

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, N.E.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20002-4239**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AUTHORIZING COG TO ENTER INTO A GRANT AGREEMENT
WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE THROUGH THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO CONDUCT AN
URBAN FOREST HEALTH VULNERABILITY MATRIX FOR WASHINGTON, DC.**

WHEREAS, State and local governments and private citizens have a vested interest and investment in the sound management and protection of forests, urban forests and other green infrastructure such as community parks, recreation areas, riparian buffers; and

WHEREAS, the term "green infrastructure" refers to an interconnected network of waterways, wetlands, woodlands, wildlife habitats, and other natural areas; greenways, parks and other conservation lands; working farms, ranches, and forests of conservation value; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service and the District of Columbia recognize COG's previous work in both Anacostia forestry management and protection and regional forest health outreach and education and that this funding will complement COG's efforts to enhance knowledge of pests that threaten our forested lands within the metropolitan region and in the Chesapeake Bay watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes that regional forests and urban forest health are an integral part of a greater national and international effort to systematically plan for and manage park, recreation, forest, agricultural and other green infrastructure lands; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia have recognized that all of the region's forests play a vital role in the ecological health of the region, and have a vested interest in maintaining a healthy urban environment; and

WHEREAS, the Council, the U.S. Forest Service and the District of Columbia have demonstrated a commitment to work in a collaborative partnership on forestry and urban forestry issues through a holistic green infrastructure approach in the Metropolitan Washington Region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT;

The Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to enter into a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Forest Service and the District of Columbia to conduct a two-year study of urban forest health via an urban forest health matrix study in the District of Columbia. This cooperative agreement provides COG with \$50,000 of U.S. Forest Service Funds for a two-year tree study and outreach project. No local match is required. The project duration is two years.