FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

DC CLEAN RIVERS PROJECT – PINEY BRANCH TUNNEL

ROCK CREEK PARK

Washington, District of Columbia

The National Park Service (NPS), in cooperation with the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the environmental impacts that will result from implementing the Piney Branch Tunnel Project, a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP), also known as the DC Clean Rivers (DCCR) Project. The Piney Branch Tunnel Project is needed to reduce CSOs that degrade the water quality of Piney Branch, Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay. The project is also needed to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District, the US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016, and modified December 2020. Currently, approximately 40 million gallons of stormwater mixed with untreated sewage overflow into Piney Branch in an average rainfall year. This harms local waterways and wildlife. The Piney Branch Tunnel Project will capture and store most of this overflow during storms, reducing these overflows by 96% and limiting the frequency of overflow events from 25 to one in an average rainfall year. The stored water will be treated at the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (Blue Plains) before it is safely released into the Potomac River.

The Piney Branch Tunnel Project will be constructed in the general vicinity of combined sewer overflow (CSO) 049, which is located within Rock Creek Park, a unit of the national park system administered by the NPS in northwest Washington, DC. The study area for the Piney Branch Tunnel Project primarily consists of two construction staging areas (CSA), the corridor within which the proposed tunnel may be constructed, adjacent residences that may be affected by construction, and communities within which traffic detours and haul routes are proposed. Under the NPS Management Polices 2006 (https://www.nps.gov/subjects/policy/upload/MP_2006.pdf), the tunnel project is considered a Special Park Use. This requires the NPS to issue a Special Park Use permit to DC Water for the construction of the tunnel and a Right-of-Way permit for the use, operation, and maintenance of the infrastructure on federal land.

DC Water proposes to construct an underground tunnel to capture and store a minimum of 4.2-million gallons of sewage, combined with stormwater, that will otherwise overflow into Piney Branch, a perennial tributary that drains to Rock Creek, when the capacity of the existing combined sewer system is exceeded during storms. A diversion structure proposed at the Piney Branch CSO outfall, known as CSO 049, will redirect CSOs to the storage tunnel. The combined sewage captured and temporarily stored by the tunnel will slowly discharge into the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer (ERCDS) and flow by gravity to Blue Plains for treatment when the existing sewer system has capacity to handle the volume. DC Water will construct other supporting infrastructure, including an upstream drop shaft, ventilation control vault, and terminal shaft as part of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project. The below grade ventilation control vault will be constructed to allow air to enter and exit the tunnel during filling and emptying, with equipment provided to mitigate fugitive emissions. Upon completion of construction, the site will be restored

substantially to existing conditions, with manholes, hatches, and other structure access points visible at grade. CSO warning lights will be located above grade.

Executive Order 14154, Unleashing American Energy (Jan. 20, 2025), and a Presidential Memorandum, Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity (Jan. 21, 2025), require the Department to strictly adhere to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq. Further, such Order and Memorandum repeal Executive Orders 12898 (Feb. 11, 1994) and 14096 (Apr. 21, 2023). Because Executive Orders 12898 and 14096 have been repealed, complying with such Orders is a legal impossibility. The NPS verifies that it has complied with the requirements of NEPA, including the Department's regulations and procedures implementing NEPA at 43 C.F.R. Part 46 and Part 516 of the Departmental Manual, consistent with the President's January 2025 Order and Memorandum.

As required by NPS Management Policies 2006, a finding of non-impairment is included as **Attachment A**. Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, was conducted concurrently with the NEPA process. The statements and conclusions reached in this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) are based on documentation and analysis provided in the EA and associated decision file. To the extent necessary, relevant sections of the EA are incorporated by reference.

PUBLIC AND AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

Public Scoping – As part of the NEPA process and to comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA, the NPS and DC Water involved the public in project scoping by holding a public comment period from January 18 to February 16, 2023. The NPS held an agency scoping meeting on December 16, 2022, in advance of public scoping, as well as a virtual public meeting on January 18, 2023, using the GoToWebinar platform. The public comment period and virtual meeting were announced using an email blast sent to an established list of approximately 200 Federal and District agencies, Native American tribes, and community stakeholders, including nearby schools, churches, and other potentially interested individuals and organizations; a physical mailer distributed to approximately 625 residential and commercial addresses surrounding the project area; newspaper notices in the Washington Post and on the Washington City Paper website; and a press release distributed to more than 100 media outlets and over 3,000 dcwater.com site users signed up to receive news and notices. DC Water also posted notices on social media and established a project webpage that included project information and public scoping content directing site users to the NPS PEPC project webpage. The presentation used during the virtual public meeting and a recording of the meeting remain available at the PEPC project webpage: Park Planning Piney Branch Tunnel EA (nps.gov). The NPS received 17 separate correspondences during the comment period.

EA Public Review – Initially, the EA was made available for public review from October 15 to December 6, 2024, at the PEPC project webpage: Park Planning Piney Branch Tunnel EA (nps.gov). Similar to public scoping, the EA public review period was announced using an email blast, mailer, newspaper notices, a press release, social media posts, and established project webpages. The public comment period was then extended to January 3, 2025, to align the EA public comment period with the preliminary NCPC design review submission. A total of 53 separate correspondences were received during the EA public review period. Responses to substantive public comments are provided in **Attachment C**.

National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 Consultation – Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the NPS initiated consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC HPO) in a letter dated July 21, 2022. The letter described the proposed Piney Branch Tunnel Project, defined a draft Area of Potential Effect (APE), and identified known historic properties within the APE. DC HPO acknowledged receipt of the initiation letter on August 31, 2022, and responded with initial comments related to both the historic built environment and archaeology.

The NPS completed an Assessment of Effects (AOE) Report that was submitted to DC HPO on September 3, 2024. Upon receiving comments from DC HPO on October 7, 2024, the NPS submitted a final AOE with a letter requesting to continue consultation on November 21, 2024. Through close consultation, the DC HPO concurred with the NPS's determination that the Piney Branch Tunnel Project will have *No Adverse Effect* to the historic built environment and archeological resources with conditions listed on page 24 of the AOE Report. Consultation correspondence is provided in **Attachment D**.

Tribal Consultation – Tribal consultation initiation letters were sent on July 21, 2022, to the Delaware Nation, Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Catawba Indian Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe, Nansemond Indian Nation, Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Chickahominy Tribe Eastern Division, Monacan Indian Nation, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and Shawnee Tribe.

The Catawba Indian Nation responded that they had no immediate concerns with regards to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites, or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. Additionally, the Shawnee Tribe and Delaware Tribe responded that the proposed project is outside their area of interest. The NPS has not received responses from the other tribes contacted during project planning. Tribal consultation correspondence is provided in **Attachment D**.

Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation – In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NPS obtained an official species list from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that identified the federally listed endangered northern long-eared bat, the proposed endangered tricolored bat, and Hay's Spring amphipod, as potentially occurring in the Project study area. NPS requested technical assistance from the USFWS regarding these species for the Piney Branch Tunnel Project on April 3, 2024, which continues informal Section 7 consultation. NPS will continue discussions as the project design progresses. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires that NPS re-engage consultations with USFWS if the project changes from what was initially described, as well as when the status of a species changes or there is designation of critical habitat for a species (Rock Creek Park currently has no designated critical habitat for federally listed species). Through this process, NPS will work with USFWS on conservation measures to reduce any impacts to threatened and endangered species that arise from the Piney Branch Tunnel Project.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND SELECTED

The NPS analyzed the No Action Alternative and the proposed Piney Branch Tunnel Project (the Proposed Action) in the EA. A detailed description of the alternatives can be found on pages 11-20 of the EA. The No Action Alternative was carried forward to provide a comparative baseline against which to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action (40 CFR Part 1502.14). Based on the analysis presented in the EA, the NPS selected the Proposed Action for implementation.

Piney Branch Tunnel Project – The Selected Alternative will involve the construction of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project to provide overflow control for CSO 049, located upstream of Rock Creek and adjacent to Piney Branch Parkway NW. DC Water estimates the proposed control will reduce CSOs into Piney Branch by 96 percent by volume and limit their frequency from 25 to one in a year of average rainfall. Instead of discharge flowing directly into Rock Creek via Piney Branch, the proposed tunnel will temporarily store captured combined sewage and then slowly release the overflows into the ERCDS so they can be conveyed by gravity to Blue Plains for treatment when the existing system has capacity. The proposed action will comply with DC Water's Amended Federal Consent Decree and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. The Amended Federal Consent Decree requires that DC Water award a contract for construction of the Piney Branch Tunnel by May 23, 2026, and place it in operation by November 23, 2029.

The Selected Alternative will construct a deep underground sewer tunnel approximately 30 - 100 feet below the ground surface to capture and store combined sewage that will otherwise discharge to Rock Creek via Piney Branch at CSO 049. The tunnel will be approximately 2,200 feet (ft) long based on the preliminary design, providing capacity to store a minimum of 4.2-million gallons of combined sewage. The upstream end of the tunnel will connect to a diversion structure and drop shaft that DC Water will

construct at the outfall of the CSO 049 structure. At the downstream end, the tunnel will connect to a dewatering structure that will include a drop shaft and tunnel connection to the ERCDS. Additional details about the proposed tunnel under the Selected Alternative, including possible tunnel mining methods, are provided on pages 11 – 13 of the EA.

The Selected Alternative will construct a diversion structure, drop shaft, ventilation control vault, electrical / instrumentation vault, and CSO warning light and appurtenances within the CSO 049 CSA at the existing CSO 49 outfall northeast of the intersection of Piney Branch Parkway NW and 17th Street NW. Discharge from the CSO 049 structure that will otherwise flow into Piney Branch when the capacity of the ERCDS is exceeded will be captured by the diversion structure and flow into a drop shaft that will send the flow down to the storage tunnel. The site will also include a below-grade vault to place the required electrical / instrumentation equipment. Construction of the proposed diversion structure will include rerouting an existing 48-inch storm pipe to flow outside of the new structure and directly into Piney Branch to maintain baseflow. DC Water will extend the outfall face of the two northern bays to match the most southern bay to create a uniform face and construct a grouted stone channel where the existing concrete apron is located to improve the overall aesthetics of the outfall within the landscape. Atop the extended outfall, soil will be spread and turfgrass established that will increase the green area in the park by approximately 3,462 square feet. DC Water will also remove graffiti between the outfall and the end of the existing concrete apron and install new fence / railing between the outfall and the end of the existing concrete pad, meeting current code. After construction is complete, DC Water will restore the CSO 49 CSA substantially to pre-construction conditions. Due to access requirements for maintenance and operation, ventilation grating, access hatches, manholes, and other structure access points will be visible at grade. A CSO warning light will also be visible at this site. Additional details about construction and site restoration at the CSO 049 CSA under the Selected Alternative, including temporarily relocating a section of Piney Branch Parkway NW and the adjacent multi-use path to maintain vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle access, are provided on pages 13 – 15 of the EA.

DC Water will construct a drop shaft, ventilation control vault, dewatering structure, and electrical / instrumentation cabinet at the downstream end of the proposed storage tunnel within the Park Road CSA on the southern slope east of the Park Road NW Bridge. The dewatering structure consists of a chamber with an orifice that will discharge flow from the drop shaft to an opening over the existing ERCDS that will ultimately convey the flow to Blue Plains. DC Water will construct the dewatering structure from the surface to reach the depth of the discharge end of the storage tunnel. After DC Water completes construction of the drop shaft and dewatering structure, the Park Road CSA will be restored substantially to pre-construction conditions. Due to access requirements for maintenance and operation, manholes, access hatches, ventilation grating, and electrical / instrumentation equipment on NPS property will be visible at grade. Electrical / instrumentation cabinets on District of Columbia property will be visible above grade. Additional details about construction and site restoration at the Park Road CSA under the Selected Alternative, including temporarily closure of the Piney Branch foot trail, are provided on pages 15 – 17 of the EA.

As part of the requirements for the Consent Decree, a public notification system will be installed as part of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project. The system will notify the public of the occurrence of overflows not captured by the tunnel, using warning lights on posts at four access locations to maximize visibility for users of Piney Branch and Rock Creek streams. The public notification system will turn on when flow is detected from the CSO 049 outfall through flow monitoring devices. The notification system will include red- and yellow-colored lights with signage describing the system's function. In addition to the warning lights, DC Water will also maintain a web site where a description and explanation of the notification system is available. Additional details about the location and design of the warning lights under the Selected Alternative are provided on pages 17 – 19 of the EA.

To support construction activities, DC Water has identified in-bound and out-bound haul routes for construction traffic at the CSO 049 and Park Road CSAs. The haul routes are presented on pages 19 and 20 of the EA.

RATIONALE FOR DECISION

The NPS identified the Piney Branch Tunnel Project as the Selected Alternative because it meets the project purpose and need by controlling CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Piney Branch and Rock Creek and by supporting the interagency goal of achieving District of Columbia water quality standards or attainment of designated uses. The No Action Alternative does not satisfy the need for the project because water quality degradation and impacts to Rock Creek from CSO discharges would continue and DC Water would fail to satisfy its court mandated obligations of the Amended Federal Consent Decree.

ALTERNATIVES DISMISSED FROM FURTHER CONSIDERATION

DC Water and the NPS considered other alternatives during project planning of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project. However, the agencies dismissed these alternatives due to Consent Decree constraints, engineering design constraints, constructability limitations, unacceptable cost implications, traffic impacts, pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns, and other construction-related disruptions. Further information on the alternatives considered but dismissed is in Appendix D of the EA.

MITIGATION MEASURES

The NPS places a strong emphasis on avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating potentially adverse impacts to affected resources, whether under the jurisdiction of the NPS or as a result of a NPS decision. To help ensure the protection of cultural and natural resources and the quality of the visitor experience, the NPS will implement mitigation measures to avoid and/or minimize impacts. Mitigation measures of the Selected Alternative are provided in **Attachment A**. These mitigation measures will allow the NPS to meet its conservation mandates as required by the NPS Organic Act (16 USC 1 *et seq*.) and minimize disruption for park visitors. Exact mitigation measures to be implemented will depend upon the final design and plan review / approval by NPS and NCPC.

WHY THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

As documented in the EA, the Selected Alternative has the potential for adverse and beneficial impacts on water quality (see EA pages 23-25); wetlands (see EA pages 25-28); vegetation (see EA pages 28-31); historic structures and districts (see EA pages 31-35); visitor / community use and experience (see EA pages 35-44); and on adjacent communities (see EA pages 44-48). Anticipated impacts that will occur are summarized below by resource.

After considering the environmental consequences described in the EA, the NPS has determined that the Selected Alternative and its associated actions will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the potentially affected environment and degree of effects of the action (40 CFR 1501.3(b)(7)). Thus, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will not be prepared.

Water Quality – Under the Selected Alternative, construction activities will require ground disturbance from vegetation removal, excavation, and grading. Implementation of a DOEE-approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, site restoration efforts to minimize erosion over the long-term, and adherence to applicable permit conditions will result in minimal adverse impacts to water quality from construction of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project. Over the long-term, implementation of the Selected Alternative will reduce overflows to Piney Branch from the CSO 049 outfall by 96 percent by volume from 40 million gallons to approximately 1.5 million gallons during just one CSO event each year on average. Reducing CSO discharges will significantly decrease pollutant loads of bacteria, suspended solids, oil and grease, organics, metals, and other pollutants associated with sanitary waste, resulting in substantial long-term benefits to water quality in Piney Branch and Rock Creek, as well as water quality benefits to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Selected Alternative will also be expected to improve the quality of habitat for aquatic life, support healthier fish and benthic populations, and reduce human health concerns on Piney Branch and downstream segments of Rock Creek. As determined by DC Water, DOEE, and the USEPA, the proposed project will reduce CSOs to a level that will not cause or contribute to the exceedance of water quality

standards, subject to post-construction monitoring. Additionally, as determined by various regulatory agencies, the proposed project, along with other actions, will support efforts to obtain compliance with TMDLs for Rock Creek.

Wetlands – Implementation of the Selected Alternative will require approximately 3,666 square feet (0.06 acres) of permanent impacts and 9,274 square feet (0.21 acres) of temporary disturbance to Piney Branch. Additionally, replacing the northern retaining wall, relocating the existing 48-inch storm sewer immediately north of the outfall, and stream diversion activities will result in 1,677 square feet (0.04 acres) of temporary impacts to the small perennial tributaries to Piney Branch, 8,731 square feet (0.20 acres) of temporary impacts to the adjacent palustrine forested (PFO) wetlands, and 28 square feet (0.001 acres) of permanent impacts from the placement of manholes in the wetland. The NPS anticipates short-term adverse impacts to wetlands within the CSO 049 CSA will be minimal because DC Water will restore temporarily impacted wetland areas, permanent impacts to Piney Branch will not further degrade its already low functional quality, and the permanent placement of manholes in the PFO wetland will not cause a noticeable change to the functions provided or the quality of the provided functions. The Piney Branch Tunnel Project will result in long-term benefits by greatly reducing untreated CSO discharges into downstream wetlands.

A Wetland Statement of Finding was prepared for this project and included as an appendix to the project's EA. However, based on subsequent discussions and further assessments, Park staff and program leads from the NPS Water Resources Division determined in late February 2025 that a Wetland Statement of Finding was exempted for this project, as specified in NPS Director's Order #77.1: Wetland Protection. This is based on the fact that there will be less than 0.10 acres of permanent wetland loss (0.06 acres), that the work is being done to an existing stormwater structure, and that after the Piney Branch Tunnel Project is completed there will be a 96% reduction in CSO events limiting the frequency of overflow events from 25 to one in an average rainfall year improving water quality in Piney Branch and Rock Creek.

Vegetation – The Selected Alternative will result in disturbance to vegetation primarily from tree clearing during construction. DC Water anticipates that 242 trees will be removed during construction at the CSO 049 CSA, and 51 trees will be removed at the Park Road CSA. Additionally, critical root zone impacts are expected to 126 trees within both the CSO 049 CSA and Park Road CSA, although 107 of these trees may be saved depending on the type of construction activity performed adjacent to the tree, extent of root zone within the work area, and success of tree protection measures applied, such as root pruning. Further description of the trees to be impacted at the CSO 049 and Park Road CSAs can be found on pages 29 – 31 of the EA.

DC Water will develop detailed landscape restoration plans that include replacement trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation. The size and quantity of replacement trees will be in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy (https://www.ncpc.gov/initiatives/treereplacement/). As such, it is expected that the Piney Branch Tunnel Project will have noticeable adverse impacts to vegetation; however, implementation of landscape restoration plans coordinated with NPS, as well as the removal of invasive plants within the CSAs, will minimize these effects over the long-term.

Historic Structures and Districts – Under the Selected Alternative, construction of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project will require Piney Branch Parkway NW to be temporarily relocated south of its existing alignment. As such, shifting the roadway alignment, tree removal, and disruptions to viewsheds will result in short-term adverse impacts to the Rock Creek Park Historic District. Within the Mount Pleasant Historic District, there will be temporary impacts to the viewshed, as well as temporary impacts caused by construction-related noise. DC Water will implement mitigation measures to minimize construction noise for the duration of the project. It also will conduct pre-construction surveys, implement a thorough vibration monitoring plan, implement structural protections (if needed), and identify alternative construction means and methods that avoid or minimize the potential effects of vibration on adjacent structures on Park Road NW and Ingleside Terrace NW. Although there will be temporary viewshed impacts to and from the Woodner Apartments and the 16th Street Bridge, these historic structures will not be physically altered, and both viewsheds will be restored after construction, avoiding adverse impacts.

DC Water will ensure the 16th Street Bridge is protected during construction to prevent accidental damage.

Following construction, DC Water will need to maintain a clear pathway for vehicles and equipment to access the facilities within the Park Road CSA for maintenance inspections to ensure performance standards are being achieved. This clear area will be negligibly noticeable from the adjacent residential structures that contribute to the significance of the Mount Pleasant Historic District. The addition of at-grade features will result in permanent, but minimal, visual impacts on the Rock Creek Park Historic District, including the 16th Street Bridge, Mount Pleasant Historic District, and the Woodner Apartments due to their location at ground level and size within the larger landscape. Site restoration efforts and aesthetic improvements made at the CSO 049 outfall, as well as landscape restoration, are expected to benefit the Rock Creek Park Historic District after construction is complete and not adversely impact historic structures and districts.

Through close consultation, the DC HPO concurred with the NPS's determination that the Piney Branch Tunnel Project will have *No Adverse Effect* to the historic built environment with conditions listed on page 24 of the AOE Report. Consultation correspondence is provided in **Attachment D**.

Visitor / Community Use and Experience – Under the Selected Alternative, construction will result in temporary impacts to park visitors and neighbors for approximately four years, during which 24-hour mining operations will occur. Construction of the diversion structure, drop shaft, and dewatering structure will normally occur between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm, except for limited work outside of these times, which will be coordinated in advance with NPS. Heavy equipment operation, site preparation, and other construction-related activities will result in temporary elevation of noise, dust, vibration, and light. DC Water will implement measures to minimize the effects to park neighbors, such as limiting hauling operations to 7:00 am to 7:00 pm Monday through Friday and 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturdays and Sunday, installing noise barriers, and taking other measures to potentially minimize noise. These measures include monitoring noise levels for the duration of the project, specifying the use of quiet equipment models, maintaining equipment mufflers, lubricating equipment to prevent unnecessary noise, limiting the number and duration of idling equipment, and positioning loud equipment and activities as far as possible from noise-sensitive locations. DC Water will require the construction contractor to use lights with shielding, downward facing lighting, or other possible techniques to minimize light pollution and avoid creating nuisance conditions for adjacent residents. DC Water will also require the contractor to limit equipment idling times and employ fugitive dust controls to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and air quality impacts during construction.

Construction at the Park Road CSA will require use of the small, triangular-shaped roadway island just south of the Park Road NW bridge over Piney Branch Parkway NW and will temporarily remove parking in front of the residences at 2059 – 2071 Park Road NW. Large vehicles and equipment, including the placement of a large crane at the site, would cause noise, vibration, and air emissions, and will be visibly obtrusive, particularly to the residences closest to the Park Road CSA. A section of the Piney Branch Parkway foot trail will also be closed to pedestrian traffic during construction. Pre-construction conditions will be restored following construction at the Park Road CSA, although manholes, access hatches, and ventilation grating will be visible at the ground surface after the project is completed, and a clear pathway for vehicles to access the facilities for maintenance inspections will be visible from the adjacent residences. Maintenance inspections are anticipated to occur approximately monthly.

The CSO 049 CSA will be off-limits to park visitors during construction and construction activities would be visible, most notably the Woodner Apartments. DC Water will use downward facing lights, lights with shielding, or other techniques to minimize light pollution for the surrounding area. Picnic Grove 29 will remain open during construction, although construction activities may disrupt the visitor experience. Pre-construction conditions will be restored following construction at the CSO 049 CSA, although manholes, access hatches, and ventilation grating will be visible at the ground surface after the project is completed. However, DC Water will improve the overall aesthetics of the landscape and add green space within the

park by extending the northern bays of the outfall, installing a grouted stone channel, removing graffiti, and installing new fencing as part of the Selected Alternative.

Although DC Water will relocate Piney Branch Parkway NW to maintain vehicle access during construction, temporary full and partial closures will be required throughout construction. Page 41 of the EA provides maps of the potential detour routes for full and partial road closures. Detours are expected to reduce the levels of service (LOS) and cause travel delays during peak periods at multiple intersections. DC Water will also temporarily relocate the existing multi-use path along the north side of Piney Branch Parkway NW to maintain pedestrian and bicycle access between Beach Drive NW and Arkansas Avenue NW. However, trail closures will be needed on a frequent basis throughout construction. DC Water will coordinate closely with NPS and District Department of Transportation (DDOT) prior to construction to ensure that the most effective maintenance of traffic plans is developed and implemented. DC Water and the NPS will also provide advance notification of road and trail closures and associated detours through avenues such as news releases, social media postings, email distribution, and electronic changeable message signs. Once construction is complete, two-way vehicular travel along Piney Branch Parkway NW will be restored, as will pedestrian and bicycle use along the Piney Branch Parkway multi-use trail.

The NPS and DC Water expect the Selected Alternative will result in noticeable short-term adverse impacts to park visitors and neighboring communities. These impacts will be minimized to the extent possible through implementation of measures to reduce construction-related disruptions, and through public outreach and coordination. Once completed, the Piney Branch Tunnel Project will substantially reduce CSOs, resulting in water quality improvements for Piney Branch and Rock Creek and associated improvements to public health. While water-based recreation is limited on Piney Branch, improvements to Rock Creek's water quality will improve water-based recreation downstream. These improvements will result in beneficial long-term impacts to visitor / community use and experience under the Selected Alternative.

Adjacent Communities – Under the Selected Alternative, there will be disproportionate adverse visual effects to the north-facing residences of the Woodner Apartments from active construction at the CSO 049 CSA within CT 27.04 BG 2, which consists of above-average percentages of Hispanic or Latino populations. Additionally, residents adjacent to the Park Road CSA within CT 27.04 BG 1, which consists of both above-average total minority and Historic or Latino populations, will be disproportionately impacted by construction-related noise, vibration, air emissions to include fugitive dust, visual intrusions, and temporarily eliminated residential parking availability.

Underserved communities will also likely notice increased personal vehicle and construction-related traffic on temporary detour routes and haul routes, as Piney Branch Parkway NW provides an important commuter connection for northwest DC. Road closures will have a noticeable effect on access to the park and travel time. Furthermore, detours and proposed haul routes may divert traffic through adjacent communities, including the Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) to the east, increasing congestion that will be felt primarily by neighborhoods in the vicinity of Piney Branch Parkway NW.

DC Water will conduct extensive outreach before and during construction to minimize disproportionate impacts to adjacent communities. DC Water will distribute public awareness / engagement materials, such as newsletters, brochures, and / or notices to the affected communities in both English and Spanish. Regularly scheduled meetings will be held with Councilmembers, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, adjacent landowners and other residents, businesses, and community organizations that provide Spanish translation. DC Water will employ bilingual staff fluent in Spanish to be available to discuss project questions or concerns with non-English speaking members of the public. As such, the NPS and DC Water expect that Selected Alternative will result in noticeable short-term adverse disproportionate impacts to adjacent communities that will be minimized to the extent possible through implementation of measures to reduce construction-related impacts, and through coordination and outreach throughout the duration of construction. However, over the long-term, adjacent communities will benefit from the substantial reductions in CSOs, which will result in water quality improvements for Piney Branch and Rock Creek, improvements to public health, and improvements to downstream water-based recreational opportunities.

CONCLUSION

As described above, the Selected Alternative does not constitute an action meeting the criteria that normally requires preparation of an EIS. The Selected Alternative will not have a significant effect on the human environment in accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of NEPA.

Based on the foregoing, it has been determined that an EIS is not required for this project and, thus, will not be prepared.

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Recommended:_____ _____

Brian D. Joyner
Superintendent
Rock Creek Park
National Capital Region

Date

JENNIFER NERSESIAN Digitally signed by JENNIFER NERSESIAN Date: 2025.03.05 17:27:58 -05'00'

Approved:_____ _____

Jennifer T. Nersesian
Regional Director
National Capital Region

Date

Attachment A: Mitigation Measures

Attachment B: Non-Impairment Determination

Attachment C: Concern Statements and Responses

Attachment D: Agency Correspondence

ATTACHMENT A: MITIGATION MEASURES

The NPS places a strong emphasis on avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating potentially adverse impacts to affected resources, whether under the jurisdiction of the NPS or as a result of a NPS decision. To help ensure the protection of cultural and natural resources and the quality of the visitor experience, the DCCR and NPS will implement mitigation measures to avoid and/or minimize impacts. These mitigation measures will allow the NPS to meet its conservation mandates as required by the NPS Organic Act (16 USC 1 *et seq*.) and minimize disruption for park visitors. Exact mitigation measures to be implemented will depend upon the final design and plan review / approval by NPS and NCPC.

Water Quality

- Implement DOEE-approved Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to mitigate construction-related water quality degradation.
- Frequently inspect and maintain erosion and sediment control BMPs throughout the duration of construction.
- Reestablish vegetation to stabilize exposed soils and minimize the potential for future erosion.
- Obtain required Clean Water Act permits and authorizations prior to construction, including, but not limited to, Section 401 water quality certification, Section 404 authorization for the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, and NPDES permit coverage for stormwater discharges under the USEPA Construction General Permit in accordance with Section 402.
- Conduct post-construction water quality monitoring in accordance with NPDES permit.
- Implement public notification system for CSOs per NPDES permit conditions that includes operating warning lights along Rock Creek.

Wetlands

- Develop and implement an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan to prevent sediment transport offsite and potentially into wetlands.
- Obtain authorization from the USACE for unavoidable wetland impacts in accordance with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act through the Nationwide Permit Program, as well as Section 401 Water Quality Certification from DOEE.
- Stockpile/store native wetland soil or substrate from temporarily impacted wetland areas to be used to reestablish pre-construction wetland contours.
- Apply native wetland seed mix approved by NPS to establish an herbaceous plant layer.
- Replace trees removed during construction with new trees planted within the construction staging areas. Each new tree will measure up to 2.5-inch caliper in size, with the quantity and species of replacement trees to be determined by NPS resource managers in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy.

Vegetation

- Implement landscape restoration plans that include replacement trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation that is coordinated with NPS and other stakeholders.
- Replace trees removed during construction with new trees planted within the construction staging areas. Each new tree will measure up to 2.5-inch caliper in size, with the quantity and species of replacement trees to be determined by NPS resource managers in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy.

- Implement measures to minimize damage to trees planned for protection, such as installing tree protection fencing; mulching, matting, or other measures to protect critical root zones from soil compaction; and root pruning.
- Prepare and implement an invasive species management plan that includes, but is not limited to, monitoring and removing invasives plant species for a period of five years, using clean fill material free of invasive plant seeds or propagules, and cleaning wheeled machinery pre- and post-construction to reduce the risk of seed cross contamination and spread of non-native invasive species.
- Establish turfgrass or apply an NPS-approved native herbaceous seed mix to reduce potential non-native invasive species establishment where soils are exposed following construction.
- For five years following the completion of construction, DC Water will perform annual post-construction monitoring of remaining trees to assess survival, and plant new trees to replace dead or dying trees planted in the post-construction period.

Historic Structures and Districts

- Coordinate and implement site restoration plans with NPS, DC SHPO, NCPC, and other stakeholders, including returning Piney Branch Parkway NW to the roadway's historic alignment.

Visitor / Community Use and Experience

- Coordinate with NPS, DDOT, and other stakeholders regarding an approach to construction phasing that will reduce impacts to traffic and other park uses, and that is coordinated with other potential projects in the vicinity.
- Conduct site restoration activities coordinated with NPS and other stakeholders, including, but not limited to, removing all temporary construction equipment, materials and facilities; repairing and replacing damaged road and trail surfaces; reestablishing drainage and stormwater management features; completing landscape restoration with replacement trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation; replacing / repairing concrete apron downstream of existing outfall with grouted stone; and installing a new fence / railing around the outfall to replace the existing fence /railing..
- Limit equipment idling times and employ fugitive dust controls to minimize greenhouse gas emissions and air quality impacts during construction.
- Establish a Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Plan to address any accidental spills or releases of hazardous materials during construction that could cause a risk to human health and/or safety.
- Implement noise reduction measures at construction areas to include installing temporary noise barriers, monitoring noise levels for the duration of the project, requiring contractors to use quiet equipment models, maintaining equipment mufflers, lubricating equipment to prevent unnecessary noise, limiting the number and duration of idling construction equipment, and positioning loud equipment and activities as far as possible from noise-sensitive locations.
- Require lights with shielding, downward facing lighting, or other techniques during nighttime mining operations to minimize light pollution.
- Ensure that the contractors follow all required fugitive dust controls, such as water application, covering or enclosing stockpiles of excavated materials, stabilizing haul roads, street sweeping, and covering open-bodied trucks when the truck is carrying materials.
- Conduct pre-construction surveys, implement a vibration monitoring plan, implement structural protections (if needed), and identify alternative construction means and methods that minimize the potential effects of vibration on adjacent structures.

- Implement maintenance of traffic plans coordinated with DDOT and NPS to maintain vehicle access during full and partial closures of Piney Branch Parkway NW.
- Provide advance notification of road and trail closures and associated detours through avenues such as news releases, social media postings, email distribution, and electronic changeable message signs.
- Coordinate temporary road, parking, or trail closures with NPS and adjacent residences, as needed, prior to any planned maintenance inspections.

  Remain in regular contact with park neighbors most affected by construction, particularly at the Park Road CSA, to ensure that their concerns or complaints are addressed in a timely manner.

Adjacent Communities

- Implement measures to minimize disruption as described under Visitor / Community Use and Experience.
- Conduct extensive public outreach before and during construction that includes distributing public awareness / engagement materials in English and Spanish.
- Conduct regularly scheduled meetings with Councilmembers, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, adjacent landowners and other residents, businesses, and community organizations.
- Employ bilingual staff fluent in Spanish to be available to discuss project questions or concerns with non-English speaking members of the public.

ATTACHMENT B: NON-IMPAIRMENT DETERMINATION

By enacting the NPS Organic Act of 1916, Congress directed the US Department of Interior and the NPS to manage units "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner and by such a means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations" (54 USC 100101). Congress reiterated this mandate in the Redwood National Park Expansion Act of 1978 by stating that NPS must conduct its actions in a manner that will ensure no "derogation of the values and purposes for which these various areas have been established, except as may have been or shall be directly and specifically provided by Congress" (54 USC 100101).

The NPS has discretion to allow impacts on park resources and values when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park (NPS 2006 sec. 1.4.3). However, the NPS cannot allow an adverse impact that will constitute impairment of the affected resources and values (NPS 2006 sec 1.4.3). An action constitutes an impairment when its impacts "harm the integrity of Park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise will be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values" (NPS 2006 sec 1.4.5). To determine impairment, the NPS must evaluate "the particular resources and values that will be affected; the severity, duration, and timing of the impact; the direct and indirect effects of the impact; and the cumulative effects of the impact in question and other impacts" (NPS 2006, Section 1.4.5). This ensures that park resources and values will continue to exist in a condition that will allow the American people to have present and future opportunities for enjoyment of them.

This determination on impairment has been prepared for the Selected Alternative described in the FONSI. An impairment determination is made for water quality, wetlands, vegetation, and historic structures and districts. An impairment determination has not been made for visitor / community use and experience or adjacent communities because impairment findings relate back to park resources and values. These impact areas are not generally considered to be park resources or values according to the NPS Organic Act of 1916 and cannot be impaired in the same way that an action can impair park resources and values.

Water Quality – Construction activities will require ground disturbance; however, implementing erosion and sediment controls will minimize short-term water quality degradation. Over the long term, implementation of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project will significantly decrease pollutant loads of bacteria, suspended solids, oil and grease, organics, metals, and other pollutants associated with sanitary waste, resulting in substantial benefits to water quality in Piney Branch and Rock Creek, as well as water quality benefits to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Therefore, the Selected Alternative will not result in impacts to water quality that constitute impairment to park resources or values.

Wetlands – Construction will result in temporary and permanent impacts to wetlands; however, these impacts will not cause a noticeable change to the functions provided by the wetlands. Over the long-term, the Selected Alternative will have benefits by greatly reducing untreated CSO discharges into downstream wetlands. Therefore, the Selected Alternative will not result in impacts to wetlands that constitute impairment to park resources or values.

Vegetation – The Selected Alternative will result in disturbance to vegetation primarily from tree clearing during construction; however, implementation of landscape restoration plans that will include tree replacement in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy, as well as the removal of invasive plants within the CSAs, will minimize adverse effects to vegetation over the long-term. As such, the Selected Alternative will not result in impacts to vegetation that constitute impairment to park resources or values.

Historic Structures and Districts – The Selected Alternative will result in new, non-contributing elements being added within the Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District. However, the CSO 049 and Park Road CSAs will be restored substantially to existing conditions, with manholes, hatches, and other structure access points visible at grade, and trees will be replaced in

accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy. Alternations within the landscape of the historic districts will be minor. Additionally, the Selected Alternative will not result in adverse effects to significant views or viewsheds to and from the Woodner Apartments, the 16th Street Bridge, the Rock Creek Park Historic District, or the Mount Pleasant Historic District. As such, with the implementation of mitigations identified in the FONSI, the Selected Alternative will have no adverse effects and will therefore not result in impacts to historic structures and districts that constitute impairment to park resources or values.

CONCLUSION

The NPS has determined that the implementation of the Selected Alternative will not constitute an impairment of the resources or values of Rock Creek Park. As described above, implementing the Selected Alternative is not anticipated to impair resources or values that are essential to the purposes identified in the establishing legislation of the park, key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park, or identified as significant in the park's relevant planning documents. This conclusion is based on consideration of the park's purpose and significance, a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the EA, the comments provided by the public and others, and the professional judgment of the decision-maker guided by the direction of NPS Management Policies 2006.

ATTACHMENT C: CONCERN STATEMENTS AND RESPONSES

This report groups substantive comments into concern statements and provides NPS's responses. Substantive comments are those that question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of the information in the NEPA document; question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of the environmental analysis; present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the NEPA document; or cause changes or revisions to the proposal. Comments that merely support or oppose a proposal or that merely agree or disagree with NPS policy are not considered substantive.

The Piney Branch Tunnel Project Environmental Assessment (EA) was made available for public review from October 15 to December 6, 2024, at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) project webpage: Park Planning Piney Branch Tunnel EA (nps.gov). The EA public review period was announced using an email blast, mailer, newspaper notices, a press release, social media posts, and established project webpages. The public comment period was then extended to January 3, 2025, to align the EA public comment period with the preliminary NCPC design review submission. A total of 53 separate correspondences were received during the EA public review period. Each correspondence was reviewed for substantive comments that, where possible, were grouped into concerns. The NPS provides responses to the concerns in **Table 1**. Comments did not receive responses if they were considered not substantive.

Table 1. Response to Comments and Concerns

No.	Comment	Response
1	"…any uses of harmful fossil fuels should be discouraged in favor of the use of clean, renewable energy sources. Actions that may degrade nature or diminish native species should be discouraged in favor of more effective actions to protect and restore biodiversity. Sustainably sourced materials should be used to discourage unsustainable resource exploitation." (Corr: 3, 18)	To practically construct the project within the timeframes dictated by the Consent Decree, use of fossil fuels and readily commercially available construction materials are necessary. The project will substantively reduce CSOs to Piney Branch and Rock Creek, thereby providing a long-term benefit to native species, biodiversity and water quality. DC Water will develop detailed landscape restoration plans that include replacement trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation. The size and quantity of replacement trees will be in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy.

No.	Comment	Response
2	"Our homes, situated on the alley side, are constructed on landfill. Pre-existing settlement cracks have been observed and monitored in our home. Query: Can you provide assurances that the construction activities will not exacerbate foundation issues or cause significant damage to our properties? Request: We formally request the installation of vibration sensors for all residences along the alley for the duration of the project to monitor potential impacts." (Corr: 4)	As stated on pages 34, 40, 47, and E-2 of the EA, DC Water will implement mitigation measures to minimize construction noise, conduct pre-construction surveys, implement a thorough vibration monitoring plan, implement structural protections (if needed), and identify alternative construction means and methods that avoid or minimize the potential effects of vibration on adjacent structures on Park Road NW and Ingleside Terrace NW. A vibration monitoring plan will be developed during detailed design and implemented during construction. It will include identifying locations for vibration monitors, which will primarily be located in public space at representative locations. Construction means and methods will be adapted to protect nearby existing structures. DC Water does not anticipate that construction will cause damage to these structures. Pre- and post-construction assessments of these structures will be performed to assess this. DC Water administers a claim process to address damages to private property.

No.	Comment	Response
3	"This area of the park has already experienced substantial tree damage, with habitat loss and increased noise pollution. There is an ongoing risk of losing the mature white oaks to disease (we lost one a few weeks ago). Query: What measures will be taken to mitigate the impact of tunneling on the existing tree population? How many trees will be affected by the construction?" (Corr: 4) "There are a number of trees around the edges of the currently marked CSA that are plantings done by volunteers over the last two decades. Every effort should be made to avoid those areas for staging, and to use other open turf areas adjacent to the CSO instead. Some of the restored areas are almost wetlands with natural water flowage much of the year and should be avoided if possible." (Corr: 52)	As stated on pages 29 – 31 of the EA, DC Water anticipates that 242 trees will be removed during construction at the CSO 049 CSA, and 51 trees will be removed at the Park Road CSA. Additionally, DC Water and NPS also expect that there will be impacts to the critical root zones of 126 trees within both the CSO 049 CSA and Park Road CSA, although 107 of these trees may be saved depending on the type of construction activity performed adjacent to the tree, extent of root zone within the work area, and success of tree protection measures applied, such as root pruning. The project requires connecting the tunnel to the existing CSO outfall. As a result, most of the construction and staging is focused on the existing outfall. The field east of 16th Street on the south side of Piney Branch Parkway will be used for the staging of materials and equipment to minimize impacts. DC Water will also be required to implement mitigation measures as identified in Attachment A including replacement trees, erosion and sediment controls, stockpiling and storing native wetland soils and other measures. DC Water will develop detailed landscape restoration plans that include replacement trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation. The size and quantity of replacement trees will be in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy. As part of the project development process, DC Water and NPS staff met multiple times at the project site to locate construction and staging areas, in order to reduce tree removals to the fullest extent practicable.

No.	Comment	Response
4	"The closure of Beach Drive has led to increased traffic on Piney Branch Parkway, resulting in elevated noise levels. Query: How will this project affect the current traffic conditions on Piney Branch Parkway? Proposal: Will the project team consider reopening Beach Drive for the duration of the construction to alleviate traffic congestion?" (Corr: 4)	As discussed on pages 40 – 44 of the EA, construction of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project is anticipated to impact traffic. While Piney Branch Parkway NW will remain open to two-way traffic for much of the construction duration, partial (one lane) and full (both lanes) closures will be required for limited time periods during construction. Impacts to traffic will be noticeable during these closures at several area intersections. DC Water will coordinate closely with NPS and DDOT prior to construction to ensure that the most effective maintenance of traffic plans are developed and implemented. DC Water and NPS will also provide advance notification of road and trail closures and associated detours through avenues such as news releases, social media postings, email distribution, and electronic changeable message signs. The NPS is not considering reopening Beach Drive. Except for partial or full lane closures for limited time periods during construction, through traffic on Piney Branch Parkway will be maintained for the duration of the project.
5	"Where is the third alternative? Obviously, you are doing the tunnel. Should be at least 6m gals of water because of climate change." (Corr: 6)	Other alternatives considered by DC Water and NPS but dismissed from further analysis are described in Appendix D of the EA. The size of the tunnel is 20% larger than predicted to be required by modeling to account for variability in flow monitoring, modeling, climate change and other factors.
6	"It seems like the area below the Woodner (east of 17th St) will contribute significantly to the number of trees cut down for this project. If this is for a staging area, could that be moved to the large grassy area on the east side of 16th St, on the south side of Piney Branch Parkway? This area was used just a few years ago as the staging area for construction on Beach Drive." (Corr: 19, 40)	The project requires connecting the tunnel to the existing CSO outfall. As a result, most of the construction and staging is focused on the existing outfall. The field east of 16th Street on the south side of Piney Branch Parkway will be used for staging of materials and equipment to minimize impacts.
7	"I do hope the city can provide impacted neighborhoods with more information when the project commences -- for example regarding road and path closures." (Corr: 20)	DC Water maintains an active community outreach team that will ensure the public is informed of the project schedule and activities and will provide advance notice of any construction-related closures.

No.	Comment	Response
8	"Appendix C of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project Environmental Assessment details significant destruction of area trees behind the Woodner apartments and other nature-scarce parts of our community, including equity priority areas, due to construction staging. These plans undo significant community-led projects to restore critical bird habitat and natural areas that benefit community members." (Corr: 21)	Due to the location of CSO 049 and the magnitude of the construction that will be required, tree impacts will be unavoidable. DC Water will be required to replace impacted trees in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy. DC Water anticipates using the field east of 16th Street on the south side of Piney Branch Parkway for material and equipment storage. This will reduce the size of the staging area west of 16th Street and reduce tree impacts.
9	"Storm water from the end of Mt Pleasant St, the alley behind Ingleside St, and the alley between 19th St & Park Rd causes erosion of the trails and other downstream issues. Will or can the tunnel project include capturing these runoff sources?" (Corr: 25)	Management of stormwater runoff in the alley is outside of the scope and purpose of the Piney Branch Tunnel project.
10	"Is it foreseen that this project will divert groundwater and other water sources for Piney Branch that could detriment its normal flow (not under CSO conditions)?" (Corr: 26)	Most of the baseflow condition in Piney Branch is supported by groundwater seepage downstream of the outfall that will not be affected by construction. Also, as stated on page 13 of the EA, DC Water will reroute an existing 48-inch storm pipe to flow outside of the new structure and directly into Piney Branch to maintain baseflow.
11	"Can you publish a better map of the project? The one on NPS is very hard to read." (Corr: 29)	DC Water will post updated, high-quality graphics of the project at Piney Branch Tunnel Project (dcwater.com) once detailed project plans are completed.
12	"When looking at the mitigating actions for trail and road users, please don't shortchange the trail users like usual. If you look at the piney branch trail, the signs are placed on the paved trail rather than leaving it open. And in general car traffic is prioritized over trail users - please don't do that. While drivers can more easily reroute, it's very onerous for people nearby walking into the park to add a several mile detour." (Corr: 30)	As stated on page 43 of the EA, DC Water would temporarily relocate the existing multi-use path along southbound Piney Branch Parkway NW to maintain pedestrian and bicycle access between Beach Drive NW and Arkansas Avenue NW. However, trail closures will be needed on a frequent basis throughout construction. While the trail is closed, bicyclists will be able to follow the same detour routes developed for vehicle traffic or use other District roadways to reach their desired destinations.
13	"There is a wetland restoration project in the area (right by the picnic tables) that has had a lot of work put into it and is filled with wildflowers. I hope the construction will preserve this wetland and wildflower habitat." (Corr: 33)	The wetland restoration area will be avoided during construction.

No.	Comment	Response
14	"Given the project's necessary ground disturbance and vegetation removal, we urge NPS and DC Water to maintain strong erosion and sediment controls to protect Piney Branch and adjacent wetlands. We appreciate the use of best management practices and request that erosion controls and site monitoring be maintained throughout construction to minimize sediment transport into water bodies." (Corr: 34) [Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C (Official Rep.)]	As stated on page 24 of the EA, DC Water will employ strict erosion and sediment controls where ground-disturbing activities occur to mitigate construction-related water quality degradation. The Best Management Practices (BMPs) DC Water will use to retain erodible materials and other byproducts within the limits of construction may include temporary stream diversion, silt fencing, sediment bags, hay bales, coir logs, diversion channels and berms, temporary stormwater basins, temporary inlet protection, stabilized construction entrances, and vegetation stabilization. DC Water will frequently inspect and maintain implemented BMPs throughout the duration of construction to ensure they remain effective. In addition, as part of the site restoration, DC Water will reestablish vegetation as quickly as possible to stabilize exposed soils and minimize the potential for future erosion.
15	"We also request that NPS coordinate closely with DDOT to maintain safe, accessible detours for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists." (Corr: 34) [Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C (Official Rep.)]	As stated on page 43 of the EA, DC Water will coordinate closely with NPS and DDOT prior to construction to ensure that the most effective maintenance of traffic plans are developed and implemented.
16	"As noted in the EA, the intersection of Piney Branch Parkway and Beach Drive is already congested during the AM rush hour (LOS = F, as noted on p. 37). My concern is that once this project is underway, drivers will reroute to avoid Piney Branch and will cause further congestion at a nearby intersection that is not one of the 14 LOS-rated intersections in the EA: Beach Drive and Blagden Avenue. There are daily AM backups at this intersection, and it's likely that traffic there will only increase once the Piney Branch tunnel project is underway. One solution will be to suspend the current prohibition on vehicle traffic on Beach Drive, which begins north of the intersection with Blagden, and open Beach Drive fully to vehicle traffic, at least Monday-Friday, for the duration of the tunnel project." (Corr: 36)	The Project includes construction of a temporary relocated Piney Branch Parkway through the work site to minimize impacts associated with construction. The NPS is not considering reopening of Beach Drive. Except for partial or full lane closures for limited time periods during construction, through traffic on Piney Branch Parkway will be maintained for the duration of the project.
17	"A related note: The traffic count data in 3.6.1.2 may be the most current data available, but the numbers cited from 2022 and 2020 have almost certainly increased significantly as commuting to work has resumed post-pandemic." (Corr: 36)	The NPS plans to coordinate with DC Water and DDOT on a comprehensive maintenance of traffic plan for construction, particularly during partial and full closures of Piney Branch NW (which will be limited in duration). In addition, a separate transportation management plan (TMP) is being submitted for DDOT approval. This TMP uses updated traffic data for the corridor.

No.	Comment	Response
18	"We understand that construction activity for a project of this scale will temporarily have an impact on the Piney Branch stream, adjacent wetlands, and an area of surrounding forest. Our principal concern is that these be limited and minimized as much as possible and that every effort be made to mitigate impacts to plants and animals in the disturbance zone." (Corr: 37)	The NPS and DC Water have worked closely to minimize the size of the staging areas and the magnitude of the temporary impacts, consistent with the need to construct the project in a safe manner. As the project design is refined, we will continue to seek ways to minimize impacts.
19	"… we urge that you further review and evaluate the habitat potential of adjacent forested lands slated for disturbance and tree removals and to establish a strategy for concentrating removals, if absolutely necessary, at times that avoid the seasonal nesting and breeding activities of wildlife." (Corr: 37)	As stated on page 8 of the EA, protection measures for migratory birds will be developed during detailed design based upon consultation with NPS and the USFWS. These measures will involve time of year restrictions (TOYR) for tree removal, among other potential mitigations. Depending on the extent of TOYRs, DC Water may need to complete tree removals before the start of tunnel construction, in order to meet Consent Decree deadlines.
20	"A decision matrix could be assembled that will minimize risks based on known breeding and denning seasons of mammals and nesting of birds. Potential den trees (especially larger trees in fair to poor condition) could be checked for occupancy. Disturbance and displacement strategies could be employed to force mammals (e.g., squirrels and raccoons) to relocate themselves and any dependent young. Active bird nests could be monitored and avoided if possible. If tree removals or other habitat destruction resulted in orphaned young of certain species, City Wildlife could receive and care for them until mature enough to release. The careful and thorough tree survey already conducted represents a great resource that could be employed in planning mitigation strategies and should be used toward that end." (Corr: 37)	The NPS will coordinate with DC Water, USFWS, and other stakeholders to identify and implement measures to reduce or eliminate harm to birds and other animals within the project area. While it is anticipated that the inherent noise and vibration caused by construction equipment will alert most animals well in advance of possible harm, certain measures, such as seasonal TOYRs, will be implemented to protect nesting birds, roosting bats, and their flightless young.
21	"As part of the EA process (and as soon as possible), NPS, DC Water, and contractors should arrange a field walk with community leaders, park stakeholders, park caretakers, and volunteer weed warriors, who are intimately familiar with ongoing long-term restoration efforts along Piney Branch and can point out specific trees and/or critical areas to be avoided or protected from construction disturbance." (Corr: 37) [City Wildlife]	The NPS and DC Water will work with park neighbors, visitors, community leaders and others to discuss ways to avoid impacts to resources. During the design process, DC Water will coordinate a public, on-site meeting to discuss the project. It is important to recognize that that the location of the project is dictated primarily by the location of the existing large sewers that comprise the CSO outfall.

No.	Comment	Response
22	"1. Page 40 of the EA says that noise barriers "may"; be used. We will like noise barriers used throughout the project, not at the discretion of the construction crew, but as a guaranteed feature of the project. Many neighbors work from home, and the economic impacts of the noise were not mentioned in the study. If we cannot work from home due to the noise, neighbors will have to rent space elsewhere, causing financial hardship. A noise barrier should be installed along the entire project site north of Ingleside Terrace. 2. Related to comment #1, funds should be available for neighbors who must rent office space due to noise." (Corr: 39)	DC Water will comply with District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) which noise limits for construction. In addition, noise mitigation measures are described on pages 46 and 53 of the EA, including the use of temporary noise barriers. On a case-by-case basis, DC Water will evaluate the need to temporarily provide alternate accommodations for work from home residents impacted by temporary construction.
23	"All lighting must face away from homes." (Corr: 39)	As stated on page 40 of the EA, "DC Water would require the construction contractor to use lights with shielding, downward facing lighting, or other possible techniques to minimize light pollution and avoid creating nuisance conditions for adjacent residents…"
24	"There should be a staffed hotline through which residents can easily contact those with authority over construction crews. For example, if lights face towards homes or noise levels exceed allowed amounts, residents must have a way to get in touch with someone who can immediately direct construction crews." (Corr: 39)	As stated on page 40 of the EA, "DC Water would remain in regular contact with park neighbors most affected by construction, particularly the residents adjacent to the Park Road CSA, to ensure that their concerns or complaints are addressed in a timely manner." This commitment to communication with the community is common on all DC Water projects and typically involves an established hotline and email address for residents to express concerns and ask questions during construction.
25	"All affected residents should be provided with equipment to measure noise levels so that residents know when noise exceeds allowable levels." (Corr: 39)	DC Water will develop a noise measuring plan during construction and site noise monitoring equipment sensors at representative locations based on the nature and location of construction work.
26	"I am VERY concerned about 24-hour construction. Overnight construction noise should not exceed the level of noise generated by overnight traffic on Piney Branch Pkwy." (Corr: 39)	Overnight construction is only permitted underground for work in the tunnel and surface support facilities required to maintain safe conditions in the tunnel. Since the work is being performed underground, its impact on noise levels is greatly minimized. In addition, this type of work has been performed successfully at night on the other tunnels constructed for the Clean Rivers program. Noise monitoring will be performed during the work and compliance with the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) limitations for construction noise will be maintained.

No.	Comment	Response
27	"The EA indicates that contractors will "limit idling"; We need a concrete limit--e.g. no idling for more than 90 seconds--with a clear way to report idling. Note that there are many children in the area whose health may impacted by idling construction vehicles." (Corr: 39)	DC Water is required to comply with District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) 20-900, On road Engine Idling and Nonroad Diesel Engine Idling, which imposes restrictions on such equipment. Specifically, this regulation states: "No person owning, operating, or having control over the engine of a gasoline or diesel powered motor vehicle on public or private space, including the engine of a public vehicles for hire, buses with a seating capacity of twelve (12) or more persons, and school buses or any vehicle transporting students, shall allow that engine to idle for more than three (3) minutes while the motor vehicle is parked, stopped, or standing, including for the purpose of operating air conditioning equipment in those vehicles, except as follows: (a) To operate private passenger vehicles; (b) To operate power takeoff equipment, including dumping, cement mixers, refrigeration systems, content delivery, winches, or shredders; or (c) To idle the engine for no more than five (5) minutes to operate heating equipment when the ambient air temperature is thirty-two degrees Fahrenheit (32° F) or below."
28	"[Ingleside] Residents will like to discuss the alternatives that were dismissed. Many of the alternatives appear to have a much less severe impact for residents." (Corr: 39)	DC Water has a robust outreach staff and is open to reviewing the project with residents along the alignment. Please note that in the areas adjacent to Ingleside Terrace NW, the project is being constructed in a tunnel. A tunnel was selected because it does not require open cut excavation along its length. Instead, open cut excavation is only required at the tunnel endpoints and the tunnel is constructed below ground. There is an extensive discussion in Appendix D of the EA on each of these dismissed alternatives and why the reasons for the dismissal in each case. These reasons include Consent Decree constraints, engineering design constraints, constructability limitations, unacceptable cost implications, traffic impacts, pedestrian and bicycle safety concerns, and other construction-related disruptions.

No.	Comment	Response
29	"Contractors should remove all Norway maples and other invasive vegetation on the east side of the 16th Street bridge." (Corr: 40, 47)	NPS will authorize the use of the area east of the 16th Street Bridge as a location for construction and materials staging. However, only open turf areas will be authorized for use. NPS will not authorize any use of areas where there are individual trees, stands of trees or forested areas. Invasive plant management will focus on those areas of the project where trees are removed. Please note that as stated on page 30 of the EA, "DC Water would prepare and implement an invasive species management plan during and post-construction that includes, but is not limited to, monitoring and removing invasives within the CSAs until native vegetation is established, using clean fill material free of invasive plant seeds or propagules, and cleaning wheeled machinery prior to start of construction as well as upon completion of construction to reduce the risk of seed cross contamination and spread of non-native invasive species. Invasive vines covering the existing chain-link fence would be cleared to install a new fence around the Piney Branch outfall for safety."
30	"The tunnel project plan should provide for a passive large debris capture barrier that will be cleaned out as part of regular inspection and maintenance. There is a massive litter/trash pollution problem all along Piney Branch that must be addressed as part of the sewer improvement plan." (Corr: 40, 47)	The project includes a baffle and bar rack designed to remove trash, solids and floatables for CSO events that exceed the capacity of the tunnel. The facilities are located inside the new CSO diversion structure and are hidden from view. Captured material is flushed by gravity to the tunnel and then conveyed to Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for removal.
31	"Permanent public educational signage should be placed near the rehabilitated outfall to explain the history of the CSO system and how it has been eliminated." (Corr: 40, 47)	The NPS and DC Water will coordinate on potential incorporation of interpretative signage at the project site post-construction.
32	"My concern is that the tunnel construction will worsen the erosion, with my biggest concern being that the construction will undermine the foundation of my house." (Corr: 41)	Construction means and methods will be adapted to protect nearby residential structures. DC Water does not anticipate that construction will cause damage to these structures, or that there will be any changes to surface and underground water flows resulting from construction. Pre- and post-construction assessments of existing structures will be performed to assess this. DC Water administers a claim process to address damages to private property.

No.	Comment	Response
33	"I cannot discern on the map in the National Park Service ("NPS") Environmental Assessment exactly where the above-ground and below-ground construction will take place. I know that pink tape is hanging from trees below my house and property [see included: pink tape and North side of 3451 MtP street directly in line with pink tape]. I am surmising that the pink tape marks where trees will be removed or tunnel construction take place, or both." (Corr: 41)	Facilities are shown on page 14 and 16 of the EA. The facilities are identified as follows: • Green: existing facilities • Yellow: new facility located below grade • Orange: new facility located at or above grade We are unclear regarding the meaning of the pink tape, but DC Water's outreach staff will be available to assist in identifying. Please contact them at dcpineybranch@dcwater.com.
34	"I request that I be sent: (1) An explicit map showing me where the tunnel construction in Res. 339 will occur; (2) A detailed projection of what roads will be closed or semi-blocked with equipment during the project. To be precise, will the 3400 block of Mount Pleasant where I live and where masses of children make their way to class eve1y weekday always be passable? (3) A written plan for planting trees- - -trees, not twigs or tiny saplings- - -to replace those cut down or otherwise destroyed; and (4) A written response as to whether the: (A) NPS and/or District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority ("WASA") are required to obtain permits for the tunnel construction by District or federal law; and (B) NPS and/or WASA are required to have insurance that provides coverage for adjacent and adjoining property owners for loss or damage that arises out of the tunnel construction work; and (5) A written plan of assurance on how NPS and WASA intend to ensure that no damage to my house happens as result of this project and if any does happen what NPS and/or WASA will do to repair any damage." (Corr: 41)	DC Water will post updated, high-quality graphics of the project at Piney Branch Tunnel Project (dcwater.com) once detailed project plans are completed. Piney Branch Parkway NW and 17th Street NW as it approaches the CSO 049 site will experience partial and full closures for limited periods during construction. Trees will be replaced in accordance with NCPC Tree Replacement and Preservation Policy. The planting plan will be completed by DC Water, in coordination with the NPS, during final design. Under the NPS Special Use Permit conditions, DC Water will be required to obtain all applicable federal and District permits. DC Water provides a Rolling Owner Controlled Insurance Program (ROCIP) for construction contracts and requires construction contractors to have other supplemental insurance. Limitation on construction means and methods are established such that damage to private facilities is not anticipated. Pre-and post-construction inspections are offered to residences. If a resident believes construction has caused damage, a claim may be filed for investigation by DC Water's insurance program.

35	"The EA states that the Piney Branch tunnel project has two goals: achieving compliance with the ongoing federal consent decree and "reduc[ing] untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity." EA at 5. It appears to conclude that completing the tunnel, as well as the 92 acres of green infrastructure required under the consent decree, will fulfill both goals. See id. (stating that "hybrid approach includ[ing] construction of a storage facility for at least 4.2 million gallons and Green Infrastructure to control 92 impervious acres" would "achieve the control equivalent of 9.5 million gallons in the CSO 049 Sewershed"). But the tunnel and required green infrastructure projects only account for 7.2 of the 9.5 million gallons of storage volume that DC Water must achieve by spring of 2030. Amended Appendix F at 6-9. The amended and modified consent decree now accounts for the remaining 2.3 million gallons with a "credit" for various stormwater reduction projects that the District put into operation between 2003 and 2011 under its municipal separate storm sewer system ("MS4") permit and stormwater regulations--an entirely different legal regime. Id. at 8-9; 2020 Comments at 9. As explained below, the EA must consider additional alternatives to address the shortfall caused by the double counting of 2.3 million gallons of storage, as well as potential problems with the efficacy of the credited projects that will prevent the proposed action from fully achieving the stated goals. A. The EA must consider additional alternatives to account for the 2.3-million-gallon reduction in planned CSO storage for Rock Creek. Importantly, the EA completely fails to acknowledge the 2.3-million-gallon stormwater credit and does not consider how the double counting of those reductions undermines the proposed alternative's ability to reduce CSO discharges into Piney Branch and connecting waters. See Salazar, 661 F.3d at 73 ("[W]e will uphold the agency's selection of alternatives that are reasonable in light of [the] objectives" of the proposed action.). The 2.3-million-gallon reduction in the planned CSO storage for Rock Creek substantially weakened the LTCP and consent decree requirements and will allow greater levels of pollution in Rock Creek. Yet, the EA fails to address reasonable alternatives DC Water could take to make up for this backsliding, including increases in tunnel capacity and/or green infrastructure, that would achieve the full 9.5 million gallons of new CSO storage originally contemplated for Rock	**1. Purpose of the Environmental Assessment** As required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Piney Branch Tunnel Project analyzes potential environmental impacts of the proposed action and evaluates reasonable alternatives that meet the project's objectives. The proposed action is a project that will capture and store a minimum of 4.2-million gallons (MG) of sewage and stormwater that will otherwise overflow into the Piney Branch tributary. The purpose of the proposed action is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) storage and conveyance capacity and to reduce CSOs that degrade water quality. The need for the capture and storage project comes from a 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority ("DC Water") and later amended on January 14, 2016, and modified on December 22, 2020 ("Consent Decree"). As part of a broader plan to reduce CSOs to the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and Rock Creek Sewersheds, the Consent Decree requires DC Water to construct a Rock Creek Storage Facility with a capacity of 4.2-million gallons (MG) to store sewage and stormwater flow that would otherwise overflow into the Piney Branch Tributary. **2. Consideration and Exclusion of Alternatives** Under NEPA, a federal agency must consider all alternatives that are objectively feasible and reasonable considering the agency's objectives. *See Theodore Roosevelt Conservation P'ship v. Salazar*, 661 F.3d 66, 72 (D.C. Cir. 2011). The EA need not examine an infinite number of alternatives but must at least consider some additional alternatives that would improve the proposal's consistency with the action's stated goals. *See Union Neighbors United, Inc. v. Jewell*, 831 F.3d 564, 576–77 (D.C. Cir. 2016)). However, an agency can exclude an alternative if it is reasonable to conclude that the alternative does not achieve the objectives of the proposed federal action. *See Pub. Employees for Env't Responsibility v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv.*, 177 F. Supp. 3d 146, 154 (D.D.C. 2016)). The Piney Branch Tunnel Project EA reviews only reasonable alternatives that address the purpose of and need for the action. Any alternative that does not meet or adequately address the purpose of and need for the project is not practicable and thus, was not included in the EA analysis as a reasonable

	Creek. Consideration of these additional alternatives is necessary to further the goal of "reduc[ing] untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch," EA at 5. PEER, 177 F. Supp. 3d at 154 (agency must consider additional alternatives that would "bring about the ends of the federal action"). Though the EA "need not examine an infinite number of alternatives," it must at least consider some additional alternative that would improve the proposal's consistency with the action's stated goals. See Union Neighbors United, Inc. v. Jewell, 831 F.3d 564, 576-77 (D.C. Cir. 2016) (reversing agency where it failed to consider "any reasonable alternative that would be economically feasible while" resulting in greater protection for the "Indiana bat and its habitat"). Here, the 4.2-million-gallon tunnel and 92 acres of green infrastructure (if they perform as DC Water predicts for 7.2 million gallons of storage) would still allow CSO discharges of hundreds of thousands of gallons in Piney Branch in an average design-year. Given the severe public health risks associated with dumping such large volumes of raw sewage into Piney Branch and Rock Creek even after the completion of the proposed tunnel and green infrastructure, it is especially critical that the EA account for the 2.3 million gallons of stormwater credits and analyze alternatives that would actually achieve the entire amount of CSO reductions intended for Rock Creek. While the consent decree presents a floor for DC Water's Rock Creek obligations, it is not a ceiling. The EA should address options for fulfilling the CSO storage requirement of 9.5 million gallons without the double counting of credits. B. The EA must consider additional alternatives due to the uncertain efficacy of projects underlying the 2.3-million-gallon credit. Moreover, the EA must consider alternatives that would, with the 95 acres of green infrastructure, achieve 9.5 million gallons of CSO reductions in the reasonably foreseeable event that the stormwater projects underlying the 2.3-million-gallon credit fail to perform effectively. As an initial matter, the EA does not reference any modeling and/or monitoring reports for the credited projects to demonstrate that they have achieved, and will continue to achieve, the claimed reductions. The EA does not verify that the projects constructed between 2003 and 2011 remain in operation, specify whether any modifications have been made that reduce their storage capacity, or provide the expected lifespans of the projects. Furthermore, the EA does not address whether or how DC Water can guarantee that the parties currently responsible for the credited projects will continue to operate and maintain them.	alternative. In Appendix D, Alternatives Considered But Dismissed, the EA addresses potential alternatives to the capture and storage project that were considered but dismissed because they failed to meet essential screening criteria: budget and cost constraints, schedule constraints, constructability issues, engineering constraints, and environmental constraints. Given the purpose of and need for the action, alternatives considering additional tunnel capacity and green infrastructure are not included in the EA because such do not meet the explicit requirement in the Consent Decree to build a Rock Creek Storage Facility. Such alternatives would also not meet the screening criteria detailed in Appendix D of the EA. **3. Compliance with the Consent Decree** The 4.2 MG Piney Branch Tunnel, as outlined in the EA, complies with the Consent Decree. The tunnel is one of the explicitly enumerated required CSO controls in DC Water Hybrid Approach to meet the 9.5 MG storage volume. *See* Joint Stipulation at 2, *Anacostia Watershed Soc'y v. D.C. Water & Sewer Auth.*, Case No. 1:00-cv-00183-TFH, Doc 132 (D.D.C. Dec. 22, 2020). The modeling and assessments in the Rock Creek Practicability Assessment demonstrated that the hybrid approach, which includes the Piney Branch Tunnel, provides CSO control equal to or better than the 2005 Consent Decree. There is no degradation or reduction of CSO control by the proposed action. *See* D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, *Practicability Assessment for Rock Creek Green Infrastructure*, 4-1 (2020). **4. Green Infrastructure Credits** Commenters raised concerns about the 2.3 MG of Green Infrastructure (GI) credits constructed to comply with the District MS4 Permit and Stormwater Regulations. As explained above, this CSO control is outside the purpose of and need for the proposed action, but DC Water will address the commenters' concerns here. As of March 31, 2020, DC Water "demonstrated that it is entitled to take credit for at least 2.3 million gallons (70.5 acres controlled to the 1.2" Retention Standard) from the implementation of the District's MS4 Permit and Stormwater Regulations in the CSO 049 sewershed." *See* Attachment A to Joint Stipulation at 8, *Anacostia Watershed Soc'y v. D.C. Water & Sewer Auth.*, Case No. 1:00-cv-00183-TFH, Doc. 132-1 (D.D.C. Dec. 22, 2020). USEPA required the 2.3 MG of GI to meet the following requirements: 1)

	For government-owned properties without covenants, it is unclear whether the government agencies owning credited projects have legal obligations, or even the necessary funding, to continue operation and maintenance. 2020 Comments at 10. And for privately-owned properties, it is similarly unclear who will maintain the projects if the private entities or future owners lack necessary funding. Id. at 10-11. Without any analysis of whether DC Water has achieved and/or will continue to achieve the claimed 2.3 million gallons of storage, the EA cannot rationally conclude that the tunnel project will be sufficient to achieve compliance with the federal consent decree and bring CSOs into compliance with water quality standards. See EA at 25 ("[T]he proposed project would reduce CSOs to a level that would not cause or contribute to the exceedance of water quality standards."). Likewise, the EA cannot claim to have reasonably considered the full impact of the proposed project on its goal of reducing CSOs and improving water quality in the District. See PEER, 177 F. Supp. 3d at 152-53 (an EA must take a "'hard look' at the environmental impacts of a proposed action" including "sufficient discussion of the relevant issues"); Motor Vehicles Association v. State Farm, 463 U.S. 29, 43 (1983) (agency action is arbitrary and capricious when it "entirely fail[s] to consider an important aspect of the problem"). Given the lack of adequate assurances regarding the efficacy and continued viability of the credited projects, the EA must account for the possibility that the projects will not achieve the required 2.3 million gallons of storage volume. The potential that these projects will not perform as-intended is another reason why the EA must consider additional alternatives, including additional tunnel capacity and/or green infrastructure, to ensure that DC Water will achieve its 9.5-million-gallon storage obligation." (Corr: 47)	they must be located in the CSO area target for GI implementation by DC Water, 2) the design of the control measures and the level of control must be verified by DC Water to achieve the 1.2" retention standard or any portion thereof, and 3) DC Water, the District, or a private party must assume operation and maintenance responsibility in a legally binding document or as part of its statutory or regulatory authority. *See id.* at 9. DC Water met these requirements, and USEPA approved the Hybrid Approach. *See* Joint Stipulation at 2. The commentors assertion that the 2.3 MG credit for GI constructed by others in the sewer shed is double counted is incorrect. The flow monitoring to develop the modeling that served as the basis for the 2002 Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) was performed in 1999-2000. The 2.3 MG of GI by others was constructed between 2003-2012, i.e., after the monitoring and modeling in the LTCP used to determine the 9.5 MG requirement. Therefore, the 2.3 MG credit for GI is not double counted since the GI was constructed after the LTCP. *See* Practicability Assessment, at 2-44–2-46. After the construction of the CSO controls, DC Water's Blue Plains National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requires DC Water to perform post-construction monitoring. This requirement includes monitoring and sampling of the CSO outfalls as well as monitoring the receiving water to assess quality. The efficacy of the 2.3 MG of GI is assessed as part of post-construction monitoring along with the other CSO controls. *See* USEPA, *National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit No. DC0021199*, 44–48 (2018). **5. Conclusion** The purpose of the proposed action is to increase storage capacity of CSO overflow and the need for the project comes from the explicit requirement in the Consent Decree to build a Rock Creek Storage Facility. Legal precedent supports the position that alternatives that do not meet the purpose of and need for the project—such as including additional tunnel capacity and green infrastructure— are not objectively reasonable in light of the project's objectives and are appropriately excluded from the EA. The 4.3 MG Piney Branch Tunnel complies with the Consent Decree. The efficacy of the GI constructed by others is addressed through post-construction monitoring by DC Water as required by the NPDES permit.

No.	Comment	Response
36	"…Conservancy requests that additional trees (at least equal to the number planted in the project area) be planted outside of the project area to increase the forest's total forest size and support its regeneration in Rock Creek Park. This would provide additional resilience to the forest overall, which is critical when disturbances occur." (Corr: 43)	DC Water has calculated the number of replacement trees required based on anticipated tree removal and has determined that not all the replacement trees will fit inside the limits of construction and associated site restoration due to tree spacing guidelines. As such, NPS will work with DC Water and stakeholders to identify additional planting areas within Rock Creek Park to satisfy the replacement requirement.
37	"Wherever trees are planted, DC Water must maintain or fund maintenance of those plantings for at least five years, including invasive plant management, replacement of tree loss, and deer protection. More trees are better; well-maintained trees are best." (Corr: 43)	As mentioned on page 30 of the EA, DC Water will provide a 5-year warranty for new trees, shrubs and other plantings that are placed as part of restoration and five-year maintenance of the restored landscape including conducting invasive, non-native plant maintenance. Within the 5-year warranty, DC Water will perform annual post-construction monitoring of remaining trees and install new plantings as needed to ensure success of the restoration project.
38	"It is surprising that the impact of odor was not assessed, and no mitigation is offered. Given that an overflow is allowed each year, and overflows are associated with significant sewage stench, this seems like an oversight." (Corr: 43)	As stated on page 3 of the EA, DC Water will construct other supporting infrastructure, including an upstream drop shaft, ventilation control vault, and terminal shaft as part of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project. The below grade ventilation control vault will be constructed to allow air to enter and exit the tunnel during filling and emptying, with equipment provided to mitigate fugitive emissions.
39	"Please ensure that the contracting regulations for this project require that the company/workers dispose of any garbage or used materials appropriately every day." (Corr: 44)	NPS and DC Water will require the contractor to properly maintain the work site and dispose of trash and debris regularly and properly.
40	"…preservation of Special and Heritage trees under DC law should be prioritized. To our knowledge, at least 20 of the trees to be removed fall into these protected categories. Casey Trees strongly encourages NPS to preserve them in keeping with DC law." (Corr: 45)	Due to the location of CSO 049 and the magnitude of the construction that will be required, tree impacts will be unavoidable. DC Water will be required to replace impacted trees in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy. (Please note that the DC code relating to Urban Forest Preservation, to include the sections regarding Special and Heritage trees, is not applicable on federal land.) The NPS has also requested DC Water evaluate the possibility to use the area in question to reduce the size of the staging area below the Woodner Apartments to reduce tree impacts.
41	"…we also ask that NPS conduct wetland restoration work in the environmental mitigation plan. Establishment of native reeds, grasses, and other aquatic vegetation will add to the clean water benefits this project aims to provide." (Corr: 45)	As stated on page 27 of the EA and in the Wetland Statement of Findings, temporarily impacted wetlands will be restored to comply with Nationwide Permit Conditions. The existing wetland restoration area at CSO 049 will not be impacted by construction.

No.	Comment	Response
42	"The disposal of mine tailings is never mentioned in the Environmental Assessment. Nor is there any mention of the number of trucks, with associated impacts on traffic and air pollution, that will be needed to haul away the tailings from the Piney Branch Tunnel and associated drop shafts. While this shortcoming does not erode our support for this vital project, additional mitigation may be needed to compensate for the transport and disposal of the tailings from this project." (Corr: 32)	Final disposal sites for rock and soil excavated from the tunnel will be determined by the selected construction contractor. All tailings and other project waste will be disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal and District of Columbia law, regulation and policy, and all waste will be tracked with disposal tickets for documentation. Proposed haul routes are identified on pages 19 and 20 of the EA and impacts to traffic can be found on pages 40 – 43. As stated in the EA, DC Water will coordinate closely with NPS and DDOT prior to construction to ensure that the most effective maintenance of traffic plans are developed and implemented.
43	"The need for good timing and coordination between these projects is vital. Ground was broken for the Potomac River Tunnel in May 2024 and will need to be substantially completed before receiving discharges from the ERCDS. However, none of these key issues are mentioned in the EA, including when the capacity of the ERCDS would exceeded and how the tunnel would be dewatered." (Corr: 32)	The Consent Decree deadline for placing the Piney Branch Tunnel and Potomac Tunnels in operation are November 23, 2029, and February 8, 2030, respectively. DC Water plans to meet the deadlines. The discharge from the Piney Branch Tunnel includes an orifice to limit the rate of discharge so as to not exacerbate downstream CSOs, including CSOs to the Potomac River.
44	"The EA mentions that the water flow of the Piney Branch will be maintained by a 48-inch storm sewer line. But there is no mention of where in the Piney Branch sewershed this stormwater comes from and what the water quality of the discharge to Piney Branch might be. At present, in addition to the occasional CSO, the flows to the creek are the various springs along its banks. According to the EA, the flows from the 48-inch storm sewer line would augment that flow. But studies indicate that particularly in urban areas stormwater can carry objectionable loads including bits and pieces of car tires, motor oil, spilled gas, and animal feces." (Corr: 32)	The drainage area for the existing 48" separate storm sewer comprises portions of 16th Street NW, and the Crestwood neighborhood north of the CSO 049 outfall. Portions of these areas are separated with stormwater collected and discharged via the 48" storm sewer. The project is not changing the configuration of the 48" storm sewer. It currently discharges downstream of the ERCDS and does not go to Blue Plains. The extension of the storm sewer as part of this project maintains that configuration. The District of Columbia is responsible for the quality of the discharge from separate storms sewers per the terms of its NPDES permit issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

No.	Comment	Response
45	"We appreciate the long overdue addition of warning lights. But some of the lights might be better placed to be more effective. For example, in Figure 2-6 the warning light for CSO 49 appears to be downstream from the CSO outfall. Graffiti along the retaining walls of the structure indicate gang activity at the site. We suggest that the CSO #49 warning light be placed closer to the outfall. Similarly, the warning light at the P St Bridge appears to be on the western end of the bridge. But the entrance to "P St. Beach," a popular sunbathing and pleasure area, is nearer the eastern side of the bridge. We suggest the warning lights be placed closer to the eastern side of the bridge to alert those who might be tempted to wade in Rock Creek during a hot summer day. Figure 2-7 showing the Rock Creek Notification System location south of Calvert St (Page 18) appears to resituate the warning sign pictured in Figure 2-8 from its present position immediately adjacent to CSO #22, and well within a good sightline of boaters and kayakers, to the entrance to Thompson's Boat Center, hugely hidden from view. We urge the warning light at CSO #22 to remain at its present location to warn boaters and kayakers of hazardous overflows." (Corr: 32)	The light at CSO 022 on the Potomac River (across from the Watergate) is not being removed or replaced as part of this project. That light will remain at CSO 022 to advise the public about overflows at the Potomac River CSOs. Four new lights will be constructed along Rock Creek to indicate the occurrence of CSOs to Rock Creek at the following locations: CSO 049, Harvard St NW near Zoo entrance, P Street NW and near Thompson Boathouse. DC Water will work with the respective property owners (National Park Service and District Department of Transportation) to site the lights considering these comments, utility conflicts and other factors.
46	"The renovation of the existing CSO 49 concrete apron should go beyond a replica replacement "in-like-kind"; or simple reconstruction of the status-quo. Ideally, the entire CSO 49 concrete apron area should be conceptualized as a unique design opportunity to enhance or expand wetland areas, incorporate natural buffers for enhanced biofiltration / pollution uptake, or create "novel"; native ecotypes supportive of birds, wildlife and native plants. Examples of "novel"; native ecotypes include riverscour prairies found regionally nearby in the Appalachian Mountains (Google: "Riverscour Prairies"). These areas thrive and are maintained by periodic heavy intense flash flooding (scours) yet can withstand long dry spells as well." (Corr: 46)	The existing concrete apron will be revised to a grouted stone apron to be more aesthetically pleasing and ease the transition from outfall structure to natural stone channel. Grouted stone was selected to meet the following objectives: • Erosion protection – while the tunnel will greatly reduce overflows it will not eliminate them. The outfall will still discharge enormous flows for major storms such as 5-, 10- and 100-year storms. Significant erosion protection and energy dissipation are necessary to prevent degradation of the channel. Planted or wetland channels would not meet this objective. • Maintenance access – At intervals, DC Water will need to lower equipment into the channel and enter the outfall for inspection, maintenance and repair report. A practical working services for large equipment is required for this work. Planted or wetland channels would not meet this objective. • Project scope – the scope of this project is to control CSOs and stream restoration is beyond the project scope

No.	Comment	Response
47	"Require a fieldwalk (or multiple fieldwalks) in order to collaboratively identify specific trees to be maintained and/or critically-sensitive areas where active habitat restoration and invasives removal are already occurring or are intended to occur in the future. This fieldwalk(s) should be open to all members of the general public who wish to participate: including but not limited to engaged community leaders, park stakeholders, NPS rangers and NPS arborists / horticulturalists, volunteer / non-profit restorationists (for example DC Songbirds, Rock Creek Conservancy) and independent Weed Warriors intimately familiar with current and future long-term restoration efforts along Piney Branch." (Corr: 46) "As part of the EA process (and as soon as possible), NPS, DC Water, and contractors should arrange a field walk with community leaders, park stakeholders and caretakers, and volunteer Weed Warriors, who are intimately familiar with ongoing long-term restoration efforts along Piney Branch and can point out specific trees and/or critical areas to be avoided or protected from construction disturbance." (Corr: 47)	The construction staging areas shown in the EA is the space necessary to provide room for the new facilities and the labor, equipment, and materials needed to construct them while meeting the Consent Decree objectives. DC Water and NPS worked collaboratively during the initial planning process to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the size of the staging areas, while maintaining public safety and project constructability. The NPS and DC Water will work with park neighbors, visitors, community leaders and others to discuss ways to avoid impacts to resources. During the design process, DC Water will hold a public, on-site meeting to discuss the project. As design progresses, it will be refined to reduce impacts. DC Water and NPS will hold an outreach session as the design progresses to convey design details and obtain feedback.
48	"Concrete Apron Alterations and Restoration - Ongoing Maintenance / Cleaning Plan? Please describe ongoing maintenance and cleaning plan ... is there one? For example, should there be at-minimum at least one annual apron inspection and/or clean-out? Or a required inspection and clean-out after each known occurring CSO event? Can the edge of the existing apron support a passive large-debris capture barrier (concrete pylons / bollards?) that would be cleaned out as part of regular inspection and maintenance?" (Corr: 46)	DC Water's NPDES Permit from USEPA requires monthly inspections for CSO outfalls and maintenance as required. This frequency will be followed for CSO 049. The project includes a baffle and bar rack designed to remove trash, solids and floatables for CSO events that exceed the capacity of the tunnel. The facilities are located inside the new CSO diversion structure and are hidden from view. Captured material is flushed by gravity to the tunnel and then conveyed to Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant for removal.
49	"Will the community at-large have ability to publicly engage on the final design of the concrete apron?" (Corr: 46)	Please see responses to comment 46 and 47.

No.	Comment	Response
50	"Could this relocated discharge be incorporated into the apron redesign so that this stormwater (baseflow) is prefiltered / naturally treated / naturally mitigated in some way before entering Piney Branch Streambed proper? Are there other design opportunities possible with the concrete apron redesign now that the frequency of CSO's will be drastically reduced? For example, could the concrete apron be restored to a more "natural" wetland biofilter or buffer state -- similar to scour-prairie ecotypes which have evolved to withstand and flourish via periodic flooding (hard scours)? In shortest terms, how could the concrete apron be redesigned so as to actually reconstruct and expand natural habitat supportive of native plant and wildlife biodiversity? And increase natural absorption and filtering of water-borne sediment and pollutants before entering downstream areas of Piney Branch Stream proper?" (Corr: 46)	Please see responses to comment 46.
51	"…can the new deck-over zone (above the northern-most outfall "dogleg") be planted or configured in such a way as to extend or expand wetland habitat?" (Corr: 46)	The top of the new deck-over will be planted and will be a net addition to parkland as described in the EA. The "bottom" of the deck-over is inside of the new sewer structure and is not suitable for planting or public access.
52	"Immediately downstream of the concrete apron (essentially constituting the start headwaters for the "daylit" portion of Piney Branch Stream) is a small but relatively physically "self-contained"; muddy/mucky area of natural streambed. (This area technically falls outside the boundary of the CSA, but is likely to be affected by construction, hauling, equipment maneuvering, and other activities associated with the diversion tunnel project.) With the anticipated dramatic reduction of CSO's - down to approximately once per year - could this area be converted into a natural wetland buffer / biofilter, or riverscour prairie? Native reeds and/or sturdy grasses that can withstand periodic floodwater scouring, yet will enhance pollution uptake and absorption, and further beautify the facility as a whole?" (Corr: 46)	Stream restoration or revisions to the stream are beyond the project scope.
53	"Is there a direct connection (streambed or channel) that directly connects WC6 to WC4? If so, has any thought been given to permanent remediation and/or stream/wetland reconstruction for this connection? In some ways, the wetland here is the beginning of the "daylit" portion of Piney Branch Stream, it could be of long-term ecological value to study potentials for additional "daylighting" or streambed reconstruction / wetland expansion in this area." (Corr: 46)	Depending on water level, runoff and groundwater from WC6 can migrate to WC4. Stream restoration or revisions to the overall ecosystem are beyond the scope of this project.

No.	Comment	Response
54	"Other CSO's Downstream of CSO 49 - Are they incorporated and captured? In several of the images it seems there are (at least) two other CSO's occurring downstream from CSO 49 and emptying into Piney Branch. Will all other CSO's downstream of CSO 49 be incorporated and captured in the new diversion tunnel structure? If there are other CSO's besides CSO 49 that are NOT incorporated into the new diversion tunnel, please indicate and explain why." (Corr: 46)	CSOs 032 through CSO 048 have the potential to discharge to Rock Creek when the capacity for the existing system is exceeded. DC Water prepared a Long-Term Control Plan to evaluate all the CSO's in the system and identify controls required to bring them into compliance with water quality standards. The LTCP is available on DC Water's website at the following address: https://www.dcwater.com/sites/default/files/Complete%20LTCP%20For%20CD.pdf. Maps showing the location of other CSOs in Rock Creek are on DC Waters website at the following address, use the "What Sewershed Are You In?" in the top right : https://www.dcwater.com/about-dc-water/what-we-do/wastewater-collection/css
55	"Could a permanent public educational sign be permanently placed somewhere near the rehabilitated outfall in order to explain DC's Combined Sewer System and clearly indicate (in simple common terms) WHY this particular stormwater diversion tunnel project is needed, HOW it functions, and what types of long-term ecological benefits it provides?" (Corr: 46)	Each CSO outfall includes a sign advising the public of the outfall number, warning them to stay away from the outfall in wet weather and including a phone number for additional information. NPS is not supportive of interpretive exhibits in Rock Creek Park for the CSO control facilities.
56	"DC Water, minimize the impact on the forest by choosing other locations outside of the proposed Park Rd. CSA to site permanent and temporary structures, construction vehicle access, vehicle staging areas and material stockpiles. A potential site for the location of these could be the Park Road Tennis Courts in Rock Creek Park." (Corr: 48)	The project location is dictated by the location of the existing CSO outfall and the existing sewers. The project requires connecting the tunnel to the existing CSO 040 outfall at the end of the outfall and then connecting the tunnel to the existing sewer system. This dictates the location of the staging areas. Within these limitations, DC Water and NPS have coordinated extensively to minimize construction impacts and tree loss.
57	"The report stipulates that "it is expected that sufficient parking capacity is available on Park Rd. NW south of the Park Road CSA." I disagree with this stipulation --- previous experience proves that parking spaces are quickly utilized by city construction workers working in the area. Currently it is not unusual for parking spaces to be taken by private contractors who are working in residences on the block, as well as by individuals who drive to the block to access the trails and park their cars on the block. Once construction begins, parking will be even more limited." (Corr: 48) "DC Water, require DC construction workers to park their cars at the Park Rd Tennis Courts in Rock Creek Park." (Corr: 48)	The contract documents require the contractor to have contractor parking within the CSA or to shuttle workers to the jobsite from off-site parking maintained by the contractor. The contractor is not allowed to use public parking immediately adjacent to site for employee parking and this will be monitored and enforced during construction.

No.	Comment	Response
58	"The proposed detours will take commuters through residential streets that are not constructed to support heavy traffic, and which experience high levels of pedestrian and residential street parking. Recognizing that drivers currently fail to observe stop signs and traffic lights, I believe the proposed detours will present significant danger to both pedestrians and residents who are parking or accessing their cars." (Prior to implementing the proposed project, DC Water work closely with DC Police and the Mt. Pleasant ANC to solicit community input on traffic safety in light of the proposed detours, and to create a plan to manage the flow of traffic and to ensure safety." (Corr: 48)	The project has prepared a traffic study to evaluate the level of service and the most effective and safe way to route traffic and hauling during construction. The traffic study will be submitted to and approved by DDOT as part of detailed design.
59	"In Lieu of utilizing Park Rd, NW, utilize Tilden St. NW to Connecticut Ave as the haul route." (Corr: 48)	Trucks are prohibited on the section of Park Road NW between the bridge over Piney Branch Parkway and Beach Drive. Therefore, trucks will not be able to access Tilden St NW.
60	"I hope that plans for restoration after completion can actually begin during construction with support from the Rock Creek Weed Warriors who are ready and able to assist in this effort. We have the skills and ability to work on invasive plant removal and native plant restoration around the area of the project, even while it is ongoing." (Corr: 52)	The project scope includes site restoration by the construction contractor based on plans and specifications approved by NPS and regulatory agencies. Final restoration will be performed when the project is complete or when a particular phase of the work is complete, in coordination with NPS Resource Management staff. Interim stabilization will be performed per sediment and erosion regulations.
61	"I would hope that native plants and not turf grass could be used in any plantings related to the CSO reconstruction." (Corr: 52)	A detailed planting list will be developed during the final design process, and with preference for native species. However, turf grass will likely be used in areas that are presently in turf cover.

No.	Comment	Response
62	"What are the predetermined vibration limits? What will be the process for determining the limits? What would be put into place to continuously monitor the nearby structures." (Corr: 53) While the EIA states it will use similar techniques as done during construction of the diversion structure at the Kennedy Center, the EIA does not elaborate on what techniques were used during that construction. Please provide more detailed information on the techniques used for monitoring in order to have assurances that sufficient and continuous monitoring will take place during the entirety of construction. More specifically, we will want assurances that there will be ongoing monitoring in the homes during the process. We ask: 1) DC Water commit to placing survey prisms on our homes to monitor for any settlement and displacement data. We ask that DC Water work with the homeowners to select and place the prisms, and that the project cover the costs for the prisms and monitoring. 2) DC Water provide residents with decibel measuring devices to determine if noise exceeds allowable levels? 3) Can you also clarify where ground monitoring will take place - will it be near the site, houses, etc. How many monitors will there be?" (Corr: 53)	During detailed design, vibration limits will be determined by grouping structure types into categories and on a structure-by-structure basis in certain circumstances. Limits will be established based on good engineering practice (standard of care) or structure-specific evaluations so as to not impact existing facilities during construction. Continuous noise and vibration monitoring will be performed at representative locations during construction and for periods when vibrations may be expected. The noise and vibration monitoring data will be compared against the limits authorized in the construction contract. If these limits are exceeded, DC Water will require the construction contractor to implement mitigations measures.

No.	Comment	Response
63	"Can you confirm that DC Water will work with us to carry out the surveys, and that we will have copies of the survey information? When do these surveys occur in relation to the start date for the pre-construction survey and end date for the post-construction survey? For the pre-construction surveys, what will be included? Can you confirm that the surveys entail an individual structural assessment? Will all structures on the property, including retaining walls, sheds etc., be reviewed?" (Corr: 53)	DC Water will offer optional pre- and post-construction surveys of properties. DC Water will request the property owner's permission via a right of entry agreement to perform the survey and to take videos and photographs of the property (interior and exterior). The video and photos will document pre-construction conditions to establish a baseline, prior to the construction project. If requested by the property owner, DC Water will perform post-construction surveys to document the condition of the structures after construction. The project is not anticipated to cause damage or impacts to private properties; past DC Water tunnel projects have similarly been protective of adjacent properties. Conducting pre-construction surveys is part of normal practice in large infrastructure projects to establish baseline conditions. DC Water will securely store survey and monitoring data collected and will destroy it when the project is completed. DC Water will provide property owners with a copy of their property's preconstruction survey report. On the inspection day, two inspectors with DC Water safety vests and DC Water badge IDs will perform the survey. The property owner will receive a confirmation before the inspection day with the names of the inspectors. Inspectors will wear face masks and shoe coverings. A copy of both pre- and post- construction survey reports will be provided to the owner.
64	"Can you confirm that DC Water will carry out pre- and post-construction surveys and comprehensive monitoring (including in-home monitoring) for whichever method is selected, including the tunnel boring machine and the "other mechanized methods." (Corr: 53)	Pre-and post-construction surveys will be offered regardless of the tunnel excavation method.
65	"The EIA mentions: "if conditions are encountered where ground improvements are required, the improvements would likely be performed underground from the tunnel." Does this include to the hill behind the homes - should the hill need to be reinforced to ensure its soundness (increased stability), which may be disturbed through this construction, will DC Water reinforce the hill as part of its construction? If we find that reinforcement is needed, what would that look like?" (Corr: 53)	Ground improvement refers to the area immediately around the tunnel excavation at depth, below grade. An example of ground improvement would be grouting joints in rock from inside the tunnel as the excavation is proceeding. The tunnel construction is not anticipated to adversely impact existing properties or the stability of the hillside north of Ingleside Terrace NW or adjacent streets. Reinforcement of the hillside is not planned or required to construct the tunnel project.

No.	Comment	Response
66	"What is the extent of the geotechnical investigation, i.e. where are borings proposed, how many borings are proposed, etc.?" (Corr: 53)	Thirteen borings have been conducted at the CSO 049 site, Park Road site and along the tunnel alignment. Additional borings may be conducted as the design progresses.
67	"The EIA states that "revisions were made because of changes to the CSA boundaries, as well as confirmation through geotechnical field investigations that the tunnel can be constructed south of Piney Branch Parkway NW." • What revisions? What geotechnical field investigations have been carried out to date? Can those be shared? Are additional geotechnical field investigations planned?" (Corr: 53)	The initial APE is shown in the EA in Appendix B, page B-6. The Final APE is in the EA on page 32. The APE was reduced on the north side of the Piney Branch stream. Thirteen borings have been conducted at the CSO 049 site, Park Road NW site, and along the tunnel alignment. Additional borings may be conducted as the design progresses. Geotechnical data will be made available upon request. Please submit a request to: dcpineybranch@dcwater.com
68	"Here and elsewhere the EIA mentions the Section 106 process. We have not been consulted as part of this process. We request additional information on the process and how we can participate." (Corr: 53)	The Section 106 process, the consultations conducted, and the outcome are described on pages 9, 37, 39, 41 and 56 of the EA.
69	"The EIA states that construction is expected to occur for approximately four years. Can you please provide further details on the timeline over these four years. For instance, will there be noise and disruption continuously for four years?" (Corr: 53)	Detailed construction phasing will be developed as the project progresses into final design. Certain parts of the schedule will be determined after consultations with the selected construction contractor. Specific schedule details are not developed at this stage.
70	"Please provide additional information on the mitigation measures that DC Water will take. What is the thorough vibration monitoring plan - will it include monitoring inside the homes? What measures will DC Water use to limit vibrations? We ask that DC Water put in place seismograph around the area to monitor the vibrations and make sure they do not travel to a place where they can impact the surrounding homes. (see also above comment about devices to place in the home)." (Corr: 53)	Please see the response to comment 62.

No.	Comment	Response
71	"What and how will DC Water determine if structural protections are needed? What is the determination of/definition of "if needed"? What would structural protections look like if they were implemented, and what structures are you proposing to protect? For instance, will you implement protection for all structures for homeowners? How will homeowners be involved in this process?" (Corr: 53)	Certain portions of the structures will be constructed immediately next to existing sewers and other infrastructure. An example includes the shaft at diversion structure at CSO 049, which is to be constructed within several feet of the existing sewers. Structural protections refer to support of excavation and potential bracing of the inside and outside of existing facilities. Structural protection is not anticipated to be needed for nearby homes along Ingleside Terrace NW. Vibrations limits and construction means and methods will be selected to not impact existing structures during construction. Vibration monitoring will be performed during construction to compare against construction contract limits. DC Water will require the construction contractor to implement mitigations to stay within limits.
72	"We would also like the opportunity to review designs (could be referred to as "design development," "permit" or "construction documents"), at different stages, such as 50%, 85-90% and 100%, and to specify avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures." (Corr: 53)	During the design process, DC Water will set up a public on-site meeting to discuss the project and obtain feedback. Mitigation measures will be explained and reviewed at the meeting.
73	"Please specify how DC Water will remain in contact with neighbors and what the process will be to address concerns or complaints? We ask that DC Water have a hotline available during construction of the project so that residents can quickly get in touch with someone who has authority to direct construction crews if there are issues." (Corr: 53) "How will DC Water keep the community informed during the design process? Will there be a website with all the resources? At what stages of the design will DC Water engage with the community?" (Corr: 53)	During construction, DC Water will: • Maintain a 24/7 Project Hotline. • Establish a project email and website. • Provide regular construction notifications on upcoming work and any changes in site areas occupied. • Provide traffic advisories. • Set up and attend public meetings and/or ANC meetings to brief the public on the project status and progress.

No.	Comment	Response
74	"Appendix B Response from Acting Superintendent NPS (pp. 83-85): "while we generally concur with the proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE), we question whether it takes indirect effects such as noise and vibration into account. The "rigid" tunnel boundaries indicated by the yellow lines the map below suggest that the APE may not sufficient account for these types of effects. • Please advise how you have accounted for this comment and taken into account the indirect effects?" (Corr: 53)	DC SHPO reviewed DC Water's project submittal. In a December 18, 2024, letter to the Rock Creek Park Superintendent, the DC SHPO stated that based upon recent information regarding historic resources in the area and the DC SHPO's "on-going participation in the consultation process, we have determined that this undertaking will have "no adverse effect" on historic properties provided the NPS will carry out the attached conditions." These mitigations will require DC Water to, among other actions, "Implement mitigation measures to minimize construction noise" and "Conduct preconstruction structure surveys, implement vibration monitoring plan, implement structural protections (if needed), and identify construction means and methods that avoid or minimize vibration." Based on the DC SHPO's requirements, and DC Water's experience from previous tunnel projects, the construction contractor will be required to implement the mitigations in DC SHPO's December 18, 2024, letter. The contractor will be required to monitor and measure vibration and noise at representative locations as part of the projects. Noise levels will be set to meet District of Columbia Municipal Regulations for construction. Vibration levels will be established to protect existing facilities and structures. Based on experience with other tunnel projects in the District, DC Water believes that construction of this nature can be conducted successfully.
75	"Appendix E does not include the above specified mitigation measures for the structures in the area of potential effects. It does not mention the pre- and post-construction surveys, the ongoing monitoring. These are important mitigation measures and seems to be a significant omission." (Corr: 53)	Noise and vibration monitoring and mitigation measures are listed in Appendix E under Visitor / Community Use and Experience on page 242 of the pdf.
76	"Please specify when a geotechnical report will be prepared and confirm that this will be shared with the public, and specifically homeowners within the area of potential impacts for comment and consultation." (Corr: 53)	Please see response to comments 67 and 72.
77	"Were other tunnel alignments considered to minimize impact to the homes within the area of potential impact? If so, why were they rejected?" (Corr: 53)	Appendix D of the EA identifies alternatives considered but dismissed. This includes an alternate alignment of the tunnel.

ATTACHMENT D: AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Mr. David Maloney
DC Historic Preservation Officer
Attn: Andrew Lewis, DC SHPO, Dr. Ruth Trocolli,
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024
Sent by email to andrew.lewis@dc.gov, ruth.trocolli@dc.gov

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Mr. Maloney:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

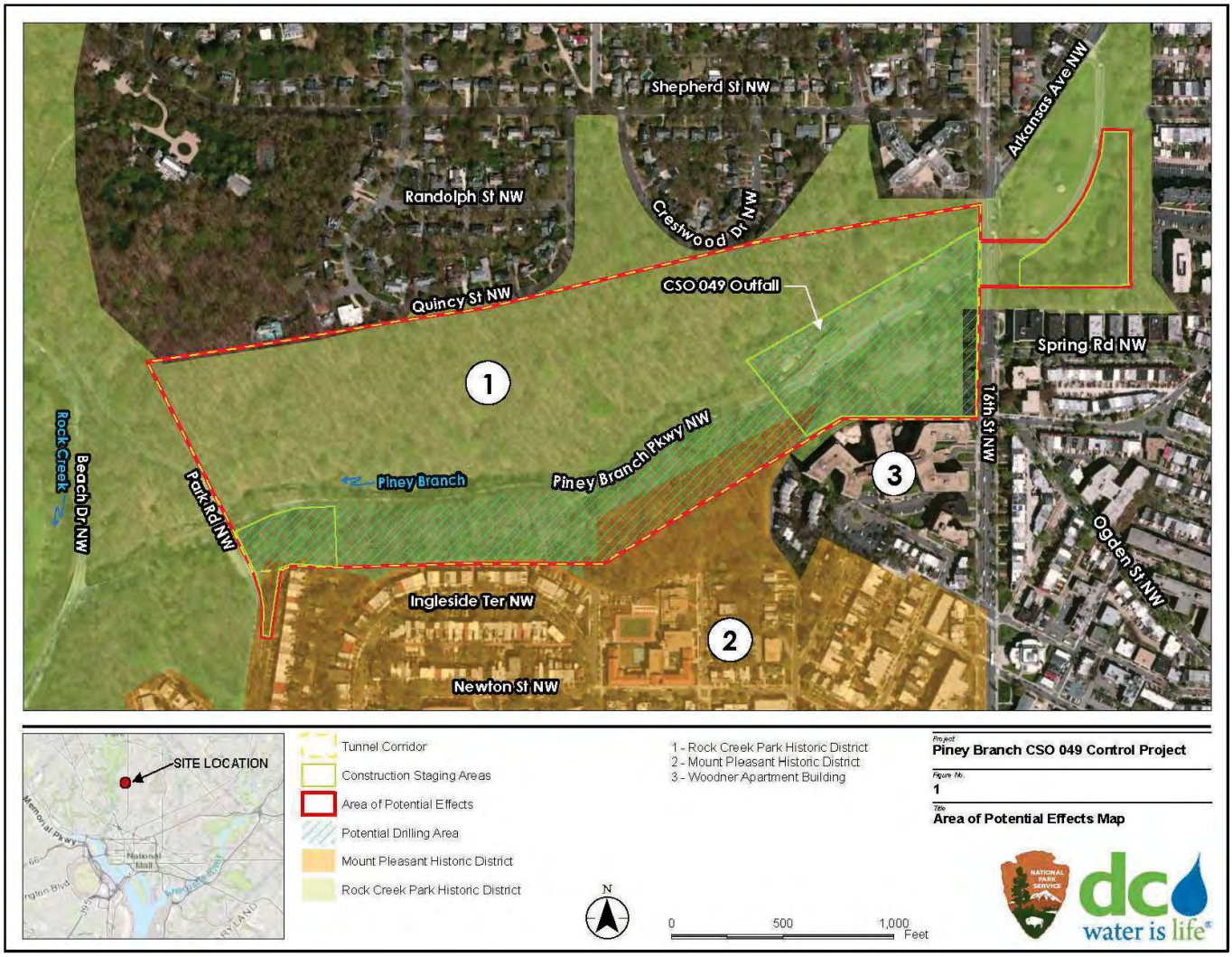
Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Chrissy Ames, DC SHPO



Note: The Area of Potential Effects Map above and the list of potential consulting parties that follows were sent with the tribal consultation letters as attachments. They have been excluded from this attachment to reduce the file size of the document.

	PINEY BRANCH CSO 049 CONTROL PROJECT POTENTIAL CONSULTING PARTIES			
	NAME	TITLE	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
Tribes	Erin Paden	Historic Preservation Director	Delaware Nation	epaden@delawarenation-nsn.gov
	Deborah Dotson	President	Delaware Nation	ec@delawarenation-nsn.gov
	Robert Gray	Chief	Pamunkey Indian Tribe	robert.gray@pamunkey.org
	William "Bill" Harris	Chief	Catawba Indian Nation	bill.harris@catawbaindian.net
	Dr. Wenonah Haire	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Catawba Indian Nation	wenonah.haire@catawba.com
	Caitlin Rogers	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Assistant	Catawba Indian Nation	Attn: THPO 1536 Tom Steven Road Rock Hill, SC, 29730
	Brad KillsCrow	Chief	Delaware Tribe of Indians	bkillscrow@delawaretribe.org
	Susan Bachor	East Coast Preservation Representative	Delaware Tribe of Indians	sbachor@delawaretribe.org
	Glenna Wallace	Chief	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	gjwallace@estoo.net
	Paul Barton	THPO/Cultural Preservation Director	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	pbarton@estoo.net
	Frank Adams	Chief	Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe	wfrankadams@verizon.net
	Reggie Tupponce	Tribal Administrator	Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe	admin@umitribe.org
	Anne Richardson	Chief	Rappahannock Tribe	chiefannerich@aol.com
	Earl Bass	Chief	Nansemond Indian Nation	chief@nansemond.org
	Megan Bass	Administrator	Nansemond Indian Nation	administrator@nansemond.org
	Stephen Adkins	Chief	Chickahominy Indian Tribe	chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com
	Dana Adkins	Tribal Environmental Director	Chickahominy Indian Tribe	dana.adkins@chickahominytribe.org
	Gerald Stewart	Chief	Chickahominy Tribe Eastern Division	wasandson@cox.net
	Kenneth Branham	Chief	Monacan Indian Nation	tribaloffice@monacannation.com
	Rufus Elliot	Tribal Administrator	Monacan Indian Nation	tribaladmin@monacannation.com
	John Johnson	Governor	Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma	jjohnson@astribe.com

Tribes continued	Benjamin Barnes	Chief	Shawnee Tribe	chief@shawnee-tribe.com
	Tonya Tipton	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Shawnee Tribe	tonya@shawnee-tribe.com
Agencies	Thomas Luebke	Secretary	US Commission of Fine Arts	tluebke@cfa.gov
	Sarah Batcheler	Shipstead-Luce Act Reviewer	US Commission of Fine Arts	flindstrom@cfa.gov
	Lee Webb	Historic Preservation Specialist	National Capital Planning Commission	lee.webb@ncpc.gov
	David Maloney	State Historic Preservation Officer	DC Historic Preservation Office	david.maloney@dc.gov
	Andrew Lewis	Senior Historic Preservation Specialist	DC Historic Preservation Office	andrew.lewis@dc.gov
	Jonathan Greene	Community Planner	Wards 1 and 4	jonathan.greene@dc.gov
ANCs	Robin Sandenburgh	Chair	ANC 1D	1D@anc.dc.gov
	Patience Singleton	Chair	ANC 4A	4A04@anc.dc.gov
	Namatie Sia Mansaray	Chair	ANC 4C	4C06@anc.dc.gov
Neighborhood Associations	Alberto Rivera	Chair	16th Street Neighborhood Association	SSNADC@gmail.com
	Nadine Parker	President	16th Street Heights Civic Association	njdspd@aol.com
Preservation Advocacy Groups	Rebecca Miller	Executive Director	DC Preservation League	rebecca@dcpreservation.org
	Jeanna Braha	Executive Director	Rock Creek Conservancy	jbraha@rockcreekconservancy.org
	John Suau	Executive Director	Historical Society of Washington DC	jsuau@dchistory.org
	Fay Armstrong	President	Historic Mount Pleasant	info@historicmountpleasant.org
	Kirby Vining	Chair	Committee of 100 on the Federal City	info@committeeof100.net

District of Columbia Office of Planning

August 31, 2022

Mr. Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent
National Park Service
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20407-0001

RE: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation for Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Mr. Joyner:

Thank you for initiating consultation with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) regarding the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the project submittal and are writing to provide our initial comments regarding potential effects on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

We understand that the National Park Service (NPS) and the DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) are working together to plan and construct a 4.2 million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. This tunnel, which is another component of DC Water's Clean Rivers Project, would collect, store and convey stormwater from Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 to DC Water's facility at Blue Plains where it would be treated prior to being discharged into the Potomac River. A range of related infrastructure (e.g. diversion structures, vents, drop shaft, access hatches) will also be constructed as part of the overall project. Once complete, combined storm/sewer overflows into Piney Branch would be reduced by as much as 96%.

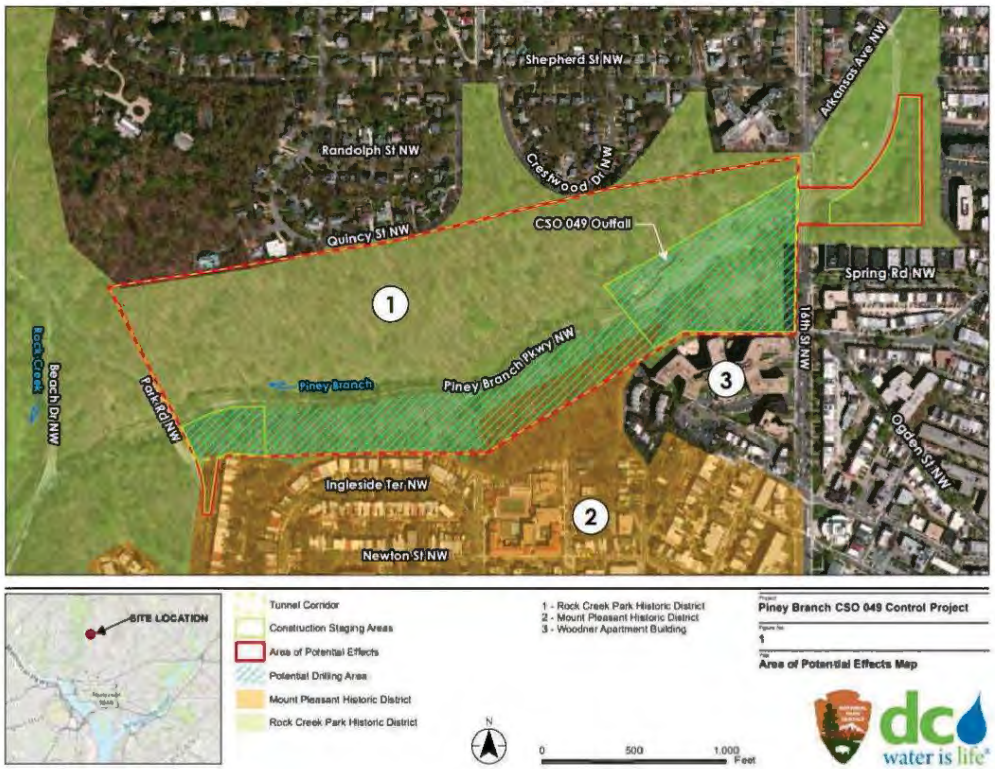
Historic Built Environment:

The project submittal indicates that CSO 049 was constructed in 1936 and modified in 1957. The National Register nomination for Rock Creek Park states that culverts and retaining walls are considered contributing if constructed within the period of significance (i.e. prior to 1941), but CSO 049 is not expressly addressed in the nomination. Therefore, DC Water plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) Form to evaluate the structure's potential historic significance. We look forward to reviewing the draft DOE when it becomes available.

While we generally concur with the proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE), we question whether it takes indirect effects such as noise and vibration into account. The "rigid" tunnel boundaries indicated by the dashed yellow lines in the map below suggest that the APE may not sufficiently account for these types of effects. If not, other potentially eligible properties such as the Crestwood Apartments at 3900 16th St, NW on the north side of the APE may need to be evaluated with DOE Forms. Further consultation about the APE will help to determine whether additional evaluation is warranted.

1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650, Washington, D.C. 20024 Phone: 202-442-7600, Fax: 202-442-7638

DRAFT AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT



The project information also indicates that the Woodner Apartment Building at 3636 16th St, NW was determined eligible in January 2022. We do not doubt the building is historically significant but we do not appear to have a record of any DOE prepared for that property. Please provide a copy at your earliest convenience.

Although the 16th Street Bridge is a contributing element of the Rock Creek Park Historic District, we recommend that it be individually identified on the APE map because construction is proposed immediately adjacent to and below the structure. If so, this historically significant bridge should be carefully monitored for effects that result from the construction project. DDOT should also be added to the consulting parties list since that agency maintains the bridge.

Archaeology:

With regard to archaeology, we concur with NPS that the project area requires phased archaeological investigations prior to determining effects. We have already provided the archaeological consultants with the Archaeological Resources ID outlining previously identified sites and surveys near the project area and we look forward to continued consultation on this important project in an archaeologically sensitive area.

1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650, Washington, D.C. 20024 Phone: 202-442-7600, Fax: 202-442-7638

If you should have any questions or comments regarding the historic built environment, please contact me at andrew.lewis@dc.gov or 202-442-8841. Questions or comments related to archaeology should be directed to Ruth Trocolli at ruth.trocolli@dc.gov or 202-442-8836. We look forward to consulting further with NPS, DC Water and all other parties to continue the Section 106 review of this undertaking.

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Lewis
Senior Historic Preservation Officer
DC State Historic Preservation Office

22-0744

1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650, Washington, D.C. 20024 Phone: 202-442-7600, Fax: 202-442-7638

Schrader, Brett

From: Tatiana Proctor (CTR) <Tatiana.Proctor@dcwater.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 27, 2024 9:53 AM
To: Schrader, Brett; Koziarski, Ralph
Subject: FW: Piney Branch Phase I Management Summary - Review Status
Attachments: MGMTSUM 898 SHPO Comment Table.pdf

Tatiana K Proctor, PE | Project Manager, DC Clean Rivers Project | District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority | 5000 Overlook Avenue, SW | Washington, DC 20032 | (202) 787-4450 | tatiana.proctor@dcwater.com

From: Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 26, 2024 6:44 PM
To: Seth Charde <Seth.Charde@dcwater.com>; Tatiana Proctor (CTR) <Tatiana.Proctor@dcwater.com>
Cc: Joshua Torres <joshua_torres@nps.gov>; Theuer, Jason <Jason_Theuer@nps.gov>; Gjesfjeld, Cortney C <Cortney_C_Gjesfjeld@nps.gov>; Bartolomeo, Nick <nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov>; Ralph Ferrara <Rcferrara1@gmail.com>; Lewis, Andrew (OP) <andrew.lewis@dc.gov>; Trocolli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov>
Subject: RE: Piney Branch Phase I Management Summary - Review Status

Afternoon all,

Thank you for your patience as we addressed the archaeological site boundary update for 51NW001, Piney Branch Quarry.

NPS & SHPO have come to a consensus on the updated site boundary & we (SHPO) have completed our review of the Phase IB archaeological report (*DC SHPO Archaeological Report # 898*). Given the results of Stantec's investigations, the updated site definition, and the current project plans, we agree with Stantec's recommendations that no additional archaeological investigations are needed prior to construction. We are ready to make a *conditional* No Adverse Effect finding for archaeology.

Conditions include 1) submission of draft and revised comprehensive technical report & updated site form for 51NW001 to DC SHPO for review/comment and per *DC Guidelines*; 2) submission to SHPO copies of all data generated (digital and paper) of all field notes, associated records, artifacts, artifact inventory and GIS data for curation, all prepared following *Guidelines* and the existing Collections Agreement for project; 3) Additional consultation with the SHPO should project plans change. Should any unanticipated discoveries be made during construction please immediately contact NPS & SHPO archaeologists and defer to NPS on how to proceed.

Ralph, I provided the updated site boundary shapefile via geodatabase (see Box.com) & included an exported graphic (jpg) with a legend detailing the polygons. Please defer to this when updating reporting & site form. Download only link- https://app.box.com/s/a59se93xj4z1ikyjyr1fvyvsgv8pl0q3

Also, in the folder are copies of SHPO's 1982 NRHP files for the site (so you don't have search email again) and the Word doc version of 51NW001 site form for you all to update ("51NW001_2024update"). This is summarized in our attached comment table. Let us know if any access issues or questions.

1

Talk soon,
Chrissy
HPO 22-0744

Christine Ames, RPA
Assistant District Archaeologist • DC Office of Planning
Pronouns: she/her/hers • Why Pronouns Matter?
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024
202.741.5246
christine.ames@dc.gov
planning.dc.gov

Telework Days: Tuesday & Wednesday. I can still be reached via email and phone during these days.
Sign up here for OP's newsletter and announcements

From: Trocolli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 12, 2024 11:01 AM
To: Seth Charde <Seth.Charde@dcwater.com>
Cc: Tatiana Proctor <Tatiana.Proctor@dcwater.com>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; Lewis, Andrew (OP) <andrew.lewis@dc.gov>; joshua_torres@nps.gov; Theuer, Jason <jason_theuer@nps.gov>; Giesfjeld, Cortney C <Cortney_C_Giesfjeld@nps.gov>
Subject: RE: Piney Branch Phase I Management Summary - Review Status

Hi Seth-
Following up on this. We are still working out the site boundaries on this with NPS. Once we are all in accord we'll all get you what you need.
Cheers-
Ruth
re: HPO 22-0744

Ruth Trocolli, Ph.D.
District Archaeologist • DC Office of Planning
Historic Preservation Office
She/Her • Why Pronouns Matter?
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024
202.442.8836
ruth.trocolli@dc.gov
planning.dc.gov/page/archaeology-district-columbia

Telework Day: Tuesday. I can still be reached via email and phone during this day.

Sign up here for OP's newsletter and announcements.

From: Seth Charde <Seth.Charde@dcwater.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Trocolli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov>
Cc: Tatiana Proctor <Tatiana.Proctor@dcwater.com>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; Lewis, Andrew (OP) <andrew.lewis@dc.gov>; joshua_torres@nps.gov
Subject: RE: Piney Branch Phase I Management Summary - Review Status

Hi Ruth,

Checking in on the status of formal comments from DCHPO on the Piney Branch Phase I Management Summary. After our meeting with DCHPO and NPS on February 8, it was our understanding that all open questions had been clarified/addressed. We were therefore expecting formal comments back from DCHPO shortly after that meeting. It's now been more than a month since that meeting and five months since the original submittal to DCHPO.

Please advise on when we can expect to receive the formal comments.

Thank you,

Seth

Seth Charde, P.E., LEED AP | Senior Manager, Green Infrastructure, DC Clean Rivers Project | District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority | 5000 Overlook Avenue, SW | Washington, DC 20032 | (202) 787-4730 | seth.charde@dcwater.com

From: Trocolli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 11, 2024 8:02 PM
To: Seth Charde <Seth.Charde@dcwater.com>
Cc: Tatiana Proctor <Tatiana.Proctor@dcwater.com>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>; Lewis, Andrew (OP) <andrew.lewis@dc.gov>
Subject: RE: Piney Branch Phase I Management Summary - Review Status

HI Seth-
We're still coordinating with NPS on the archaeological site data and recommendations. We'll get back to you as soon as we wind that up.
Cheers-
Ruth
re: HPO 22-0744

Ruth Trocolli, Ph.D.
District Archaeologist • DC Office of Planning
Historic Preservation Office
She/Her • Why Pronouns Matter?
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650 • Washington, DC 20024
202.442.8836
ruth.trocolli@dc.gov
planning.dc.gov/page/archaeology-district-columbia

Telework Days: Monday & Thursday. I can still be reached via email and phone during these days.
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3

From: Seth Charde <Seth.Charde@dcwater.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 10, 2024 3:22 PM
To: Lewis, Andrew (OP) <andrew.lewis@dc.gov>; Trocolli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov>
Cc: Tatiana Proctor <Tatiana.Proctor@dcwater.com>
Subject: Piney Branch Phase I Management Summary - Review Status

Good Afternoon Andrew and Ruth –

On behalf of DC Water, Stantec submitted the Piney Branch Tunnel **Phase I Management Summary on October 31, 2023. It has been well over the 30 – 45 day review period and we have yet to receive a response on DC SHPO's review of the reports.**

Would you please let us know what the status of the review is by Friday January 12.

Thank you in advance and please let me know if you have any questions.

Regards,

Seth

Seth Charde, PLA, LEED AP | Senior Manager, Green Infrastructure, DC Clean Rivers Project | District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority | 5000 Overlook Avenue, SW | Washington, DC 20032 | (202) 787-4730 | seth.charde@dcwater.com

Schrader, Brett

From: Gjesfjeld, Cortney C <Cortney_C_Gjesfjeld@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 11:47 AM
To: Tatiana Proctor (CTR); Trocolli, Ruth (OP); Bartolomeo, Nick; Ames, Christine (OP)
Cc: Koziarski, Ralph; Schrader, Brett; Seth Charde; John Cassidy (CTR)
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: Piney Branch CSO Design Change Discussion

Hi Tatiana,

Many thanks to everyone for their time yesterday. It was helpful to collectively discuss the proposed revisions to the project and I am happy that we were able to come to a consensus on no adverse effect to archeology. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this project.

All the best,

Cortney

From: Tatiana Proctor (CTR) <Tatiana.Proctor@dcwater.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 8, 2024 10:16 AM
To: Gjesfjeld, Cortney C <Cortney_C_Gjesfjeld@nps.gov>; Trocolli, Ruth (OP) <Ruth.Trocolli@dc.gov>; Bartolomeo, Nick <Nick_Bartolomeo@nps.gov>; Ames, Christine (OP) <christine.ames@dc.gov>
Cc: Koziarski, Ralph <Ralph.Koziarski@stantec.com>; Schrader, Brett <brett.schrader@stantec.com>; Seth Charde <Seth.Charde@dcwater.com>; John Cassidy (CTR) <John.Cassidy@dcwater.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Piney Branch CSO Design Change Discussion

Good Afternoon Everyone –

Thank you again for meeting with us to discuss the updates and revisions of the project and the project boundary.

Based on the outcome of our meeting yesterday where we confirmed the project will have no adverse on archaeology, our team will move forward with coordinating next steps with DC HPO.

Thank you again,
Tatiana

Tatiana K Proctor, PE | Project Manager, DC Clean Rivers Project | District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority | 5000 Overlook Avenue, SW | Washington, DC 20032 | (202) 787-4450 | tatiana.proctor@dcwater.com

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008-1207

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1.A.2. (ROCR)

November 21, 2024

Mr. David Maloney
Historic Preservation Officer
Attn: Mr. Andrew Lewis, Dr. Ruth Trocolli
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office
899 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 7100
Washington, D.C. 20002

Subject: Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch Tunnel Project

Dear Mr. Maloney:

The National Park Service (NPS), Rock Creek Park, is requesting to continue Section 106 consultation with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office regarding the proposed Piney Branch Tunnel Project.

Background

Consultation was initiated with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) for the Piney Branch Tunnel Project (the proposed undertaking) on July 21, 2022, in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 United States Code [USC] § 306108), and its implementing regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] § 800). The consultation initiation letter identified the NPS as the lead federal agency for the Section 106 compliance process, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) established for the proposed undertaking, and the historic properties located within the APE. The NPS sent consultation initiation letters on July 21, 2022, to the Delaware Nation, Pamunkey Indian Tribe, Catawba Indian Nation, Delaware Tribe of Indians, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, Rappahannock Tribe, Nansemond Indian Nation, Chickahominy Indian Tribe, Chickahominy Tribe Eastern Division, Monacan Indian Nation, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, and Shawnee Tribe. The NPS and DC Water also hosted a virtual agency scoping meeting to discuss the project on December 16, 2022.

Since Section 106 consultation was initiated, the NPS and DC Water have prepared an Assessment of Effects (AOE Report) to describe the proposed undertaking, revised APE, as well as the no action alternative, and assess potential adverse effects on historic properties, including archeological resources. Concurrently, DC Water and NPS have released for public review an Environmental Assessment, which analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

Project Description

DC Water is proposing to construct the Piney Branch Tunnel Project, a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) within Rock Creek Park in northwest Washington, DC. The project includes construction of a minimum 4.2-million-gallon capacity underground storage tunnel to capture sewage, combined with stormwater, that would otherwise overflow into Piney Branch, a perennial tributary that drains to Rock Creek, when the capacity of the existing combined sewer system is exceeded during storms. A diversion structure proposed at the Piney Branch Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) outfall, known as CSO 049, would redirect sewage and stormwater to the storage tunnel. The combined sewage captured and stored by the tunnel would slowly discharge into the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer (ERCDS) and flow by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains for treatment when the existing sewer system has capacity to handle the volume. DC Water would construct other supporting infrastructure, including an upstream drop shaft, ventilation chambers, and terminal shaft as part of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project.

Historic Properties

The NPS identified several historic properties within the APE. DC Water proposes to construct the Piney Branch Tunnel Project within the Rock Creek Park Historic District and associated Rock Creek Park's parent cultural landscape, the Mount Pleasant Historic District, and within viewshed of the Woodener Apartment Building, which was determined eligible for listing in the National Register in January 2022.

Rock Creek Park Historic District / Rock Creek Park Cultural Landscape

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, the Rock Creek Park Historic District and associated parent Rock Creek Park cultural landscape lie north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the National Register on October 23, 1991 (NR# 91001524) with national significance under criteria A, B, and C (NPS 1991). While Reservation 339 of Rock Creek Park has been identified as a parent cultural landscape, documentation of this landscape has not been completed.

Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910; Piney Branch Parkway NW, constructed in 1935; and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls, constructed in 1936. There is one earthen trail on the south side of Piney Branch Parkway, between Park Road NW and 17th Street NW created by informal use but maintained by NPS. Though each informal earthen trail within the Historic

District is not specifically called out in the National Register nomination, as the more formal bridle paths are, they are considered contributing resources.

Several features within the APE are not contributing to the historic district, including the newly constructed multi-use trail just north of Piney Branch Parkway NW along with the picnic structure and seating directly east of the outfall. The CSO 049 outfall structure itself was heavily altered outside the period of significance and was determined not eligible for listing in the National Register or the DC Inventory, either as an individual resource, or a contributing element of the Rock Creek Park Historic District, based on a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) signed by the DC HPO on March 20, 2023. The Park Road Bridge, constructed in 1958, is the only other major infrastructure within the Rock Creek Park Historic District in the APE. The bridge does not contribute to the significance of the historic district.

Mount Pleasant Historic District

The Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street NW to the east, Harvard Street NW to the south, and Rock Creek Park Historic District to the north and west. The district was listed in the National Register on October 5, 1987 (NR# 87001726) with approximately 1,100 contributing structures constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance. Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC, listed under Criterion C for architecture and community planning (History Committee, Mount Pleasant ANC-IE 1987).

The northern boundary of Mount Pleasant aligns directly with the Rock Creek Park Historic District boundary, and a small portion of the Park Road Construction Staging Area (CSA) along the Park Road Bridge (1958) falls within the boundaries. Contributing resources within the APE include the northernmost houses along Park Road NW (2071 – 2063 Park Road NW), and their associated stairs and retaining walls. The turnaround just south of the Park Road Bridge does not contribute to either the Mount Pleasant or Rock Creek Park historic districts as it was added after the Park Road Bridge was constructed in 1958.

Woodner Apartment Building

Built between 1950 and 1952, the Woodner Apartments were developed by the Jonathan Woodner Company, and designed by Washington architect Wallace F. Holliday, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner. The architects choose the distinct International Style featuring a flat roof, ribbon windows, exterior balconies, and sophisticated mid-century interior spaces and landscape elements. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period in the District, the expansive, luxury apartment complex embodies the International Style and the newly cultivated, modern cosmopolitan image of the national capital of the time (EHT Traceries 2021). It was determined eligible for listing in the National Register on January 11, 2022. Specific design elements of the landscape that are contributing and within the viewshed of the project include the northeast and northwest courtyards, which overlook the CSO 049 CSA.

Archeological Resources

The Piney Branch Quarry Site (51NW0001) was first documented on the hillsides north and south of the Piney Branch stream valley at the end of the nineteenth century (Holmes 1897). The large site contains extensive quartzite lithic artifacts in stratified pre-Contact Native American contexts, particularly from the Late Archaic period. Chipped stone and groundstone tools, along with lithic debitage deposits, have been documented in the portion of the site located on the blufftop north of CSO 049 (Bedell et al. 2008). A very small portion of the site boundary documented by Bedell et al. (2008) extends to the base of the hill, but there is no record that artifacts or cultural features have been recovered from this location. Site components south of Piney Branch were destroyed by construction of the Woodner Apartments complex and construction of the Mount Pleasant neighborhood.

During site investigations, Stantec archeologists also recorded a multicomponent site on a 285-x-190-foot (86.9-x-57.9 m) section of a floodplain terrace over the south bank of Piney Branch southwest of CSO 049 (Swain 2023). Archeologists unearthed 31 non-diagnostic specimens of quartz and quartzite debitage, and 89 nineteenth to early twentieth century domestic artifacts including ceramic tableware, bottle fragments, construction materials, toys, and other debris. A cobble foundation feature was also documented, although there are no historically mapped buildings at the location.

The Piney Branch Quarry Site was not included in the original NRHP listing of the Rock Creek Park Historic District (Bushong 1990), but it is included in the proposed updated/amended nomination and boundary increase submission as a contributing resource (Liebertz et al. 2014). It is also considered a contributing resource to the Rock Creek Park Historic District listing in the DC Inventory. The Piney Branch Quarry Site has also been recommended individually eligible for listing in the NRHP based on a draft nomination form that was prepared by Dr. Stephen Potter in 1982 (Potter 1982).

Through consultation, the NPS and DC SHPO have expanded the boundaries of Piney Branch Quarry Site to encompass the area included in the 1982 NRHP nomination form by Potter (1982), which captures the quarries on the south side of Piney Branch that have since been destroyed by construction of the Woodner Apartments and Mount Pleasant neighborhood, as well as the new multi-component site recorded by Stantec in 2023.

No additional archaeological investigations were recommended elsewhere in the APE, including around the Park Road CSA due to steep slopes and prior disturbance. Furthermore, no additional archaeological investigations were recommended in the proposed paths of the PEPCO electrical connections that are needed to power construction and operational equipment at the CSO 049 and Park Road CSAs due to prior disturbance.

Next Steps

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the NPS is considering the effects of this undertaking to historic properties. The proposed APE includes lands along Piney Branch

extending from Park Road NW east of 16th Street NW. Please see enclosed map for project boundaries, construction staging areas, and historic properties within the APE.

The NPS invites you to provide any additional comments regarding the proposed project. While we believe this undertaking will result in "No Adverse Effects" to historic properties, we request your feedback before issuing a formal determination of effect. It should be noted that previous consultation with DC HPO resulted in a "Conditional No Adverse Effect" determination for the historic built environment and archeological resources. Please see page 24 of the AOE report for full list of conditions. Concurrent to Section 106 consultation, the NPS is reviewing this project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to evaluate potential environmental impacts that would result from the proposed action.

If you have any questions or comments regarding this correspondence, please contact Cortney Cain Gjesfjeld, Cultural Resources Program Manager, by telephone at 202-834-3369 or by email at cortney_c_gjesfjeld@nps.gov. If Ms. Gjesfjeld is not available, please contact Resource Manager Nick Bartolomeo by telephone at 202-579-8494, or by email at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner
Superintendent

Enclosures:
Piney Branch Tunnel Project Assessment of Effects Report (AOE Report)
Figure 3-1. Historic Properties within the APE

District of Columbia Office of Planning

December 18, 2024

Mr. Brian Joyner, Superintendent
National Park Service, Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20407-0001

RE: Conclusion of Section 106 Consultation for Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Mr. Joyner:

Thank you for continuing to consult with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) regarding the above-referenced undertaking. We have reviewed the most recent project submittal, including the final project Assessment of Effects Report, and are writing to provide additional comments regarding effects on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800.

As stated in previous correspondence, we understand that the National Park Service (NPS) and the DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water) are working together to plan and construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. This tunnel, which is another component of DC Water's Clean Rivers Project, will collect, store and convey stormwater from Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 to DC Water's facility at Blue Plains where it will be treated prior to being discharged into the Potomac River. A range of related infrastructure (e.g. diversion structures, vents, drop shaft, access hatches) will also be constructed as part of the overall project. Once complete, combined storm/sewer overflows into Piney Branch will be reduced by as much as 96%.

Section 106 consultation regarding this undertaking was formally initiated in 2022 and resulted in the identification of several historic properties in the Area of Potential Effect. However, in February 2023, we received the Determination of Eligibility (DOE) Form we had requested for CSO 049. In March of that year, we concurred with the NPS that the structure was not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as an individual resource or as a contributing element of the Rock Creek Park Historic District due to loss of integrity caused by significant alterations made during the 1950s. Archaeological survey was also conducted as part of the review process and we concurred with the NPS that archaeological resources, including the NRHP-listed Piney Branch Quarry archaeological site, 51NW001 would not be adversely affected.

Based upon these findings and our on-going participation in the consultation process, we have determined that this undertaking will have "no adverse effect" on historic properties provided the NPS will carry out the attached conditions. If you should have any questions or comments regarding the historic built environment, please contact me at andrew.lewis@dc.gov or 202-442-8841. Questions or comments related to archaeology should be directed to Ruth Trocolli at ruth.trocolli@dc.gov or 202-442-8836.

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Lewis
Senior Historic Preservation Officer
DC State Historic Preservation Office

22-0744

899 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 7100, Washington, DC 20002 Phone: 202-442-7600, Fax: 202-442-7638

Historic Districts and Cultural Landscape Conditions

- Implement mitigation measures to minimize construction noise.
- Conduct preconstruction structure surveys, implement vibration monitoring plan, implement structural protections (if needed), and identify construction means and methods that avoid or minimize vibration.
- Replace or repair existing concrete outfall apron with grouted stone channel, pending detailed design and review by appropriate agencies.
- Implement structural protections to prevent accidental damage to the 16th Street Bridge in coordination with DDOT.
- Develop detailed landscape restoration plans that include replacement trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation identified by NPS resource managers. Replacement trees should be up to 2.5-inch caliper size per tree, and the quantity of replacement trees would be determined by NPS resource managers in accordance with NCPC Tree Preservation and Replacement Policy.
- Plant replacement trees in locations that restore the tree canopy of the cultural landscape and maintain open spaces that were an intentional design of the park to the extent possible.
- Restore the historic alignment of Piney Branch Parkway per FHWA parkway reconstruction design plans once construction of the Piney Branch Tunnel Project is complete.

Archeological Conditions

- Submit draft and revised comprehensive technical report and updated site form for 51NW001 to DC SHPO for review/comment.
- Submit copies of all data generated (digital and paper) to DC SHPO, including all field notes, associated records, artifacts, artifact inventory, and GIS data for curation per DC Guidelines and the existing Collections Agreement.
- Conduct additional consultation with DC SHPO should project plans change.
- Immediately contact NPS and DC SHPO archaeologists should any unanticipated discoveries be made during construction and defer to NPS on how to proceed.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Governor John Johnson
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Sent by email to jjohnson@astribe.com

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Governor Johnson:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Wenonah Haire, DMD
Catawba Indian Nation
Sent by email to wenonah.haire@catawba.com

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Dr. Haire:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Catawba Indian Nation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

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NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

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Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

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Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

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cc: Chief Bill Harris, Catawba Indian Nation
Caitlin Rogers, Catawba Indian Nation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Bill Harris
Catawba Indian Nation
Sent by email to bill.harris@catawbaindian.net

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Harris:

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Purpose and Need

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Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

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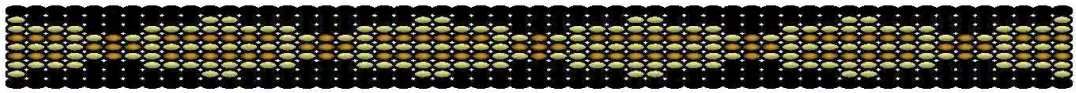
cc: Caitlin Rogers, Catawba Indian Nation
Wenonah Haire, DMD, Catawba Indian Nation

Catawba Indian Nation
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
1536 Tom Steven Road
Rock Hill, South Carolina 29730

Office 803-328-2427



September 9, 2022

Attention: Nick Bartolomeo
USDI NPS
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

Re. THPO #	TCNS #	Project Description
2022-384-79		Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Mr. Bartolomeo,

The Catawba have no immediate concerns with regard to traditional cultural properties, sacred sites or Native American archaeological sites within the boundaries of the proposed project areas. **However, the Catawba are to be notified if Native American artifacts and / or human remains are located during the ground disturbance phase of this project.**

If you have questions please contact Caitlin Rogers at 803-328-2427 ext. 226, or e-mail Caitlin.Rogers@catawba.com.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Rogers for

Wenonah G. Haire
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Stephen Adkins
Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Sent by email to chiefstephenadkins@gmail.com

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Adkins:

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In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

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Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

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cc: Dana Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

United States Department of the Interior

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National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Dana Adkins, Tribal Environmental Director
Chickahominy Indian Tribe
Sent by email to dana.adkins@chickahominytribe.org

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

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Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Chief Stephen Adkins, Chickahominy Indian Tribe

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Gerald Stewart
Chickahominy Tribe Eastern Division
Sent by email to wasandson@cox.net

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Stewart:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Chickahominy Tribe Eastern Division in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

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Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

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Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Ms. Erin Paden
Historic Preservation Director
Delaware Nation
Sent by email to epaden@delawarenation-nsn.gov

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Ms. Paden:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Delaware Nation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

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Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

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Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Ms. Deborah Dotson, Delaware Nation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Susan Bachor
Delaware Tribe of Indians
Sent by email to sbachor@delawaretribe.org

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Ms. Bachor:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Delaware Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

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Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Chief Brad KillsCrow, Delaware Tribe of Indians

Schrader, Brett

From: Amanda Zander (CTR) <Amanda.Jacob@dcwater.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 12:37 PM
To: Schrader, Brett
Subject: Fw: Meeting Tonight! DC Water Seeks Public Input on the Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project

Amanda Zander, REM| Public Outreach Coordinator & Private Space Implementation Manager, DC Clean Rivers Project | District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority | 5000 Overlook Avenue, SW | Washington, DC 20032 | (202) 787-4142 |amanda.zander@dcwater.com

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From: DC Piney Branch <dcpineybranch@dcwater.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2024 12:34 PM
To: Amanda Zander (CTR) <Amanda.Jacob@dcwater.com>
Subject: Fw: Meeting Tonight! DC Water Seeks Public Input on the Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project

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From: Susan Bachor <sbachor@DelawareTribe.onmicrosoft.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 18, 2023 12:34 PM
To: DC Piney Branch <dcpineybranch@dcwater.com>
Subject: Re: Meeting Tonight! DC Water Seeks Public Input on the Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project

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Thank for reaching out to the Delaware Tribe of Indians regarding this project. This Piney Branch project is outside our area of interest. WE have no comment on this project.
Best.

Susan Bachor, M.A.
Deputy THPO & Archaeologist
Delaware Tribe Historic Preservation
126 University Circle
Stroud Hall, Rm. 437
East Stroudsburg PA 18301
NEW ***cell-1.539.529.1671***
sbachor@delawaretribe.org- electronic submissions preferred
Please call for appointment.

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Brad KillsCrow
Delaware Tribe of Indians
Sent by email to bkillscrow@delawaretribe.org

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief KillsCrow:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Delaware Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

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Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Susan Bachor, Delaware Tribe of Indians

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Ms. Deborah Dotson
President
Delaware Nation
Sent by email to ec@delawarenation-nsn.gov

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Ms. Dotson:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Delaware Nation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

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Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Deputy Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Ms. Erin Paden, Delaware Nation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Paul Barton
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Sent by email to pbarton@estoo.net

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Mr. Barton:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

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Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

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Woodner Apartment Building

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Chief Glenna Wallace, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Glenna Wallace
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Sent by email to gjwallace@estoo.net

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Wallace:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

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NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Paul Barton, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Kenneth Branham
Monacan Indian Nation
Sent by email to tribaloffice@monacannation.com

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Branham:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Monacan Indian Nation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

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NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

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Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Rufus Elliot, Monacan Indian Nation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Rufus Elliot, Tribal Administrator
Monacan Indian Nation
Sent by email to tribaladmin@monacannation.com

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Mr. Elliot:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Monacan Indian Nation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

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Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Chief Kenneth Branham, Monacan Indian Nation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Earl Bass
Nansemond Indian Nation
Sent by email to chief@nansemond.org

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Bass:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Nansemond Indian Nation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

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Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

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Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

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Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Megan Bass, Nansemond Indian Nation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Megan Bass, Administrator
Nansemond Indian Nation
Sent by email to administrator@nansemond.org

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Ms. Bass:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Nansemond Indian Nation in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

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Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Chief Earl Bass, Nansemond Indian Nation

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Robert Gray
Pamunkey Indian Tribe
Sent by email to robert.gray@pamunkey.org

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Gray:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Pamunkey Indian Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

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NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Anne Richardson
Rappahannock Tribe
Sent by email to chiefannerich@aol.com

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Richardson:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Rappahannock Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Benjamin Barnes
Shawnee Tribe
Sent by email to chief@shawnee-tribe.com

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Barnes:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Shawnee Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

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NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Tonya Tipton, Shawnee Tribe

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Tonya Tipton, THPO
Shawnee Tribe
Sent by email to tonya@shawnee-tribe.com

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Ms. Tipton:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Shawnee Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

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Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

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We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Chief Benjamin Barnes, Shawnee Tribe

Schrader, Brett

From: Amanda Zander <Amanda.Jacob@dcwater.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 11:39 AM
To: Michael Gallo; Schrader, Brett
Subject: Fw: Section 106 Consultation - Meeting Tonight! DC Water Seeks Public Input on the Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project

FYI, see below.

Amanda

Amanda Zander, REM| Public Outreach Coordinator & Private Space Implementation Manager, DC Clean Rivers Project | District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority | 5000 Overlook Avenue, SW | Washington, DC 20032 | (202) 787-4142 |amanda.zander@dcwater.com

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From: DC Piney Branch <dcpineybranch@dcwater.com>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2023 11:37 AM
To: Amanda Zander <Amanda.Jacob@dcwater.com>
Subject: Fw: Section 106 Consultation - Meeting Tonight! DC Water Seeks Public Input on the Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project

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From: Laserfiche Notification <donotreply@laserfiche.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2023 6:28 PM
To: DC Piney Branch <dcpineybranch@dcwater.com>
Subject: Section 106 Consultation - Meeting Tonight! DC Water Seeks Public Input on the Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project

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This email is in response to Meeting Tonight! DC Water Seeks Public Input on the Piney Branch CSO 049 Storage Project. The project is out of the Shawnee Tribe's area of interest. If you have any questions, you may contact me via email at Section106@shawnee-tribe.com.
Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this project.
Sincerely,

Erin Paden
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION SPECIALIST
Office: (918) 542-2441, x140
Email: epaden@shawnee-tribe.com
29 S Hwy 69A
Miami, OK 74354
shawnee-tribe.com

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Chief Frank Adams
Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
Sent by email to wfrankadams@verizon.net

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Chief Adams:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by increasing CSO storage and conveyance capacity. The project is needed to reduce CSOs that contribute to water quality impairment of Rock Creek, the Potomac River, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay; and to comply with the 2005 Federal Consent Decree entered into by DC Water, the District of Columbia, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the US Department of Justice, as amended January 2016.

Section 106 and Historic Properties

To prepare for the Section 106 consultation process, the project team has developed a graphic illustration of the draft Area of Potential Effects (APE), (see attached), that is subject to modification through the consultation process. The draft APE for indirect effects encompasses the tunnel corridor (i.e., the area within which the tunnel could be constructed underground), while the APE for direct effects includes potential areas of direct surface disturbance at construction staging areas, as well as locations within the tunnel corridor that may be selected for geotechnical drilling operations. The specific drilling locations, while currently unknown, are anticipated to be within the APE south of Piney Branch Parkway.

NPS and DC Water will work with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) and other consulting parties to finalize a formal determination of effect through the Section 106 consultation process. A list of potential consulting parties can be found attached this this letter. We welcome the opportunity to identify and evaluate modifications to the proposed project that will avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties within the APE.

A preliminary list of historic resources within the draft APE includes Rock Creek Park Historic District and Mount Pleasant Historic District, both listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and the Woodner Apartment Building (3636 16th Street, NW), which was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP through a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 submittal in 2022 (NPS Project #44327).

Rock Creek Park Historic District

Also referred to as US Reservation 339, Rock Creek Park Historic District lies north of the Smithsonian National Zoo and contains nine contributing buildings and 22 structures and objects. The period of significance stretches from 1791 to 1941. The Historic District was listed in the DC Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) in 1964 and was listed in the NRHP in 1991. Three contributing resources fall within the APE including the 16th Street Bridge, constructed between 1907 and 1910, Piney Branch Parkway, constructed in 1935, and the Piney Branch Parkway retaining walls erected in 1936.

Within the Rock Creek Park Historic District, CSO 049 was constructed circa 1936 (Photo 1); however, the culvert was heavily altered and expanded from a one-gate outfall to a three-gate outfall circa 1957. The original one-gate outfall was expanded to two gates (Photo 2) and a third gate was added west of the original (Photo 3). The stonework and design between the 1936 culvert and the 1957 culvert are markedly different, including height, cap design, mortar joints, and ashlar pattern of the stone. CSO 049 is not specifically mentioned in the Rock Creek Historic District NRHP nomination, though the nomination does state that culverts and retaining walls are contributing if they were constructed prior to 1941. No formal Determination of Eligibility has been executed on CSO 049 documenting integrity of the 1936 design. DC Water or their contractor plans to prepare a Determination of Eligibility for the outfall structure and requests your comments or feedback prior to commencing the work.

Note, the only other major infrastructure within the APE is the Park Road Bridge constructed in 1958; it is not a contributing resource to the historic district.

Photo 1: 1936 photograph of the original CSO 049 outfall (DC Water, 1936).

Photo 2: Former single-gate outfall was converted to a double-gate outfall in 1957 (Traceries, 2022).

Photo 3: The third gate of CSO 049, which lies west of the double-gate outfall (Traceries, 2022).

Mount Pleasant Historic District

Mount Pleasant Historic District is bounded roughly by 16th Street, NW, to the east, Harvard Street, NW, to the south, Rock Creek Park Historic District to the west, and Piney Branch Park (a section of Rock Creek Park Historic District), to the north. Containing approximately 1,100 contributing buildings constructed between 1870 and 1949, which is also the identified period of significance, Mount Pleasant is a significant planned historic neighborhood in Washington, DC. The district was listed in the DC Inventory in 1987, and in the NRHP, that same year, under Criterion C for architecture and community planning.

Woodner Apartment Building

Completed in 1952, the Woodner Apartment Building was designed by architect Wallace F. Holladay, Sr., in collaboration with owner-architect Ian Woodner for the Jonathan Woodner Company. Designed and constructed during the early postwar period, the Wooder became the preferred home base for many prominent political figures during this time of economic and demographic expansion of Washington, DC. The luxury building was executed in the International Style, with an expansive lobby, high end restaurants, and lounges with views overlooking Rock Creek Park. The building was determined eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C in January 2022 for its association with Washington's postwar culture and history and its luxurious mid-century international design.

Archeological Resources

In addition, Stantec Consulting Services Inc. (Stantec), on behalf of NPS and DC Water, is in the process of developing a Phase 1A Archeological Work Plan to assess the potential for archaeological resources

within the APE. Upon confirmation of initiation of Section 106 review by the DC SHPO, Stantec, on behalf of NPS and DC Water, will submit a formal request for an Archaeological Resources ID, which will be needed to complete a Phase IA Archeological Work Plan. The resources ID will summarize previous archaeological studies, and any resources found within this project's proposed APE, and within a designated buffer. The work plan will describe soil conditions within the APE where direct effects (i.e., ground surface disturbance) is anticipated, including elevation change, and proposed investigations to assess the archaeological potential within the direct effects APE.

Section 106 and NEPA Coordination

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and in partnership with DC Water, the NPS will prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) to document the analysis of potential impacts of the proposed CSO control project. NPS plans to coordinate the Section 106 and NEPA processes per the implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800.8) of the NHPA. The NPS will also develop an Assessment of Effect for this project as a separate, but parallel, process to the EA.

We look forward to beginning the Section 106 consultation process for this project. If you have any questions or preliminary feedback related to the project, draft APE, historic properties, or regarding the preparation of a formal Determination of Eligibility for CSO 049, please contact Nick Bartolomeo, Resource Manager for Rock Creek Park, at nick_bartolomeo@nps.gov or call (202) 895-6010.

Sincerely,

Brian D. Joyner

Brian Joyner
Acting Superintendent

Attachments: Draft Area of Potential Effects Map
List of Potential Consulting Parties

cc: Reggie Tupponce, Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1207

July 21, 2022

Reggie Tupponce, Tribal Administrator
Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe
Sent by email to admin@umitribe.org

Re: Initiation of Section 106 Consultation, Piney Branch CSO 049 Control Project

Dear Mr. Tupponce:

The District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS), proposes to construct a 4.2-million-gallon underground storage and conveyance tunnel to provide control for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) 049 along Piney Branch in Rock Creek Park. NPS is writing to formally initiate consultation with the Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (54 U.S.C. § 306108) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR § 800).

In addition to the tunnel, the project would also include construction of new diversion structures to redirect CSOs from Piney Branch into the tunnel when the capacity of the existing sewer system is exceeded during storms. Other supporting infrastructure would include ventilation control, drop shafts, and access shafts. Once diverted to the tunnel, excess flows would be conveyed by gravity to DC Water's Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant by the East Rock Creek Diversion Sewer for treatment before being discharged to the Potomac River. The proposed tunnel is a component of DC Water's Long Term Control Plan, also known as the DC Clean River Project. The project would reduce untreated discharges from the combined sewer system to Piney Branch by an estimated 96%, as well as reduce existing CSO frequency from 25 to one per average rainfall year.

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Brian D. Joyner

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Acting Superintendent

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