



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

July 8, 2020

To: Julia Koster, AICP
Secretary to the Commission
Director, Office of Public Engagement
National Capital Planning Commission
202.482.7211 | 202.577.6358 (cell)
401 9th Street NW, Suite 500 Washington, DC 20007
www.ncpc.gov

From: Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee

RE: ONLINE COMMISSION MEETING – OPEN SESSION AGENDA July 9, 2020 – 1:00 PM
Consent Calendar Item 5F
NCPC 8177 Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, 5200 Kenilworth Avenue, Riverdale, Maryland – **Fletcher's Field Park Stream Restoration and Flood plain Enhancement**

Dear Ms. Koster,

Per our communications today regarding the above site project, please forward this memo to the Commission in advance of the meeting tomorrow. As the major advisory body to the Steering Committee of Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership, we are very interested in this and all projects involving the Anacostia River and its riparian area, particularly as it relates to property set aside under the Capper Cramton Act.

Stream restoration is key to the long term success of efforts to restore the Anacostia. AWCAC is made up of groups that steward tributaries of the Anacostia. Many of these groups were formed before the Partnership existed. Some came together around a particular issue or project. All the "Friends" groups are volunteer, grass roots community groups. We also count among our membership non-profit groups working within this watershed. We know our streams very well - their characteristics, their issues, priorities, their impact on the Anacostia and importance to our communities. We understand that some streams present a greater threat to the Anacostia than others. The clean water fees we pay go to projects to restore the Anacostia, which includes stream restoration. It is very important to our communities that this money well and effectively spent. We understand that many agencies engage in restoration projects and it will take much effort to coordinate their work. *We look to the Commission, the Federally appointed stewards of critically important Capper-Cramton land, to codify protections through the Open Space Plan or other documents from which all these agencies will draw guidance. We feel this will promote a common vision and goals for the future of the Anacostia River.*

We support well designed and strategic stream restorations - part of a coordinated program throughout the Anacostia Watershed. Regarding this project specifically - restoration of Fletcher's Field Creek - a major concern is that it appears the site was selected for expedience and ease of construction. Unlike Fletcher's Creek, flashy streams subject to extreme stream bank erosion cause rapid siltation of the Anacostia as demonstrated by the need for annual dredging of the Bladensburg Marina just down stream and should be given priority.

AWCAC will be devoting an entire meeting to the topic of stream restoration. We hope that, in the meantime, we can develop an understanding and good working relationship with appropriate staff members of the Commission which may eventually lead to clear, consistent direction from the Commission regarding projects impacting the Anacostia and critical adjacent property.

Respectfully submitted,