



The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, MD 21401

December 9, 2009

Dear Governor O'Malley,

In 2001, the State of Maryland joined Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and the District of Columbia in signing the Anacostia Restoration Agreement, and in committing to 2010 targets and goals for improving the Anacostia River. Goal 5 of this Agreement is to "protect and expand forest cover" in the Anacostia Watershed. The resulting 2005 Anacostia Watershed Forest Management and Protection Strategy noted the many benefits that forests provide to Anacostia water quality, and again emphasized the importance of their preservation and expansion.

The Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network, formed in 2005, consists of almost two dozen groups concerned with stormwater prevention and reduction in order to improve and protect the health of local streams and rivers including the Anacostia headwaters. We are concerned that, far from fulfilling this commitment through forest protection combined with reforestation, Maryland is causing a net additional forest loss in the Anacostia watershed. At the Montgomery County Forest Conservation Advisory Committee meeting in September 2009, the Maryland State Highway Administration reported that it had cut down 420 acres of Anacostia Watershed forests for construction of the Intercountry Connector, but had identified only 100 acres for reforestation in the Watershed. Not only is Maryland failing to protect and expand the Anacostia's forest cover as it pledged in 2001, but it has instead caused a net loss of 320 acres. We are concerned that this severe forest decline indicates that the State is less than fully committed to restoring the Anacostia.

The Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network asks that your administration reaffirm Maryland's commitment to fulfilling the 2001 Anacostia Agreement, by directing the state agencies to identify and

purchase suitable lands for reforestation to (1) make up for the 320 acre loss it has caused (2) then start to live up to its pledge by proactively protecting and expanding the Anacostia's forests through new and expanded parkland and conservation land acquisitions and reforestation projects. We further suggest that you direct the Department of Natural Resources to actively partner with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, and similar entities, in order to make Maryland's Anacostia commitments a reality.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane M. Cameron". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Diane M. Cameron and Steve Dryden
Coordinators
Montgomery County Stormwater Partners Network

The documents noted here are available online at:

http://www.summitfdn.org/fund/pdfs/restoration_agreement.pdf and
http://www.mwcog.org/store/item.asp?PUBLICATION_ID=237.