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These comments were compressed due to being submitted via email.

For more information on the Potomac Park Levee Project, go to the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) website (<http://www.ncpc.gov>) and click on "Commission Meetings" and then on "Current Actions". Under Commission Actions, January 8, 2009, you will see information on the "Potomac Park Levee (File Number 6885)". After that brief information, you can click on "View the Commission Action" and "View the Executive Director's Recommendation". The Executive Director's Recommendation includes considerable written description, drawings and plans about the project.

The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts will consider the latest design for the Potomac Park Levee at its meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2009.

January 9, 2009

Doug Jacobs
Deputy Assistant Regional Director
National Capital Region
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242

Dear Mr. Jacobs:

This note is to provide comments of the Committee of 100 on the Federal City on the latest design plans for the West Potomac Park Levee Project. The Committee of 100 has had a long history of concern with the planning and development of the National Mall. The West Potomac Park Levee Project is important both in terms of preventing future flood damage to certain areas of Central Washington and in terms of the visual, historic and environmental impacts of the proposed levee improvements on areas of the National Mall, especially in the corridor along 17th Street, N.W. south of Constitution Avenue. The Committee of 100 has been involved in the consultation process on the Levee Project design over the past eight months and we have submitted previous written comments dated August 22, 2008 and September 10, 2008. We also had the benefit of the November 20, 2008 Staff Report to the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board on earlier alternative designs. More recently, we have reviewed the information presented on the West Potomac Park Levee PEPC site (Concept Review Package), and the National Capital Planning Commission staff report dated December 31, 2008. I

understand that the National Capital Planning Commission approved the staff report, essentially as written, at their meeting yesterday, January 8. The Committee of 100 believes that the latest proposed design, as shown in the PEPC Site materials and described in the NCPC report, is a good solution to a difficult design problem. We hope that, as construction proceeds, it will be possible to combine Phase I and Phase II so that the stone facing and the related earthwork and landscaping can all be completed as soon as the main walls are completed. I understand that additional landscape studies are still underway for the site and we look forward to seeing them. Opening and maintaining the vista from Virginia Avenue, N.W. toward the Washington Monument (actually aligned with the Jefferson Stone) should be an important part of the revised design. We understand that a Draft Environmental Assessment will be completed and released for comment in the near future. The Committee of 100 will review the Draft EA and will submit additional comments as appropriate at that time. These comments are being sent to you to meet the January 9, 2009 deadline for the comment period currently indicated on the West Potomac Levee PEPC site. Please include these comments with the others received through the PEPC site. We look forward to the completion of the review process, hopefully leading to the best possible design, so that construction of this important project can proceed in the near future.

Sincerely,

John Fondersmith, AICP
Representing the Committee of 100 on the Federal City
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