

# BLUE PLAINS INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT of 2012

a collaborative approach to cleaner rivers



## A blueprint for the region

In March, 2013, the District of Columbia, DC Water, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission collaborated to adopt the *Blue Plains Intermunicipal Agreement of 2012* (2012 IMA). This landmark cooperative agreement equitably allocates wastewater treatment capacity as well as shared capital and operating expenses of about \$822 million per year at the Blue Plains advanced wastewater treatment facility in the District of Columbia, the largest such facility in the world. COG assisted in the development of the agreement and will support the Parties with its implementation.



Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant

## Importance of Blue Plains

Blue Plains plays an essential role in the region by accepting and treating wastewater for its more than 2 million residents and 18 million annual visitors. Investments in the facility's operations and infrastructure are critical because it provides 43% of the wastewater treatment capacity for the entire COG region. The 2012 IMA provides the framework for the region to address anticipated growth over the next 40 years, supports investments in existing critical infrastructure, and makes major contributions toward improving water quality in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. In fact, the region's investments in wastewater treatment

plants like those at Blue Plains over the past three decades have led to the nationally recognized success story of the revitalization of the Potomac River. The 2012 IMA is a sterling example of a mutually beneficial regional partnership.

## 2012 IMA structure

The 2012 IMA is a living document signed by the governing representatives of the six Parties. The core IMA includes: a) key principles that govern the overall agreement; b) the rights and responsibilities of the Parties; and c) a process and structure for how the Parties will collaborate and cooperate. In addition, the agreement also includes Derivative Agreements that further define operational details that are likely to change over time and are authorized by the Chief Administrative Officers and General Managers.

For a link to the 2012 IMA, visit the COG home page at [mwkog.org](http://mwkog.org) and click on Featured Publications.

