



Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

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Federal and Local Agencies to Announce Construction of 17th Street Levee to Protect Downtown, Southwest Washington and Monumental Core from Flooding

Washington, DC — On **Monday, November 15 at 10:00 a.m.**, collaborating agencies will gather to officially announce the construction of levee improvements to protect parts of Washington, DC from river flooding. The new levee, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, will replace an earthen levee first constructed on the National Mall in the late 1930s. The existing levee relies on outdated methods, including temporary Jersey barriers, sand bags, and a soil berm to protect downtown, the monumental core, and portions of Southwest Washington from river flooding. According to recent flood maps issued by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), much of this area now lies within the 100-year floodplain. Once complete the new levee will reduce the risk of river flooding for downtown properties and meet new levee standards imposed by the federal government after Hurricane Katrina.

WHAT: Press conference to announce construction of levee improvements to protect downtown, the National Mall, and portions of Southwest Washington from river flooding.

WHEN: Monday, November 15, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

WHO: Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and representatives of the collaborating agencies including the National Park Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the National Capital Planning Commission, the District Department of Transportation, District Department of the Environment, DC Office of Planning, and other federal and local agencies.

WHERE: East side of 17th Street, NW, approximately 100-feet south of Constitution Avenue on the grounds of the Washington Monument.

NOTE: Subject matter experts will be available to answer any specific technical questions. An audio mult box will be provided on-site. No parking for any news media vehicles will be allowed anywhere along 17th Street, NW. News media are advised to park on any of the north-south numbered streets north of Constitution Avenue or along the curb lanes of Constitution Avenue, after 9:30 a.m. Shuttle service will be provided from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial satellite parking lot A (next to the 14th Street Bridge) to the event site beginning at 9:00 a.m.

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