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February 26, 2026

Canal Place Preservation & Development Authority
Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget
Response to Department of Legislative Services Analysis

Senate Budget & Taxation Committee
Education, Business, & Administration Subcommittee
The Honorable Nancy J. King, Chair

House Appropriations Committee
Transportation and the Environment Subcommittee
The Honorable Courtney Watson, Chair

February 26, 2026

Presented By:
Deidra L. Ritchie, CPPDA Executive Director

On the Proposed Budget of the Canal Place Preservation & Development Authority
(CPPDA) for the Fiscal Year 2027

There were no questions brought to our attention by Elizabeth Waibel in the Analysis of the FY 2027 Maryland Executive Budget, prepared February 2026. We concur with the Office of Legislative Services Budget Analysis for Canal Place but would like to share the following on our two most current Priority Projects.

CPPDA Priority Projects:

River Park at Canal Place

The River Park project is still underway. The project is a top priority for the city of Cumberland, Allegany County, and the CPPDA and has been determined to be an economic game changer for Allegany County. Estimated to bring an additional 1 million visitors to Allegany County, produce an additional 2,900 jobs, and generate over \$40 million in state and local taxes, the project will benefit the citizens of Allegany County, enhance the water

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quality of the North Branch of the Potomac River, and provide fish passage to various species of fish.

Since the FY26 Budget Testimony, Engineering and Design for the “River Park Accessible Trails and Parking Area” is being completed. The 100% design is due to the State Highway Administration by September 2026. Request for proposals will go out to bid no later than November of 2026, so construction can begin spring of 2027. Concurrently, the CPPDA has secured additional funding for sediment testing, therefore sediment testing could be completed by December of 2026.

The project’s land-based amenities will become a reality in 2027. The next step will be dam removal, which is planned to begin in FY 2031, according to the Maryland Capital Budget’s CIP. It is anticipated the engineering of the dam removals will last a little over a year due to the need of obtaining permits from various state and federal agencies.

Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area Boundary Expansion and Management Plan Update (PWPHA)

The CPPDA is also in the process of updating the PWPHA management plan and countywide boundary expansion. The PWPHA, formerly the Canal Place Heritage Area, is currently the smallest heritage area. It was Maryland’s first state designated heritage area, and now there are a total of thirteen Heritage Areas in the state. The boundary expansion will benefit Allegany County, its municipalities, and various non-profits through grant resources and technical assistance. The expansion will increase heritage tourism in the county, thereby benefiting the local hotels, retail, and restaurants. Currently the heritage area is approximately 1.67 square miles and supports over \$19 million in economic impact to the county. The expansion has the ability to increase that number 5 times that amount. The boundary expansion and management plan update have a completion date of July of 2027. The CPPDA has already secured funding to begin a county-wide interpretative plan.

Thank you for your support to the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority and again, we concur with the Office of Legislative Services Budget Analysis.