



# ANACOSTIA WATERSHED CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

October 26, 2009

U.S. Army Engineer District, Baltimore  
City Crescent Building  
10 South Howard Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201

Dear Sir or Madam,

Some citizens who regularly use the Anacostia River for rowing have brought it to the attention of the Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee (AWCAC) that hazardous debris can frequently be found in the River upstream of the CSX railroad tracks. The River is frequently used for rowing by area high schools and colleges and the debris is a danger to these rowers. It is AWCAC's understanding that the Corps regularly sweeps and removes debris from the River downstream of the CSX tracks. We would like to request that the Corps consider extending the area in the River where it removes debris to areas above the CSX tracks so as to reduce the risk of a harmful collision. Accessing these upstream areas will require raising the CSX bridge and may be more difficult than accessing the downstream areas. Therefore, AWCAC suggests that while it may not be practical to sweep upstream as frequently as downstream, it would be very helpful if it could be done on a periodic, predictable basis such as at the beginning of the spring and fall school rowing seasons. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact AWCAC if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Smith  
Chairperson, Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee  
c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002-4329

November 20, 2009

Operations Division

Mr. Michael Smith  
Chairperson, Anacostia Watershed Citizens Advisory Committee  
c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20002-4329

Dear Mr. Smith,

I am writing in response to your letter dated October 26, 2009. You had stated that there was some debris collecting on the North side of CSX Bridge which crosses the Anacostia River. On November 19, 2009, we sent a boat out to conduct an assessment of the debris collection on the North side of the Bridge. Pictures were taken to document the amount of debris. We noted that there was some debris collection and are generating a plan in coordination with CSX to raise and lower the bridge at least one time a month in order for us to access the North side of the bridge. I want to thank you for bringing this to our attention. It is inquiries like yours that allow us to serve the public more effectively. If you have any other concerns or need an update, please feel free to contact me at [steven.brown@usace.army.mil](mailto:steven.brown@usace.army.mil).

Sincerely,

Steven M. Brown/CENAB-OP-N/maa/6016  
Chief, Navigation Branch  
Operations Division

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