

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
AND THE
STATE OF MARYLAND
ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION STRATEGY

The Anacostia watershed encompasses an area of approximately 153 square miles, of which 58 square miles are contained in Montgomery County, 67 square miles in Prince George's County, and 28 square miles in the District of Columbia. The tidal Anacostia River is severely impacted by pollution and contributes to the problems in the Potomac Estuary and Chesapeake Bay.

Agricultural and residential development of the Anacostia basin began in the 1700's. The port of Bladensburg was established in 1742 and became an important commercial center on the Potomac. In 1840 this port was closed because of sedimentation and since 1865 the Corps of Engineers has dredged more than 11 million cubic yards of sediment from the Anacostia in an attempt to offset the accelerated rates of erosion occurring in the upper portions of the drainage basin. In addition, the Bladensburg Marina in Maryland conducts dredging operations all year long, and despite the effort, approximately half of the boat slips are unusable. Similar problems with sedimentation occur in marinas within the District, and the National Park Service public boat ramp has been rendered unusable at low tide.

Land use in the Anacostia watershed is approximately 45% urban, 30% wooded, 15% pasture, 8% cultivated, and 4% borrow pits, surface mines, and sand and gravel processing plants. The majority of the land abutting the Anacostia River is publicly-owned parks, green space, or general open space.

Development trends will be towards continued urban/suburban growth with a decrease in cropland. The District of Columbia Comprehensive Plan, now before Council, targets the Anacostia in the District as a primary "Development Opportunity Area" with waterfront development seen as a stimulus to the community.

The Anacostia River has a number of environmental problems; high fecal coliform counts, elevated sediment loads, and low dissolved oxygen concentrations. These problems preclude the establishment of a balanced fish community and prevent water contact recreation. In addition, high levels of phosphorus and nitrogen, while not contributing directly to the water quality problems of the Anacostia, are a source of nutrient loads to the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay where they are a serious problem.

Sources of pollution include urban runoff, construction site erosion, combined and separated sewer overflows, leaking sewers, failing septic systems, and abandoned or mismanaged sand and gravel surface mines, particularly abandoned sites which may be contributing a significant percentage of the sediment load. About one-third of the District is served by combined sewers with about two-thirds of the volume of the overflows being discharged to the tidal Anacostia.

Clean-up of the Anacostia River will require the combined efforts of both the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland as well as the cooperation of the local jurisdictions in Maryland and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission. Only through the vigorous efforts of all responsible parties can the myriad of pollution sources be identified and controlled in order to restore the River's quality to a healthful and ecologically balanced system.

RESTORATION PLAN

The State of Maryland and the District of Columbia will cooperate to control sources of pollution to the Anacostia River and endeavor to restore the water quality to a level sufficient to support a balanced aquatic community. This joint effort will focus on point and nonpoint source problems and will receive priority in the allocation of resources necessary to solve the problems.

- I. Expeditious identification and elimination of all untreated sewage overflows and discharges into the Anacostia watershed based on known problems and remedial actions.
 - A. Any significant continuous discharge permit in the Anacostia basin which is issued after the date of this agreement shall be at least as stringent as the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plan permit which is in effect on the date that the continuous discharge permit is issued.

- B. The District of Columbia Department of Public Works will implement a combined sewer overflow abatement program in the District of Columbia, providing for;
- 1) Modification of existing overflow dams and regulators to capture small storms and more of the first flush;
 - 2) Completion of the separation of partially separated sewer systems;
 - 3) Construction of control mechanisms to maximize pipe capacities leading to treatment at Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant;
 - 4) Installation of inflatable dams within the overflow pipes to capture small storms and the first flush; and,
 - 5) Construction of swirl concentrator to provide treatment of the major overflow to the Anacostia.

C. Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will commit adequate staff resources and direct Federal and State grant assistance programs, if necessary, to identify and eliminate all remaining untreated sewage overflows and discharges into the Anacostia watershed in Maryland.

- 1) Extend the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) sewer system to eliminate three areas of failing septic tanks in Montgomery County and four areas in Prince George's County within the next three years.
- 2) Review the WSSC Infiltration/Inflow studies in the Anacostia basin for evidence of exfiltration and require remedial action to eliminate significant leaks.

II. Control of erosion and runoff to the Anacostia River.

A. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will identify sources of sediment including borrow pits and surface mines by incorporating this requirement in the scope of work for the watershed technical study to be done in the Maryland

portion of the Anacostia River. The inventory of sources of sediment will be completed by July 1, 1985. The Department will then implement a program to reclaim the surface mines that were identified as contributing sediment.

- B. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will actively pursue the implementation of the stormwater management and erosion and sediment control programs on State projects, and since these programs are both State and local responsibilities, the Department of Natural Resources will assure that Prince George's and Montgomery Counties enact Stormwater Management Ordinances as required by Natural Resources Article, §8-11A-02 and aggressively carry out this program in their respective jurisdictions. In addition, the Department of Natural Resources will carefully examine any requests for delegation of enforcement responsibility and authority pursuant to the provisions of Natural Resources Article, §8-1103 and thereby assure that the counties' enforcement capabilities and procedures with respect to sediment control are comparable to those of the Department.

- C. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources, in conjunction with Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, will devise a plan to implement water quality control modifications to on and off-site retention or detention structures in the Anacostia Watershed.
 - D. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources will perform a watershed technical study for the Maryland portion of the Anacostia Watershed. The study will provide the basis for the preparation of a Watershed Management Plan for flood management.
 - E. The District of Columbia Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs will develop and implement within eighteen months a stormwater control program, which will be compatible with the State of Maryland program.
- III. Within the next four months the parties will convene a management task force of the State of Maryland, Army Corps of Engineers, and District of Columbia, to examine, where feasible, the dredging of portions of the Anacostia.

Witness the following signatures:

ATTEST:

Tommy C. [Signature]
Date 7/23/84

THE STATE OF MARYLAND

By *[Signature]*
Harry Hughes, Governor

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Beth [Signature]
Date 7-23-84

By *[Signature]*
Marion Barry, Jr., Mayor