



March 27, 2009

Mr. John Leopold  
County Executive  
Anne Arundel County  
P.O. Box 2700  
Annapolis, MD 21404

Dear Mr. Leopold,

As recently reported in the *Capital*, a developer has proposed building a dredge material containment facility on environmentally sensitive land in South County.<sup>1</sup> The nine-acre facility would be “north of the steep slopes leading down to” Lyons Creek, which contains the only segments of Tier II waters in Anne Arundel County. According to county reports, portions of Lyons Creek have been “designated as High Quality Tier II waters due to exceptional aquatic biological community conditions (fish and aquatic benthic macroinvertebrates) from within the stream.” As a result, “the existing Tier II instream designated water uses, and the level of water quality necessary to protect those uses, must be maintained and protected.”<sup>2</sup>

The Advocates for Herring Bay question the merits of storing spoils in environmentally sensitive areas. Most dredge containment facilities are large, open pits that are excavated and refilled on a regular basis. This site probably would involve extensive trucking and other heavy equipment operations because of its distance from the Chesapeake Bay. Those activities could trigger a release of sediments and other air and water pollutants and impair the riparian habitat of Lyons Creek.

Having worked with you and your staff on the county’s Town Point facility, we know that Anne Arundel County is committed to managing spoils in an environmentally sound manner. This project should be held to equally high standards, in part because the county itself uses such privately developed facilities. We urge the county to evaluate the potential impacts of this project on a holistic basis before issuing any permits, and to do so in consultation with the local community. If we can be of any assistance in this matter, please to do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Gramp  
President

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<sup>1</sup> See E.B. Furgurson III, “South county dredge spoils site proposed,” *The Capital*, March 16, 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Anne Arundel County, *GDP Background Report: Natural Resources*, April 2008, pages 10-12.