# ORD CLEARANCE FORM

| Initiator Informa   | tion  | Product Category (Select if applicable) |   |  |  |
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| Opposition  | ord, nrmrl, wswrd, uwmb                                       | ☐ High Profile and/or                   | ☐ High Profile and/or Policy Relevant (not HISA or ISI) |  |  |
| Organization:   | ord, fiffill, wswrd, uwmb                                     |   |   |  |  |
| Principal Investi   | gator / Project Officer Information                           | Product Information                     |   |  |  |
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| Middle Initial:   |   | EPA Publication<br>Number               |   |  |  |
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| Product Title   |   |   |   |  |  |
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| Impact / Purpos   |   | he displayed on the addi                | tional name   |  |  |
|   | / Purpose Statement information for this work product will    | be displayed on the addi                | tional pages.   |  |  |
| Note: All Product   | Description / Abstract information for this work product will | l be displayed on the add               | itional pages   |  |  |
| Tracking and Planning   |   |   |   |  |  |
| Note: All Tracking and Planning Field data for this work product will be displayed on the additional pages. |   |   |   |  |  |
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| Quality Assurance Is a form indicating QA approval for this product attached?                               | Accepted Date                           | Available Unline Date                | Published Date            |  |  |  |
|   |   |                                      |                           |  |  |  |
| QAPP Reference  |   |                                      |                           |  |  |  |
| Nitrogen processing in day-lighted and buried streams. QA-ID G-15852  |   |                                      |                           |  |  |  |
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| 2. urban infrastructure   | 5.                                      |                                      |                           |  |  |  |
| 3. respiration 6.   |   |                                      |                           |  |  |  |
| Comments  |   |                                      |                           |  |  |  |
| Note: All Comments for this work product will be displayed on the additional pages.                         |   |                                      |                           |  |  |  |
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## Tracking and Planning

Task ID: 4.2B

Task: Case studies focused on GI role in maintaining aq life use, habitat endpoints at watershed scale

Product Title: N/A - Not Applicable

Product Description: N/A - Not Applicable

Project: GI BMPs, metrics

Topic: Maintaining and Improving Natural and Engineered Water System

Research Program Area: Safe and Sustainable Water Resources

## Impact / Purpose Statement

To inform the public

# **Product Description / Abstract**

Urban streams are degraded by a suite of factors, including burial beneath urban infrastructure (i.e., roads, parking lots) that eliminates light and reduces direct organic matter inputs to streams, with likely consequences for organic matter metabolism by microbes and carbon limitation in streams. We studied seasonal changes in organic matter metabolism by microbial communities in open and buried reaches of three urban streams in Cincinnati, Ohio. We characterized organic matter quality using fluorescence spectroscopy, extracellular enzyme profiles, and carbon limitation patterns. We hypothesized: 1) that algal production would lead to higher quality dissolved organic matter (DOM) in spring compared to other seasons and in open compared to buried reaches, 2) lower reliance of microbial respiration on recalcitrant carbon sources in spring and in open reaches, and 3) that microbial respiration would be more carbon limited in the autumn and in buried reaches. DOM quality was generally higher in spring than autumn, but the only DOM quality metric that varied by reach was an indicator of recalcitrant humic compounds, which showed more humic DOM in open compared to buried reaches. This likely reflected open reaches as an avenue for direct terrestrial inputs from the riparian zone. Extracellular enzyme assays showed that microbes in buried reaches consistently allocated more effort to degrade recalcitrant carbon sources, consistent with a lack of labile carbon compounds due to limited photosynthesis. Finally, buried and open reaches were both more carbon-limited in autumn when terrestrial leaf inputs dominated compared to the spring when vernal algal blooms were pronounced. Altogether, our data show that stream burial affects the quality of DOM pool with consequences for how microbes use those carbon sources, and that buried and open stream reaches were limited by labile carbon in all seasons. Different carbon quality and use patterns coupled with widespread carbon limitation suggests that these urban streams likely

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# Comments

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