

2014 MAR -4 AM 10:08

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare support for DC Water's proposal to incorporate green infrastructure into its Long Term Control Plan to address combined sewer overflows to the Rock Creek and Potomac River.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council in Support of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan Modification to include Green Infrastructure Resolution of 2014".

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) District of Columbia residents and business are funding a \$2.6 billion ~~federally-mandated~~ Clean Rivers project to reduce combined sewer overflows into the Anacostia, Potomac, and Rock Creek waterways, and to help achieve the Mayor's Sustainable DC target of making 100% of the District's waterways fishable and swimmable by 2032.

(2) DC Water is currently constructing a \$1.8 billion underground tunnel to reduce sewer overflows into the Anacostia River by 98%.

(3) DC Water has released a \$100 million proposal for public comment that will modify the Clean Rivers Project to incorporate green infrastructure as a partial solution to address combined sewer overflows to the Potomac River and Rock Creek.

(4) A green infrastructure approach to the Clean Rivers project ~~would~~ has the potential to benefit District residents through local job creation, faster water quality improvements than the existing plan, improved air quality, enhanced green spaces, expanded wildlife habitats, and decreased scale of future rate increases for District ratepayers.

(5) DC Water's states that its proposal to use green infrastructure in the Potomac and Rock Creek will yield comparable water quality results to the existing plan to use only underground storage and conveyance tunnels.

(6) ~~The District of Columbia's 2005 consent decree is one of the most stringent when compared to comparable urban jurisdictions. Newer consent decrees in similar jurisdictions have incorporated green infrastructure and span 25 years.~~

1 (7) ~~DC Water's proposal to extend the current schedule of the Long Term~~
2 ~~Control Plan is prudent to ensure successful implementation and receive maximal water~~
3 ~~quality results. An extension also allows for greater community engagement and~~
4 ~~coordination and allows time to complete a newly mandated Environmental Impact~~
5 ~~Statement required by the National Park Service.~~

6 ~~(8) DC Water's proposed \$100 million financial commitment outlined in~~
7 ~~their proposal is reasonable and will allow DC Water to provide a budget for the project~~
8 ~~and will protect ratepayers against an open-ended financial commitment.~~

9 (9) After implementation of the proposed green infrastructure, DC Water
10 will remain responsible for achieving USEPA the District's and all other legally
11 applicable water quality standards.

12
13 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that it supports DC Water's proposal to
14 incorporate green infrastructure in its Long Term Control Plan, provided that there is
15 assurance of the same or greater reductions in the volume and incidence of combined
16 sewage overflows into District of Columbia waterways as provided in the existing Long
17 Term Control Plan.

18
19 Sec. 4. The Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia shall transmit
20 copies of this resolution upon its adoption to the Administrator and Region 3
21 Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; and the General Manager of DC
22 Water.

23
24 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.