

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
TO CLARIFY THE MUTUAL COMMITMENT AND COOPERATION, AS WELL AS  
ENHANCED COORDINATION AND COMMUNICATION EFFORTS DESIGNED TO  
RESTORE AND PROTECT THE ANACOSTIA WATERSHED AND ITS  
TRIBUTARIES**

by and between

**ANACOSTIA WATERSHED RESTORATION COMMITTEE  
and the  
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION III**

**WHEREAS**, the Anacostia Watershed is a natural resource that once supported a dense hardwood forest, abundant wildlife, and streams filled with fish, but now, after years of development, urbanization and environmental neglect, reflects a system that has suffered habitat destruction, loss of living resources, reduced forest cover and wetlands, and an overall deterioration of water quality. However, after years of restoration effort, there have been some signs of improvement with the return of some submerged aquatic vegetation, positive changes in several water quality and quantity parameters, improved aquatic habitat protection at the local stream level, increases in riparian forest cover, restoration of emergent tidal wetland areas, and heightened citizen awareness of the environmental problems being faced and an increase in stewardship; and

**WHEREAS**, after many years of effort there remains a strong dedication and commitment on behalf of many to continue to put forth the effort and resources necessary to protect and restore this valuable natural resource; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of this continued need for environmental protection and restoration, in 1987 the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland, Montgomery County and Prince George's County signed a landmark agreement to restore the Anacostia Watershed, and that under that cooperative partnership Agreement the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee (AWRC) was established to develop a restoration program and coordinate and ensure the efficient and timely implementation of restoration efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the 1987 Anacostia Restoration Agreement the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) was designated as the lead agency for technical and administrative/coordination support to the AWRC, and the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin as lead agency supporting the AWRC in the areas of living resources and public information; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) joined the AWRC as the Federal representative to coordinate and promote Federal activities in the watershed; and

WHEREAS, in 1991 the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Committee and others adopted a Six Point Action Plan to restore the watershed through the reduction in overall pollutant loads, increases in the acreage and quality of tidal and nontidal wetlands, expansion of forest cover, restoration of the spawning range of anadromous finfish, protection and restoration of the ecological integrity of the streams, and enhancement of public awareness and increase in volunteer participation and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous amount of resources have been directed toward the restoration of the Anacostia by the AWRC as well as by over sixty other agencies and organizations, and because of those efforts positive changes are beginning to be observed; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Environmental Protection Agency, Region III to work in a cooperative and coordinated manner with restoration efforts undertaken by the AWRC and others, and to ensure that EPA's broad Anacostia mission of environmental health, pollution prevention, water quality restoration, monitoring and research, air quality and environmental justice through community outreach, will help complement, support, and promote the restoration of the Anacostia; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency, Region III has hired an Anacostia Coordinator to promote intergovernmental coordination and community liaison activities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE PARTIES HERETO AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. In general, to jointly cooperate and coordinate in individual and mutual efforts and activities to restore the Anacostia watershed. This would include EPA attendance at regular meetings of the AWRC, periodic attendance at non-confidential meetings of the EPA's internal Anacostia Workgroup by a representative of the AWRC, attendance at special work group or task force meetings held by each other, regular and frequent oral and written communications in which concepts and ideas are developed and shared, frequent interaction with the EPA Anacostia Coordinator, and resource assistance and support where appropriate.
2. In regard to any of the AWRC or EPA Anacostia environmental restoration/health/outreach related matters, EPA Region III and the AWRC, will each insure that special efforts are made to communicate and coordinate with each other. The COE will continue to be the lead Federal agency in coordinating the restoration activities of Federal agencies with programs and land and facilities in the basin.
3. Both the AWRC and EPA Region III staff, where possible, will seek to work

jointly in order to maximize the promotion and enhancement of Anacostia restoration and outreach activities and will consult and assist each other in the development and implementation of such efforts. In addition, both organizations will actively promote and support efforts to enhance and share technical restoration expertise and support.

4. In order to further maximize communication and coordination, the AWRC and EPA, Region III will notify and seek input from each other relative to all potential/future Anacostia environmental restoration, research, pollution prevention, health, outreach actions and non-enforcement activities (i.e., press releases, citizen meetings, presentations, etc.), and will strive to cooperate and support each others' individual and/or joint efforts.

5. The AWRC and EPA Region III will actively seek individual and/or joint funding opportunities that would promote Anacostia environmental restoration, research and outreach related goals.

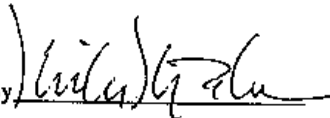
6. This Agreement shall remain in effect for five years after the date of execution, at which time it can be renewed. Upon expiration, this Agreement can be renewed by joint consent of the AWRC and EPA Region III. Any amendments shall be effective only upon written agreement by all parties hereto. The termination of this agreement must be made in writing and can be made at any time for good reason.

7. This memorandum is effective after execution by all of the parties hereto.

In Witness Whereof, the parties hereto have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be executed as of the last date below written.

United States Environmental  
Protection Agency, Region III

Anacostia Watershed Restoration  
Committee

By 

By 

W. Michael McCabe  
Regional Administrator  
EPA Region III Administrator

Larry King  
Chairman, Anacostia Watershed  
Restoration Committee

Date 4/23/96

Date 5/7/96