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Gowanus Bay and Canal Ecosystem Restoration





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Authority



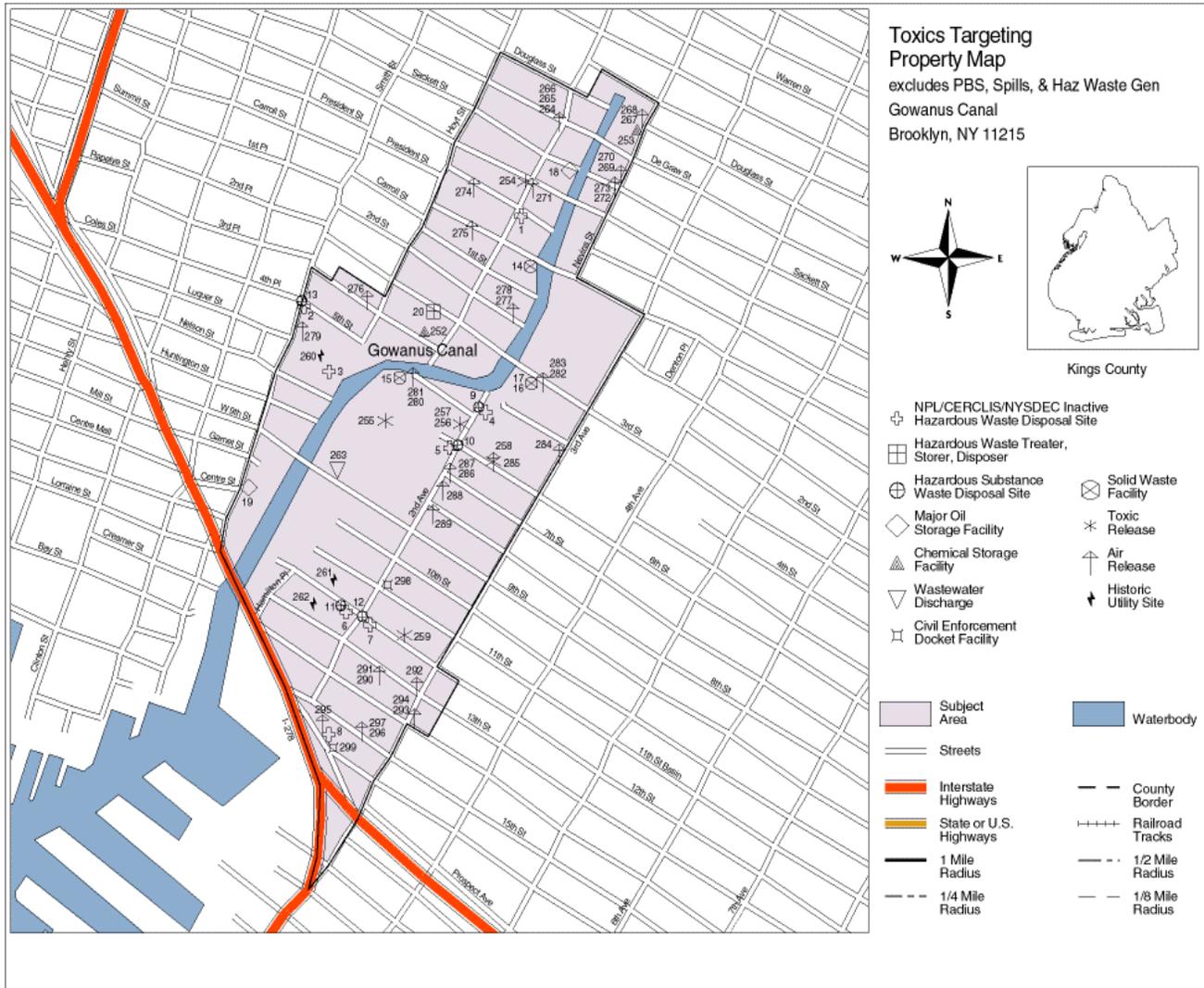
That, the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the reports of the Chief of Engineers ... with a view to determining the feasibility of environmental restoration and protection relating to water resources and sediment quality within the New York Port District, including but not limited to creation, enhancement, and restoration of aquatic, wetland, and adjacent upland habitats.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,
U.S. House of Representatives
April 15, 1999*



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Study Area



- *Gowanus Canal:* Hamilton Ave to Butler Street in Brooklyn, (two miles)

- *Gowanus Canal Watershed:* Six square miles.

- *GOWANUS BAY* Bay Ridge Channel to the beginning of the Gowanus Canal.



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Study Partnership



- **Corps Of Engineers and NYC Department Of Environmental Protection**
- **Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement**
 - FCSA Signed: January 8, 2002
 - Total cost \$5,000,000
 - Cost shared equally (50/50)
 - Cash and In-Kind Services
 - Schedule
 - Draft Report July'04
 - Final Report January'05



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Feasibility Study Purpose



- **Assess Aquatic Ecosystem Needs**
 - Basin-Wide/System-Wide
- **Identify Restoration Opportunities**
 - Screen and prioritize
- **Select Best Alternatives**
 - Cost-effective
 - Maximum ecological value
 - Integrate well with other actions



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Problems



- **Contaminated Sediments**
- **Poor Water Quality**
- **Hardened Shorelines**
- **Extensive Filling**
- **Little or No Buffers**





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Opportunities For Restoration



-
- **Selective And Careful Removal Of Undesirable Fill And Sediments.**
 - **Restore Hydrology To Enhance Aquatic Habitat And Water Quality.**
 - **Integrate Ecosystem Restoration And Local Infrastructure Plans**
 - **Reestablishing Greenways And Buffer Areas (Upland And Wetland)**
 - **Recontouring Of Bottom**



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Fiscal Year '02 Activities



- **Public Notice (start of study)**
- **Initiate Public Outreach**
- **Select And Award Contract**
- **Gather Existing Data**
 - Assess existing conditions (ecological values)
 - Begin screening for prioritization (needs)
 - Establish data needs for FY'03
 - Set-up GIS database



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Study Participants



- **Study Partners: USACE & NYCDEP**
- **Public:**
 - Gowanus Canal Community Development Corporation
 - Local community Groups/Regional Environmental Org
 - Individuals
- **Agencies:**
 - NYSDOS (Waterfront Revitalization Program)
 - Federal, State, City Resource/Regulatory
- **Borough Of Brooklyn**
- **Hudson Raritan Estuary Study Team**



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Public Participation



➤ Purpose

- Get out information (What's going on)
- Identify concerns/issues
- Input into Needs and Opportunities
- Feedback on Selections/Recommendations
- NEPA review

➤ Methods

- Meetings/Workshops
- Notices/News Letters



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Next Steps



- **Identify All Data Sources**
- **Establish Format For Public Input**
 - Develop mailing Lists and contacts
 - Establish best type and location for meetings
 - Type and form of information disseminated
 - How best to get information out
- **Begin Develop List Of Opportunities**