



ANACOSTIA WATERSHED COMMUNITY

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Dedicated to the protection and restoration of the Anacostia River and its tributaries

November 16, 2023

Danielle Spendiff, Regulatory and Customer Service Division Chief

Wetlands and Waterways Protection Program

Water and Science Administration

Maryland Department of the Environment

1800 Washington Boulevard, Suite 430

Baltimore, MD 21230

RE: Comments on the BWRR SCMaglev Project's Water Quality Certification Application
STRONGLY RECOMMEND DENIAL

Submitted by: Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee
c/o Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Suite 300
777 N. Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4201

Dear Ms. Splendiff,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding this extremely important matter. On behalf of Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee (AWCAC), we write to request that the applicant be denied the permits to move forward with this project. The purpose of the Tier II antidegradation review is to prevent degradation to high-quality waters as a result of permitted activities. We expect our agencies to do just that - **deny a permit to this proposal to construct the SCMaglev in a location which threatens our highest quality waterways.** We cannot allow development activities which will degrade and fragment our most important green spaces. We cannot make up ground when our best efforts are undercut by interests which do not share our aspirations for healthy waterways, healthy families and equitable use of natural resources. The SC Maglev will not serve our regional transportation needs. It is a luxury solution which will serve few and disadvantage many.

The Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory provides a link between our communities and the

agencies which make up the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership. MDE is a core member. The Partnership is intended to be a collaboration among agencies, communities and the private sector for shared restoration efforts to recreate the watershed as an asset. Our health depends on it. As the main advisory group to the Restoration Partnership, it is vital that our voices be heard and our concerns be given consideration regarding the evaluation of this project.

The entire Chesapeake Bay Watershed, and particularly Prince George's County - so severely impacted as we are by inappropriate site selection for development - are heavily invested in programs to restore our waterways. Our Clean Water Fees, collected from individual property owners, pay for projects to improve our waterways. We cannot afford nor should we be expected to accept the burden of additional pollution from development deliberately sited in our highest quality sub-watershed. The results of your inquiry are clear. So should be the course of action for our agencies. MDE must deny this application.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this testimony expressing our strong disapproval of this application.

Submitted by chairs of

The Anacostia Watershed Community Advisory Committee

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