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January 15, 2014

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
1133 Fifteenth St. NW, Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20005

**Re: Letter of Support for the City of New York:
2014 NFWF/DOI Hurricane Sandy Coastal Resiliency Competitive Grants Program
*A Plan for the Daylighting of Tibbetts Brook, Bronx, NY***

To Whom It May Concern:

As an ongoing partner and collaborator with the City of New York Department of Parks & Recreation, the Bronx Council for Environmental Quality (BCEQ) is pleased to express our enthusiastic support of their grant application for this historic opportunity.

Since 1971, BCEQ has sought to establish — as an Inherent Human Right — a sound, forward-looking environmental policy regarding an aesthetic, unpolluted, environment protecting a natural and historic heritage. Since 2001 we focused on Harlem River issues with our elected officials to develop connections to and along the Harlem River and create on-water access and activities in an effort to improve water quality. Over the years, we have collaborated with NYC Parks on projects, including the WCS-NOAA project at Pier 5 and the NYS Brownfields Opportunity Area project, both on the Harlem River. We are proud to recommend them as diligent, effective partners in advancing the social and environmental agendas of creating healthier communities and more productive and sustainable environments.

BCEQ supports NYC Parks in their proposal for planning the removal of Tibbetts Brook, in the Bronx, from the CSO and daylighting sections of the stream — the first project of its kind in New York City. This project will provide valuable environmental, social and ecological improvements along with critical flood protection, water quality enhancements, and new found recreational and educational opportunities.

At the January 8, 2014 BCEQ Board meeting, a vote was passed to support the Parks Department as they develop this innovative infiltration project and promise, as a community-based organization, to be actively engaged as needed.

Sincerely,

Karen Argenti

Karen Argenti

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Dart Westphal

Co-Chairs, Water Committee, BCEQ