

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

June 29, 2015

The Honorable Jo-Ellen Darcy  
Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works  
108 Army Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20310-0108

Dear Assistant Secretary Darcy:

I urge the Army Corps of Engineers not to cancel its plans to restore the South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River (known as 'Bubbly Creek').

The Corps has spent more than ten years studying the restoration of Bubbly Creek, and it is strongly supported by the City of Chicago, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, and the surrounding community. The restoration activities would provide much-needed revitalization to an area with a history of industrial pollution and would be a critical step in moving the South Side of Chicago toward becoming a more environmentally sustainable neighborhood.

I was alarmed to learn that the Corps had suddenly cancelled the project last week, without any formal notification, due to the discovery of contaminated sediment at the site. The Corps should seriously reconsider this hasty decision—this project is too important to be terminated. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), needed clean-up actions in the area could be accelerated, thereby delaying the Corps' restoration plans only a short time. Working with EPA in this regard could mitigate liability concerns without wasting the time and money that has already been invested throughout this decade-long study process.

I strongly encourage you to use your full authority to work with members of the Illinois Congressional delegation, the EPA, and State and local stakeholders to find a path forward for this project.

Please give this request your immediate attention and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator