COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

SANDRA C. ALLEN
Councilmember-Ward Eight

Chair
Committee on Human Services
202-724-8045

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The Honorable Carol Mitten, Chairman
District of Columbia Zoning Commission
441 – 4th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Chairman Mitten:

I am writing to express my support for the consolidated planned unit development application for the property known as 4500 Overlook Drive, SW (a portion of parcel 253) filed in behalf of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA). Alberto Bastida (the Secretary to the Zoning Commission) recently corresponded with me regarding this matter.

As I am sure you are aware, WASA is seeking approval of the PUD for it's planned construction of biosolids reduction and stabilization facilities known as the Egg-Shaped Digesters at the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant and the matter is being heard as Zoning Commission Case No. 04-19. Blue Plains is situated in the southernmost part of Ward Eight, between the Anacostia Freeway and the Potomac River.

I understand is that the proposed development is critical to WASA's mission at Blue Plains. It appears to be an essential component to both a cleaner environment in the District of Columbia and an improved ecosystem in and around the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. There also are many benefits resulting from the digesters completion to the Metropolitan Area in general, and to my constituents in particular. These include:

- Greater biosolids treatment capacity using the same amount of land compared to conventional type digesters;
- Reduced odor emissions at Blue Plains and at land application sites;
- Reduced volume of biosolids produced;

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- Reduced truck traffic (1.2 million miles annually) as a consequence of reduced volume of biosolids requiring transport;

- Production of recyclable end product; and

- Production of digester gas that can be used for power generation of enough electricity to power approximately 10,000 homes.

- It is anticipated that the operation of the anaerobic egg- shaped digesters will save WASA, its wholesale customers, and retail ratepayers approximately $16 million annually in operating and maintenance costs.

Accordingly, I urge the Zoning Commission to act favorably on WASA's PUD application. Should you have any questions or if I may be of additional assistance please do not hesitate to contact David Anthony, my Chief of Staff, on (202) 724-8045.

Sincerely,

Sandra C. "Sandy" Allen
Councilmember, Ward Eight