



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CAPITAL RIVER RELIEF TO BEGIN FOURTH ANNUAL CLEANUP OF THE POTOMAC AND ANACOSTIA RIVERS**

**WASHINGTON**—Capital River Relief (CRR), a massive month-long cleanup of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, will return to D.C. this Spring, incorporating the efforts of local community and business organizations as well as local and federal government agencies to revitalize and purge the region’s waterways of trash and debris. The campaign, in its fourth year, is one of the largest local environmental campaigns, rallying support from Members of Congress, former Mayor Anthony Williams, local environmental organizations and a number of Washington’s leaders. The public is encouraged to join in the cleanup.

“Washington has a strong and supportive community. Everyone is really enthusiastic about cleaning the rivers and helping out where they can,” said Chad Pregracke, leader of the Capital River Relief campaign and founder of the Living Lands & Waters organization. “The campaign continues to grow each year, with more and more people paying attention and realizing how important this work is.” In 2006, CRR removed 2,600 bags of trash from the rivers – everything from refrigerators to bowling balls and tires. “Now we’re coming back to continue our efforts to keep our rivers as pristine and preserved as our monuments,” promised Chad.

The Capital River Relief campaign will kick off on March 28 with a press conference with Chad Pegracke, joined by local dignitaries, celebrities and elected officials, and will conclude on Earth Day, April 22 with press and photographer availability on the trash barge where items retrieved from the rivers will be on display. Items dragged from the Anacosita and Potomac Rivers in past cleanups include mattresses, cars, furniture and more.

Chad Pregracke has spearheaded the campaign for the past three years with the backing of his Illinois-based Living Lands & Waters organization. This year, his efforts coincide with the publishing of his book “From The Bottom Up: One Man’s Crusade to Clean America’s Rivers,” by National Geographic Books on April 10, 2007.

**About Capital River Relief** ([www.CapitalRiverRelief.org](http://www.CapitalRiverRelief.org))

Capital River Relief (CRR) is an annual large-scale cleanup of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, bringing together a working coalition of environmental groups, businesses, government and community organizations. Capital River Relief combines the efforts of Living Lands & Waters (LL&W), a Midwest-based river cleanup group, and founding sponsor Koch Industries, along with many local environmental organizations and sponsors, to conduct the cleanup effort. For more information or to schedule an interview with Pregracke, please contact **Benjamin Becker** at **(202) 414-0781** or at **bbecker@susandavis.com**.

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