



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED SOCIETY

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Contact: Mike Bento, AWS Communications
(202) 320-3174

Mike@EngageStrategies.us

Anacostia Watershed Society Applauds Release of Sediment Study

*Important milestone toward a final plan for the cleanup of legacy pollutants
in the Anacostia River.*

Washington DC – March 21, 2016 – The Anacostia Watershed Society applauded the release by the DC Department of Energy and the Environment of the Remedial Investigation Findings of the Anacostia River Sediment Project. (The full study is available for review here: <http://doee.dc.gov/anacostiasediment>)

This extensive study, conducted over two years and analyzing data from more than 900 samples adds to an already substantial body of scientific data about the location and concentration of key pollutants, including PCBs, PAHs, dioxins, pesticides, and heavy metals.

“While there is always more data that could be collected, we now need to shift our attention to developing the plan to clean up these legacy pollutants,” said Jim Foster, President of the Anacostia Watershed Society. “This body of data, combined with the lessons from the successful cleanups of the Hudson and Buffalo Rivers in New York, the Passaic River in New Jersey, and Boston Harbor make it possible for us to move forward with the government agencies, private industry and river advocates working together to develop a voluntary cleanup plan.”

As an urban and at times industrial river, the Anacostia bears the scars of pollution from the Washington Navy Yard, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the now closed Kenilworth landfill, Washington Gas’ former coal-gasification plant and the recently demolished Pepco plant at Benning Road, among others. Estimated to cost up to \$1 billion, the voluntary cleanup plan will require cooperation and financial participation by all of these responsible parties. The Federal Government will underwrite the majority of the expense.

“Addressing the legacy pollution is one of the last major hurdles in making the Anacostia River fishable and swimmable by 2025,” said Foster. “It’s time to get it done.”

About the Anacostia Watershed Society (AWS)

The mission of the Anacostia Watershed Society is to protect and restore the Anacostia River and its watershed communities by cleaning the water, recovering the shores, and honoring the heritage. The vision is to make the Anacostia River and its tributaries swimmable and fishable by 2025, in keeping with the Clean Water Act, for the health and enjoyment of everyone in the community. Community involvement is critical to achieving this vision and AWS seeks strong partnerships and coalitions with all parts of the community, government, and other stakeholders. Anacostia Watershed Society’s programs include environmental education, stewardship, recreation, and engaging the community through advocacy and volunteer opportunities. www.anacostiaws.org