



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Capital Parks-East
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

IN REPLY REFER TO:

L76 (NCR-NACE/RM)

April 5, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am pleased to announce the availability of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Broad Creek Wastewater Pumping Station conveyance System Augmentation Proposed Main Force Addition Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment.

This document evaluates the potential environmental effects of the proposed Broad Creek Wastewater Pumping Station (WWPS) Conveyance System Augmentation project at Harmony Hall, a National Park Service (NPS) property in Prince George's County, Maryland. The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and the NPS prepared the EA in accordance with the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA) and other environmental laws, regulations, and executive orders. Because WSSC is required to obtain a Right-of-Way permit for construction on NPS property, and due to proposed permanent alterations to the grounds of Harmony Hall, an EA was required to evaluate the proposed actions.

Operated by WSSC, the Broad Creek WWPS pumps sanitary wastewater from an estimated 5,860 housing units in the Broad Creek sewer basin to the Piscataway Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which discharges treated wastewater to the Potomac River. The Broad Creek WWPS has a history of frequent sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) - unintentional discharges of untreated sewage from sanitary sewers into Broad Creek, near its confluence with the Potomac River - during extreme rain events. Although many of these SSOs have resulted from power failures, others are directly related to the substandard capacity of the pumping and conveyance systems during wet weather conditions.

This EA examines the no action alternative and one action alternative. In the preferred alternative, WSSC is planning a number of separate but related actions to upgrade the Broad Creek WWPS and the Piscataway Creek WWTP. The proposed Broad Creek WWPS Conveyance System Augmentation project would include an additional conveyance pipeline, or "force main," to carry wastewater to the Piscataway Creek WWTP. A portion of this project would take place on NPS property. By increasing the capacity of the Broad Creek WWPS, the proposed project - in conjunction with the other related improvements to the Broad Creek WWPS and the Piscataway Creek WWTP - would eliminate SSOs into Broad Creek during wet weather events. This EA documents the potential environmental effects of only that portion of the Broad Creek WWPS Conveyance System Augmentation project that would occur on NPS property.

Among the components of the studies were the identification of a purpose and need for the project, analysis of alternatives to meet those needs, and analysis of the environmental

consequences of those alternatives, all of which are documented in the EA, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, consultation was conducted with the Maryland State Historic Preservation Officer. Public involvement and coordination with local, state, and federal agencies has been ongoing throughout the study, and at this stage, citizens will be given the opportunity to review and comment on the findings of the EA.

Public review copies of the EA will be available at the following locations:

National Capital Parks-East Headquarters
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

Available electronically at:

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/broad_creek_alignment

Note to Reviewers and Respondents:

If you wish to comment on the EA, you may submit them electronically or mail comments directly. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Comments on the EA may be submitted on-line by following the appropriate links at *(The NPS preferred method of receiving comments)*: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/broad_creek_alignment

Comments can be mailed directly to:

National Capital Parks-East
Gopaul Noojibail, Acting Superintendent
Re: Broadcreek EA
1900 Anacostia Drive, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20020

Comments on the EA will be accepted through May 6, 2013. Thank you for your interest and participation in this process.

Sincerely,

Gopaul Noojibail
Acting Superintendent

