



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

September 20, 2010

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

Dear County Executive Leggett,

The Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee (AWCAC) exists to provide citizen input to the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership (www.anacostia.net), the coordinated efforts to restore the Anacostia Watershed by jurisdictions including Montgomery County. In April, the Partnership was pleased to release the Anacostia Restoration Plan (ARP), a comprehensive concept plan created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Partnership agencies at the request of U.S. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. The ARP provides detailed guidance for the restoration of the Anacostia Watershed, including hundreds of Environmental Site Design and other projects in Montgomery County.

AWCAC recommends that you now ask our local Anacostia Delegation Congressional leaders, Congressman Chris Van Hollen, Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Congressman Steny Hoyer, Senator Barbara Mikulski, and Senator Ben Cardin, to work in the Congress to significantly fund the Plan. It has been estimated that the Plan's projects and proposals amount to approximately \$2 billion over the next ten years, or \$200 million per year. Having brought about the creation of the Plan, now is the time to start carrying it out.

A significantly funded Plan will be of great benefit to our County. It will significantly improve many of our most impacted waterways in the Sligo Creek, Northwest Branch, and Paint Branch subwatersheds. It will help to kick start numerous next generation Environmental Site Design projects in the County, which are recognized to be more effective in improving water quality, recharging groundwater and protecting stream channels compared to pond structures. It will fund green jobs to create these projects and build local expertise in emerging technologies, improving our competitiveness with other national green centers such as Portland, Seattle, and Chicago. It will enhance the air, water, livability, and economic development in the eastern County, greening our communities. And, it will help the County to meet its legal requirements to improve water quality under the new MS4 permit.

Please ask the Anacostia Congressional Delegation to fund the Plan. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mike Smith, 2009 - 2010 AWCAC Chair

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