

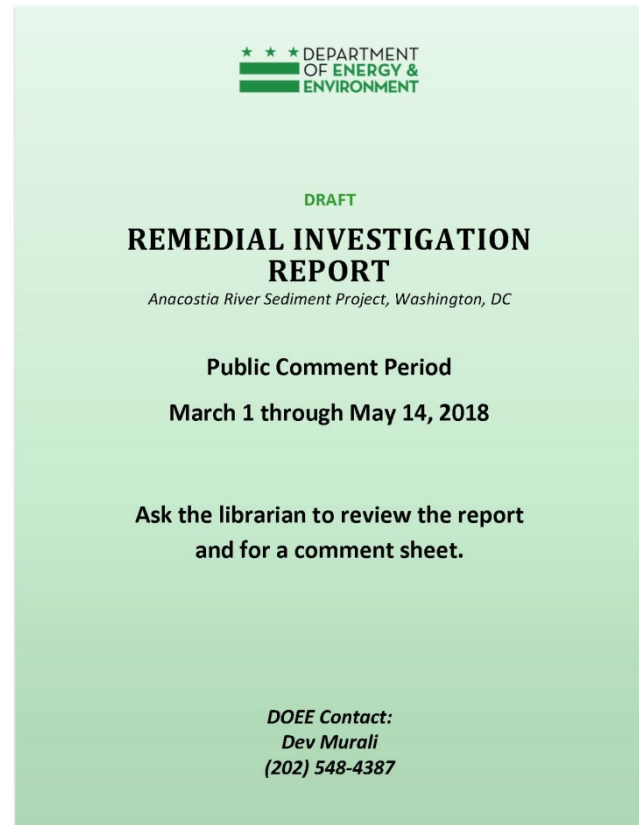


# Anacostia River Sediment Project

Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC)

July 10, 2018

# Public Comment Summary

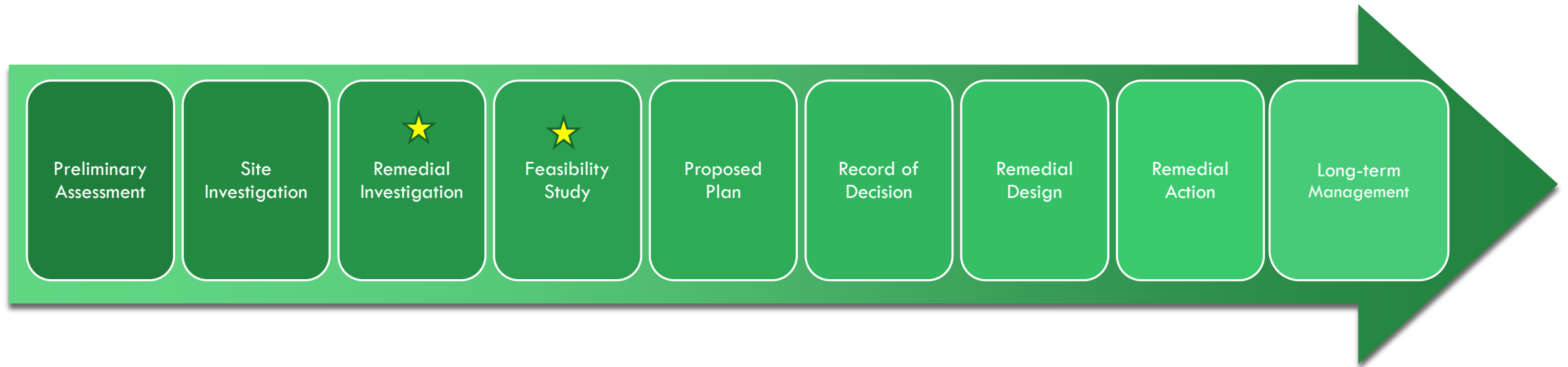


- Remedial Investigation Report Public Comment Period- March 31 through May 14
- 557 comments received on RI, HHRA, and ERA
- 18 organizations commented including:
  - Non-governmental organizations
  - Government agencies
  - Commercial entities
  - 1 Private citizen



# Next Steps

- ▶ Review and respond to RI comments
- ▶ Incorporate comments into RI, FS, and appendices
- ▶ Release Draft FS for public comment in late Summer
- ▶ Final RI in early Autumn



# Anacostia River Swimming – A Path Forward: Key Legislation

- **Ownership of District rivers and District's authority to regulate rivers, D.C. Official Code §10-102, June 4, 1934**
  - The lands or waters of the Potomac River, Anacostia River, Eastern Branch, and Rock Creek belong to the United States. However, Congress granted the District of Columbia the power to regulate and control the waters.
- **Potomac River and its Tributaries designated as a Health Hazard: Water Contact Prohibited, 8-2:808 (a), 1971** - similar prohibition may have been in effect before 1971
  - Potomac River, Anacostia River, Rock Creek, and Oxon Run as well as their tributaries are designated as a Health Hazard, due to high levels of fecal and other pollutants. Penalty for swimming: Not more than \$300.
- **Federal rule restricting swimming in District waters, 36 CFR § 7.96(e), 1976**
  - Bathing, swimming or wading in the Tidal Basin, C&O Canal, Rock Creek, Potomac River, Anacostia River, Washington Channel, or Georgetown Channel, except for the purpose of saving a drowning person, is prohibited.



# Exemptions to the Swim Ban

## ► Action to Amend the Ban on Swimming in the Potomac River, 2012

- Creates an exception to the prohibition of swimming in the District's portion of the Potomac River and authorizes qualifying swimming events in the Potomac River for limited amounts of time under limited conditions. Fee: \$1000, plus waivers, and contingency for cancellation

## ► Action to Amend the Ban on Swimming in the Anacostia River, 2018?

- DOEE's Proposed Rulemaking on allowing Special Swimming Events in the Anacostia published on April 6, 2018 in the DC Register.
- Final rulemaking was submitted to the Mayor's office for approval on May 15, 2018

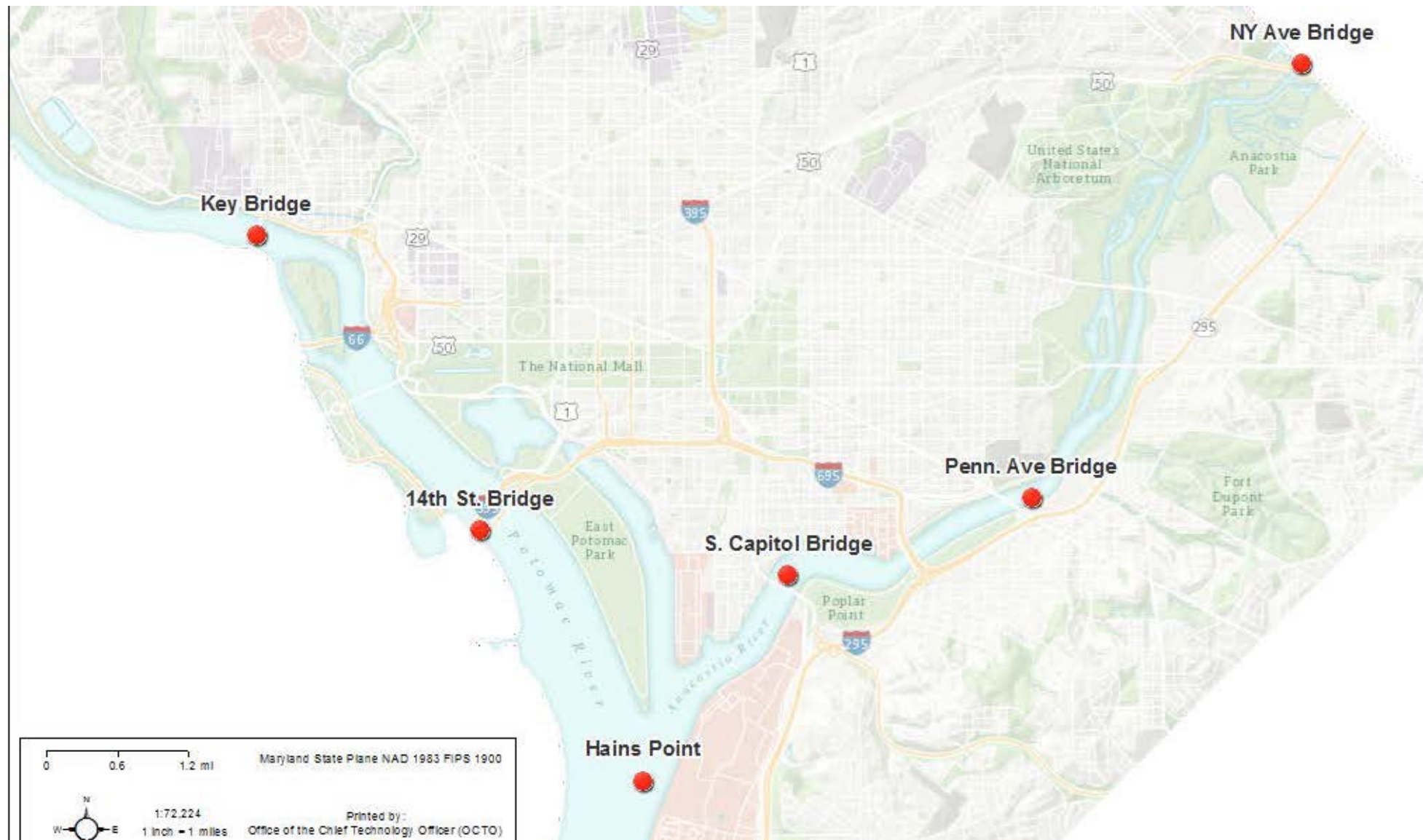
- **Except as otherwise provided, primary contact recreation shall be prohibited in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and Rock Creek until such time as the standards for Class A beneficial use (bacterial, pH, turbidity) are consistently maintained.**



# District WQS to be *Consistently* Maintained

- ▶ **Numeric Standards** (November 1, 2013)
  - E. coli: 126 MPN/100ml (30 day geometric mean) or Single Sample Value: 410 MPN/100ml
  - pH: pH 6 - 8.5
  - Turbidity: 20 NTU increase above ambient
- ▶ **Narrative Criteria:** Class A waters shall be free of discharges of untreated sewage, litter and unmarked submerged or partially submerged man-made structures that would constitute a hazard to the users of Class A waters.
- ▶ **Reporting:** <https://doee.dc.gov/service/anacostia-and-potomac-river-monitoring-program>
  - Method for disseminating E. coli exceedance notification has not been determined
- ▶ **Beach Act:** Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000
  - Does not apply to inland waters, but District could follow provisions for monitoring (pathogens, floatables), monitoring frequency, and public notification





## DOEE Sample Collection Sites

Monthly: Year Round

Weekly: May – September (since 2014)



# DC Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Project

- ▶ **Goal of Project:** Develop and implement a citizen-based volunteer water quality monitoring program that will recruit and train volunteers to monitor *E. coli* and related water quality criteria
- ▶ **Where:** District segments of the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and selected tributaries where recreational activities are most likely to occur
- ▶ **When:** Grant Award Notification until September 30, 2018. 3 year option
- ▶ **Funds:** \$150,000 used to:
  - recruit, coordinate, and train volunteers
  - produce volunteer training materials, cover costs of monitoring supplies
  - analyze water samples collected by the volunteers
  - generate publicly accessible on-line data
- ▶ **Award:** Riverkeeper consortium



# Feasibility Study: Roadmap to Swimming in the Anacostia River

- **SMITHGROUP JJR:** Donation to Anacostia Waterfront Trust
- **Planning Team:** AWT, DOEE, NPS
- **Short term:** Splash Day??
- **Longer term:** Swim Platforms
- **Precedents for Urban River Swimming, Swim Platforms**
  - Europeans Leading Way
  - Tufts Study (2017): 6 US cities
- **Possible Anacostia Swim Platform Locations**
  - Eastside: Poplar Point, 11th Street Bridge, Benning Road
  - Westside: Diamond Teague Park
- **Components:** Design, Management Options, Costs
- **First Draft:** Summer 2018



THANK YOU  
**QUESTIONS?**  
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