, since the inception of the AWRC, COG has provided technical, administrative and logistical support; and

WHEREAS, through the 1991 Anacostia Watershed Restoration Agreement the AWRC developed "A Six-Point Action Plan to Restore the Anacostia River" which set forth specific watershed restoration goals and implementation strategies through a unique cooperative local/state, federal and grass-roots partnership; and

WHEREAS, since 1987 over \$200 million dollars have been spent restoring the Anacostia watershed; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the County Executives of Montgomery County and Prince George's County, Maryland and the Governor of Maryland adopted fifty indicators as measures of restoration progress and fifty specific targets to be met by 2010; and

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia's Anacostia Waterfront Framework Plan commits to a "Clean and Active [Anacostia] River" as its first of five themes toward a vibrant and rejuvenated Anacostia waterfront; and

WHEREAS, in Prince George's County, the restoration of the Anacostia watershed is recognized as an "integral part" of the County's Livable Communities Initiative and will "ensure the health and well-being of the County's citizens and residents;" and

WHEREAS, in Montgomery County, Anacostia watershed improvements are recognized as contributing to the "quality of life in County neighborhoods and to the Anacostia's overall watershed restoration effort;" and

WHEREAS in 2005, the members of the AWRC and other key stakeholders held a retreat and subsequent facilitated meetings at COG regarding restoration governance and, in October 2005, prepared key governance concepts designed both to strengthen the restoration partnership and also to accelerate the pace of restoration; and

WHEREAS in December 2005, the AWRC endorsed the governance concepts including the creation of a high level Anacostia Restoration Leadership Council to be established by the COG Board with responsibility to adopt a Comprehensive Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan, supported by appropriate staffing; and

WHEREAS in February 2006, at the request of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the COG Board requested the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) to consider the proposed governance framework and make a formal recommendation in this regard to the COG Board; and

WHEREAS COG staff have worked with members of the CBPC and other stakeholders and have prepared a staff report; and

WHEREAS, the staff report includes a recommendation to establish a Steering Committee to support the Leadership Council, ensure two-way communication between the Leadership Council and agencies with planning and implementation responsibility, and provide a forum for municipalities and other entities with a stake in the restoration of the Anacostia; and

WHEREAS at its meeting in May 2006, the CBPC voted to endorse the staff report including recommending adoption of the necessary COG resolution to establish the Leadership Council, Steering Committee and staff support;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. An Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership (Partnership) is hereby established to provide a cooperative framework for the oversight of the ongoing restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries.
2. The Partnership shall be housed at COG.
3. The key elements of the Partnership are: (1) the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Leadership Council (Council); (2) the Anacostia Watershed Comprehensive Restoration Plan; and (3) the Anacostia Watershed Steering Committee.
4. The Council is responsible for the adoption and periodic revisions to a Comprehensive Anacostia Watershed Restoration Plan, which quantifies the restoration goals, specifies an implementation timeline and provides explicit measurements of progress, with appropriate recognition and incorporation of related planning activities.
5. The core membership of the Leadership Council will consist of:
 - a. The Mayor of the District of Columbia;
 - b. The County Executive of Montgomery County, Maryland;
 - c. The County Executive of Prince George's County, Maryland;
 - d. The Governor of the State of Maryland;
 - e. The Regional Administrator of EPA Region 3; and
 - f. The District Engineer of the Baltimore District of the US Army Corps of Engineers.
6. The initial membership on the Steering Committee will consist of:
 - a. Individuals appointed by and with close ties to the core members of the Leadership Council;
 - b. One representative each from the National Park Service and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration;
 - c. A representative of the municipalities located in the Anacostia watershed; and
 - d. The Chair of the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee.
7. To further the mission of the Partnership, it is envisioned that the Leadership Council may expand the membership of the Council and the Steering Committee as it deems warranted. This may include, but is not necessarily limited to, representation from other governmental agencies, municipalities and nongovernmental organizations.
8. Also in support of the mission of the Partnership, it is envisioned that the Leadership Council will create and modify staffing levels; create and modify technical, policy and advisory committees; establish annual budgets and appropriate funding formulas.
9. COG staff is authorized to prepare correspondence to the Core Members of the Leadership Council informing them that the Anacostia governance framework has been established and requesting that they designate a member and alternate member to the Steering Committee.
10. COG staff is also authorized, in consultation with representatives of the core agencies, to recruit additional members of the Steering Committee as identified in paragraph 6b, c & d, above.