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**Vision Principles for Newtown Creek Restoration & Remediation**
Developed by the CAG Steering Committee, April 2016

**1. Remove All Contaminated Sediment**
Cleanup should not seek to cover up, but actually remove contaminated media from the Creek bed. Remediation should focus on contamination throughout the Creek, not just near populated areas. Additionally, disposal of sediments should minimize impacts on workers as well as other Environmental Justice communities.

**2. Address CSOs and Stormwater Discharge**
Currently, billions of gallons of untreated sewage and stormwater contaminate the Creek every year. To curb ongoing pollution a cleanup plan must include appropriate measures to reduce CSO and MS4 volumes, including retention tanks and Green Infrastructure.

**3. Make Safe for Fish Consumption**
Numerous people currently eat fish and crab caught from Newtown Creek despite heavy contamination. Nearby residents deserve the right to safely consume seafood from the Creek as was common practice before industrial pollution began.

**4. Improve Water Quality to Swimmable Levels**
While the industrial nature and active maritime use of the Creek are not conducive elements for swimming, the water itself should attain swimmable levels regarding contamination.

**5. Protect and Promote Marine Ecosystem**
Numerous bird, fish and other marine species are slowly returning to the Creek but still lack sufficient habitat and clean environment. Restoration plans should integrate organisms with bioremedial advantages, such as mussels and oysters, to help keep the waters clean in years to come.

**6. Shoreline Restoration in Tributaries**
Prior to industrialization thousands of acres of salt-marsh lined Newtown Creek, all of which has been lost. To preserve maritime function of the main channel and improve quality of more stagnant waters, salt marsh restoration is a priority in the following areas: Dutch Kills, Maspeth Creek, East Branch and the head of English Kills.

**7. Allow for Navigational Channels**
Remediation should not impact navigational channel depths necessary for continued maritime use, as well as the ability to maintain those channel depths, via dredging, in the future. A cap only plan is not acceptable for commercially active areas of the Creek.

**8. Preserve Industrial Core**
Residential development pressure will likely increase during and after cleanup; but efforts should be taken to manage future land uses, zoning changes, and development trends to maintain current industrial use on the Creek and surrounding upland areas. Workers have the same rights to a

clean and toxin free environment as do residents. Additionally, government agencies should provide technical assistance to businesses located along Newtown Creek to promote strategies for clean production and pollution prevention, and to limit their environmental impacts.

**9. Continued Mixed Use of Waterway**

Newtown Creek is currently, and should remain, a mixed use area. The Creek is used for industry, commercial uses, recreation, education, and is in close proximity to residential areas. Interest in all current uses is likely to increase as the cleanup progresses.

**10. Robust Community Participation**

Involvement of the community around Newtown Creek is key to a successful clean up. Environmental justice considerations, full and transparent public participation in agency decision-making, and multiple-language accessibility of plans, factsheets, and proposals should be three cornerstone principles for community engagement.

**11. Increased Public Access for Education + Recreation**

The estuary environment offers tremendous potential as an educational resource. To promote environmental education and create future stewards of the waterway, the area must be safe for children to visit and interact with. This is not achievable without improved access to the Creek itself.

**12. Climate Change**

The restoration and remediation of Newtown Creek must take into account climate change. Sea level rise, storm surge, coastal flooding, groundwater upwelling, storm frequency, and dangerous spells of extreme temperatures (both hot and cold) will - and are - affect all aspects of the remediation process, community risks, and ecological restoration potential. Any and all plans made for the Creek, including cleaning of upland sediments, must take climate change into account.