



# North Hudson Sewerage Authority Long Term Control Plan

## Public Participation Process Report for the River Road WWTP

NJPDES Permit: NJ0025321

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## SIGNATURE CERTIFICATION

I certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared under my direction or supervision in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gather and evaluate the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or the persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for purposely, knowingly, recklessly, or negligently submitting false information.

Document Name (s) River Road Public Participation Progress Report

Signature: 

Name, printed: Richard J. Wolff

Date 6/29/18

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# Acronyms and Abbreviations

CSO	Combined Sewer Overflow
I/I	Infiltration and Inflow
LTCP	Long Term Control Plan
NHSA	North Hudson Sewerage Authority
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NJPDES	New Jersey Pollution Discharge Elimination System
OMI	Operations Management International (CH2M HILL)
RDII	Rainfall Derived Infiltration and Inflow
S/F	Solids/Floatables
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
WWTP	Wastewater Treatment Plant

# Introduction

The project background, regulatory requirements, the purpose of this document, a facilities overview, and the contents of this report are herein introduced.

## 1.1 Background

The North Hudson Sewerage Authority (NHTSA or “the Authority”) owns two wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and the combined sewer systems (CSS) tributary to these facilities. The Adams Street and River Road WWTPs are regulated by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) under the New Jersey Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NJPDDES) permit program.

On March 12, 2015, the NJDEP issued individual permits to municipalities and authorities that own and operate segments of CSSs. Minor modifications were issued for the permits in October 2015. The NJPDDES permits addressed requirements for overall water quality improvements, routine reporting, and development of a combined sewer overflow (CSO) long term control plan (LTCP) for each of its CSSs. The NJPDDES requires the submittal of a number of interim reports documenting the develop of the LTCP, culminating in the submission of an approvable Selection and Implementation of Alternatives Report by June 1, 2020.

## 1.2 Regulatory Requirements

Pursuant to NJPDDES Permits NJ0026085 (Adams Street WWTP) and NJ0025321 (River Road WWTP), Part IV, Combined Sewer Management Section, Section D.3.b.iii, a Public Participation Process Report is to be submitted to NJDEP by July 1, 2018. Part IV, Combined Sewer Management, Section G Long Term Control Plan Requirements, 2 Public Participation Process, requires the Authority as follows:

- a. The permittee shall submit the Public Participation Plan to include appropriate input and participation with other hydraulically connected communities, in accordance with D.3.a and G.10. The permittees may use information from the previous submittal: North Hudson Sewerage Authority Public Participation Report, prepared by Hatch Mott MacDonald, dated April 2007.
- b. Implementation shall actively involve the affected public throughout each of the 3 Steps of the LTCP process. The affected public includes rate payers (including rate payers in the separate sewer sections), industrial users of the sewer system, persons who reside downstream from the CSOs, persons who use and enjoy the downstream waters, and any other interested persons. A Public Participation Plan shall include the following elements:
  - i. Conduct outreach to inform the affected/interested public (during the development of the permittee’s LTCP) through various methods including: public meetings, direct mailers, billing inserts, newsletters, press releases to the media, postings of information on the permittee’s website, hotline, development of advisory committees, etc.; and to
  - ii. Invite members of the affected/interested public to join a Supplemental CSO Team to work with the permittee’s assigned staff, consultants and/or contractors as required in Part IV, Section G.2.c. of the permit.
- c. The permittee shall invite members of the affected/interested public to establish a Supplemental CSO Team to work with the permittee’s assigned staff from Section F.1 and to work as an informal work group as a liaison between the general public and the decision makers for the permittee. The goals of the Supplemental CSO Team could consist of the following elements:

- i. Meet periodically to assist in the sharing of information, and to provide input to the planning process;
- ii. Review the proposed nature and extent of data and information to be collected during LTCP development [Step 1];
- iii. Provide input for consideration in the evaluation of CSO control alternatives [Step 2]; and
- iv. Provide input for consideration in the selection of those CSO controls that will cost effectively meet the Clean Water Act requirements [Step 3].

The NJDEP suggests that the goals and objectives of the Authority’s public outreach should be established to guide the development of the public participation process and plan implementation.

## 1.3 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to fulfill the following NJDPES requirement: Part IV, Combined Sewer Management Section, Section D.3.b.iii, a Public Participation Process Report is to be submitted to NJDEP by July 1, 2018. This report provides information on how the public is engaged in the development of the Authority’s LTCPs, including descriptions of the various forms of messaging, outreach methods, information sharing, and information gathering methods. This report defines and provides information on who the permittee(s) identified as the affected public and how they have been and will continue to be engaged throughout the LTCP development process. This report also provides information on the Authority’s approaches to solicit information from and provide information to the interested public.

## 1.4 System History and Description

The Authority owns and operates two WWTPs and their associated collection systems in four Hudson County, New Jersey communities: Hoboken, West New York, Weehawken and Union City. The Authority’s two WWTPs are the Adams Street WWTP in Hoboken, and the River Road WWTP (also known as the West New York WWTP) in West New York. The collection systems in these communities are combined sewer systems. The WWTPs and collection systems are operated by CH2M HILL Operations Management International (OMI).

The Adams Street WWTP (NJPDES No. NJ0026085) is located at 1600 Adams Street in Hoboken. The WWTP serves the municipalities of Hoboken, Weehawken and Union City with a service area of 2.6 square miles. The Adams Street WWTP is permitted by NJDEP to discharge 20.8 million gallons per day (mgd). It has a dry weather design flow of 24 mgd and a wet weather capacity of 40 mgd.

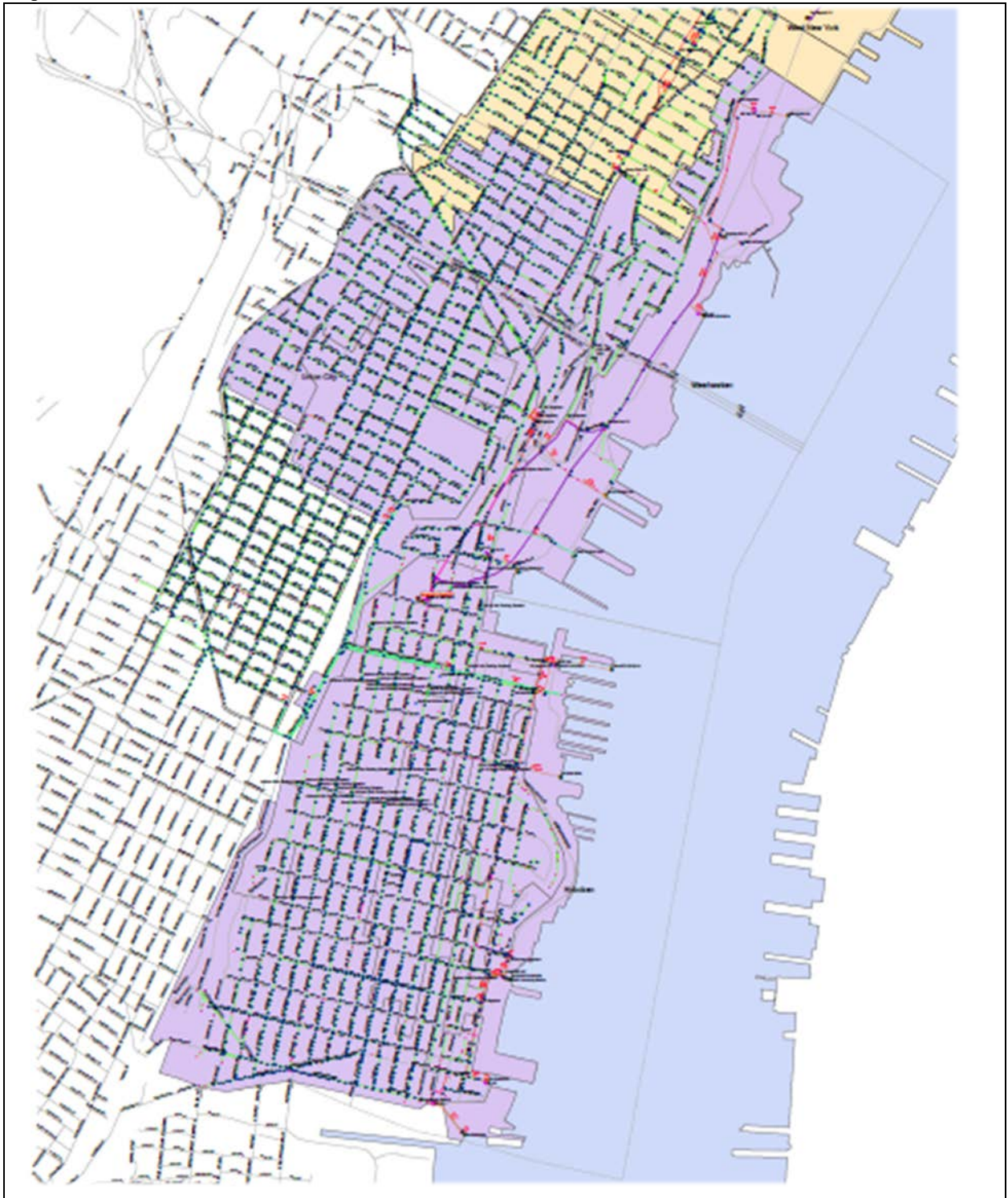
The River Road WWTP (NJPDES No. NJ0025321) is located at 6400 Hillside Avenue in West New York. The WWTP serves the municipalities of Weehawken, Union City, and West New York with a service area of 1.4 square miles. The River Road WWTP is permitted by NJDEP to discharge 10 mgd and has a wet weather capacity of 20 mgd.

The Authority owns the following facilities in its two WWTP service areas:

- 2 wastewater treatments plants (Adams Street and River Road)
- 106 miles of combined sewer (including interceptors, siphons and force mains)
- 9 Wastewater Pump Stations
- 2 Wet Weather Pump Stations (H1 and H5)
- 17 CSO Regulators
- 10 CSO Outfalls
- 11 Solids/floatables screening facilities

The Adams street WWTP treats all of the sewage generated within the City of Hoboken, approximately 83-percent of the sewage generated in Weehawken, and approximately 45-percent of the sewage generated in Union City. Figure 1-1 shows the Adams Street WWTP service area shaded in purple.

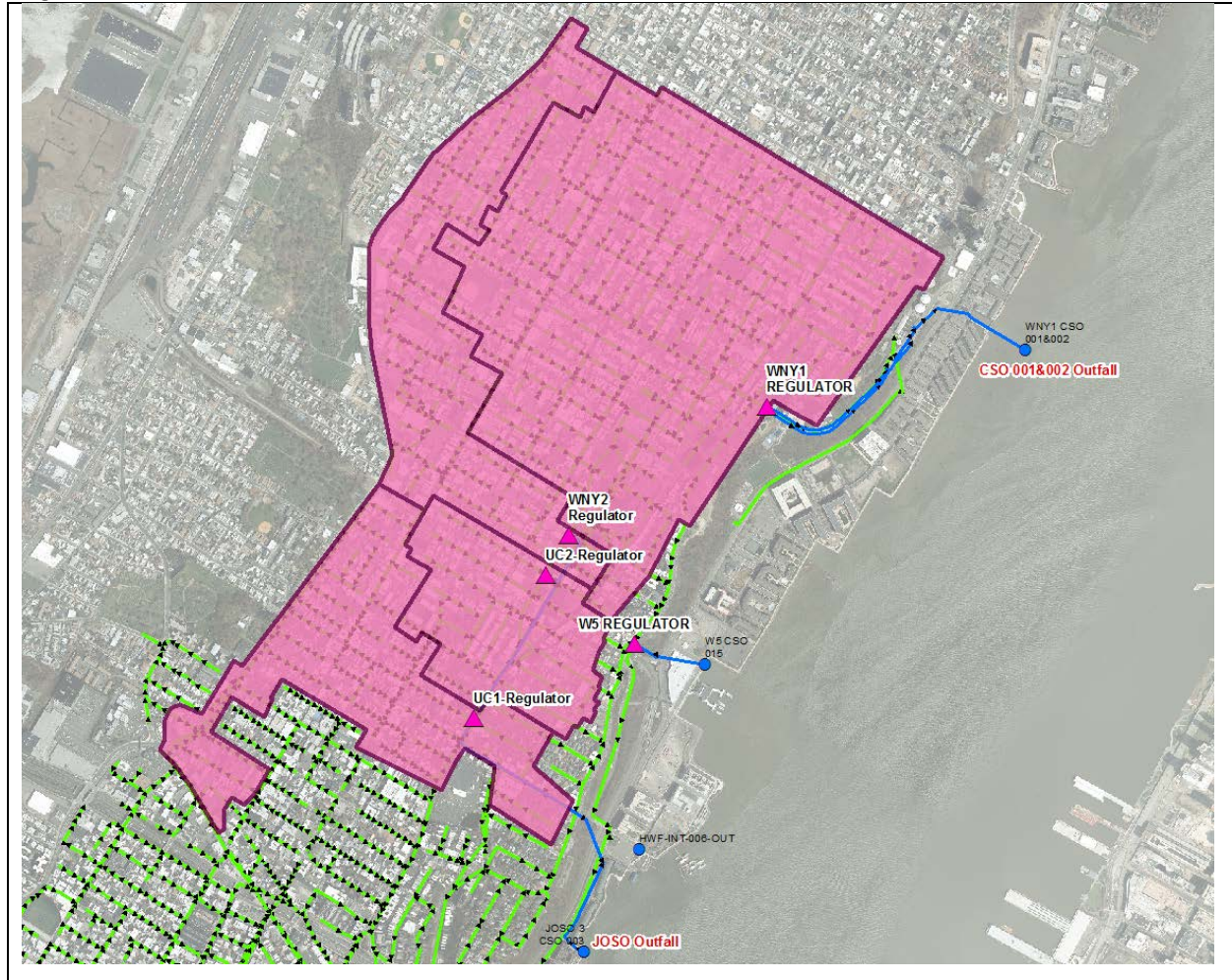
Figure 1-1. Adams Street WWTP Service Area



The River Road WWTP treats sewage from all of West New York as well as parts of Union City and Weehawken. Figure 1-2 shows the River Road WWTP service area shaded in pink.



Figure 1-2. River Road WWTP Service Area



## 1.5 Report Organization

This report is organized and provides information consistent with The NJDEP’s “Public Participation Process Report, A Guide to Developing Your Public Participation Report for New Jersey’s Combined Sewer Overflow Permits and Long Term Control Plans” (NJDEP, 2018). The following sections describe the Authority’s:

- Public Participation Program
- Public Notification and Outreach
- Supplemental CSO Team



# Public Participation Program

The development of the Authority's LTCP includes, as required by the NJDEP, a Public Participation Program that was described in a September 27, 2016 document ("North Hudson Sewerage Authority, Public Participation Program for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP)"). The document was submitted via email to the NJDEP on September 30, 2016. Adhering to the NJPDES permit requirements listed in Section 1.2 above, the Authority's Public Participation Program includes the following elements:

- Objectives
- Target Audiences
- Key Messages
- Communications Tactics
- Staffing

The following describes the objectives, target audiences and key messages of the Authority's Public Participation Program.

## 2.1 Program Objectives

The objectives of Authority's Public Participation Program are:

- To communicate key program information to the general public and stakeholders;
- To enable stakeholders to provide feedback to the Authority;
- To fulfill all public information and notification requirements of the NJPDES permit.

The Public Participation Program enables the Authority to educate the public, foster productive dialogue with the cities and towns in the Authority's service area, and ensure that key messages are delivered consistently. The LTCP and the public participation aspects are being conducted consistent with the Authority's NJPDES permits and federal LTCP guidance (USEPA, 1995).

## 2.2 Target Audience

The target audiences of the LTCP Public Participation Program include:

- Rate Payers
- Service Area Communities
- Environmental/Water Recreational Groups
- General Public
- Business Community
- Public Officials

## 2.3 Key Messages

Because of the diverse nature of the target audiences, the challenge will be to communicate technical terms and issues in a manner that these audiences will understand. This can be addressed, in part, by crafting clear and concise messages that limit the use of acronyms and by defining industry terminology early in the process.

The following is the Program’s basic message structure:

- The North Hudson Sewerage Authority is an integral part of the critical infrastructure of Hoboken, Weehawken, West New York, and Union City. The Authority welcomes the opportunity to work with its neighbors and customers to better the quality of service.
- The North Hudson Sewerage Authority has historically made major contributions to the successful economic, residential and recreational renaissance on the Hudson River waterfront, playing a key role in the reclamation of the River.
- The North Hudson Sewerage Authority’s number one priority is the health and safety of the communities and people it serves.
- The North Hudson Sewerage Authority has demonstrated a long-term commitment to improving and protecting the water quality of the Hudson River.
- The North Hudson Sewerage Authority is working with the NJDEP to fulfil the CSO control requirements its permits; and is seen as a leader and innovator in New Jersey.
- The North Hudson Sewerage Authority welcomes the participation of the community as it develops long term plans to continue to protect and improve water body environment.

## 2.4 Communications Strategies

In order to achieve the objectives of the Program, meeting NJDEP requirements, the Authority pursues the following communications strategies:

- Align communications tactics and activities to support the three steps of the LTCP process: System Characterization, Development and Evaluation of Alternatives, and Selection and Implementation of Alternatives.
- Utilize internet and social media to communicate with target audiences.
- Develop methods to adequately notify, and receive notification from, the public of CSO occurrences and impacts using a variety of means, including signage, the internet, hotlines, etc.
- Raise awareness in the service area among target audiences about CSO controls and the impact on the environment, including outreach through direct mail, community meetings, media, etc.
- Develop methods and means to receive feedback from target audiences about the Authority’s LTCP, including meetings, advisory committee, web communications, etc.

## 2.5 Staffing and Roles

The Public Participation Program has been implemented under the direction of the Executive Director, Dr. Richard Wolff and Authority Engineer Mr. Fredric J. Pocci, PE. The Public Participation Program staff and roles are as follows:

Don Conger, PE – CH2M OM Project Director

Steve Hudock – CH2M OM Client Service Manager – Project Coordinator

Brent Temmer – CH2M OM Marketing and Communications Manager

William McMillin, PE, D.WRE – LTCP Program Manager

Amy Brand – CH2M Engineering Public Involvement Specialist

Erin McGovern – CH2M Engineering Support

# Public Notification and Outreach

The following notification and outreach activities comprise the major elements of the Authority's Public Participation Program.

## 3.1 General Public Outreach

The purpose of general public outreach efforts is to facilitate greater access to Authority representatives for members of the community and to proactively disseminate information on the Authority's LTCP efforts. Representatives from both Authority Staff and the Operations and Maintenance Teams attend public meetings and activities that align with the Authority's messaging.

A "Road Show Presentation" has been prepared with status updates on LTCP Program initiatives.

North Hudson is envisioning meetings with:

- Home Owners Associations throughout the service area,
- Environmental and recreational groups,
- Chambers of commerce,
- Elks clubs and other fraternal organizations,
- Academic fora at Stevens Institute,
- Rebuild-by-Design Hudson River meetings, etc.

All public outreach activities are documented for reporting to NJDEP in the LTCP Quarterly Progress Reports.

## 3.2 CSO Outfall Signage

The Authority has posted CSO Identification signs at every CSO outfall location warning that CSOs may occur during and following wet weather, during which contact with the water may cause illness. The signs comply with the bilingual requirements (English and Spanish) of the NJDEP. The NJPDES permit and outfall number are shown. A NJDEP hotline telephone number is shown for notifying the NJDEP of dry weather discharges. A hotline telephone number for the Authority is shown to report odors or water discoloration directly to the Authority – the telephone number is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The NJDEP CSO website ([www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/cso.htm](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/dwq/cso.htm)) is also provided on the signs.

## 3.3 Interactive Website Communication

The primary method of communication with the community is the Authority's website ([www.nhudsonsa.com](http://www.nhudsonsa.com)). This is a central location to find the most current information. The website generally covers the following topics:

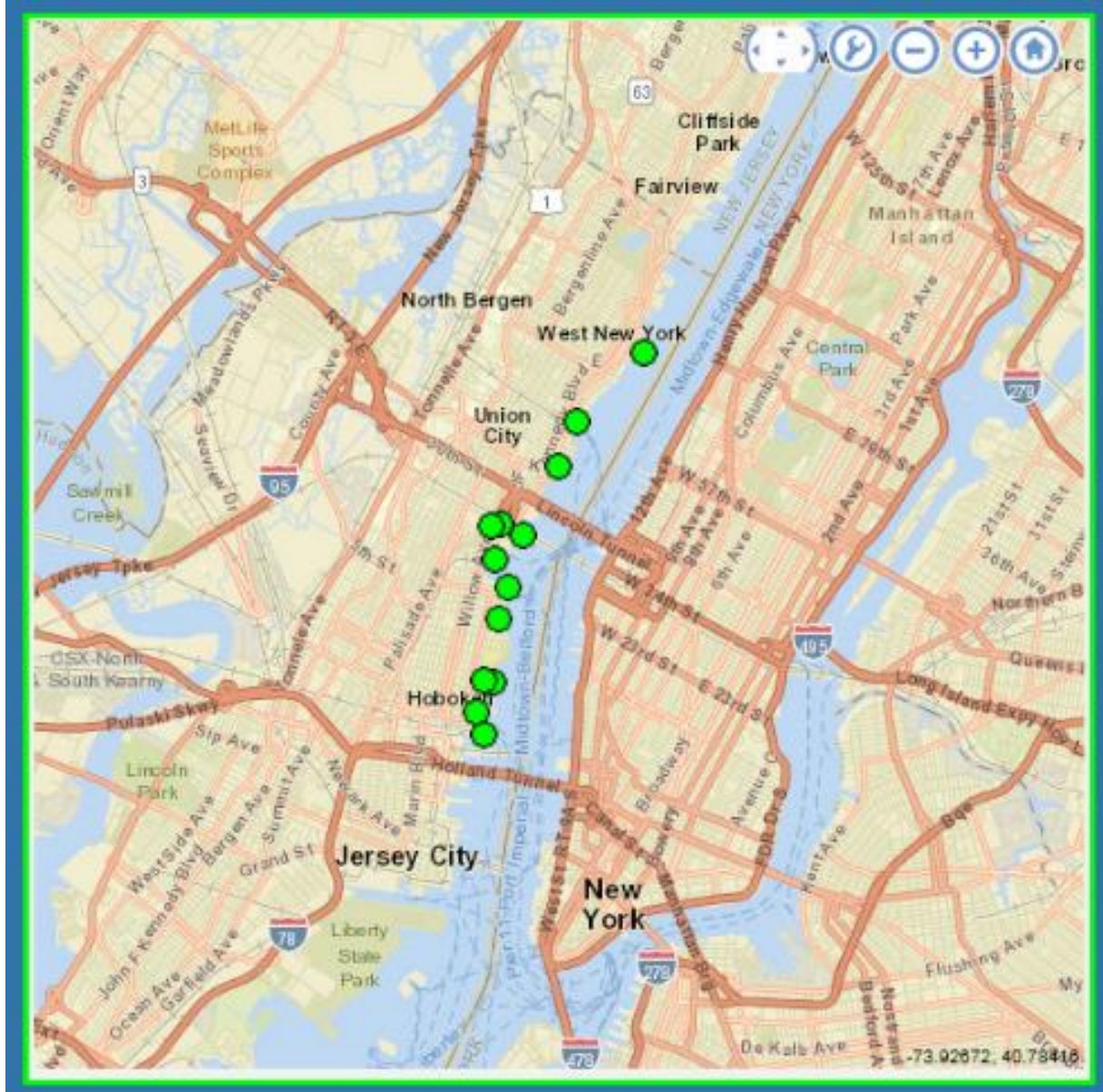
- Brief review of LTCP Program Mission and Goals
- Highlights on progress towards program goals and objectives
- Upcoming program activities and meetings
- Opportunities for more information/ways to provide feedback

A new LTCP Program section for North Hudson’s Website will be created after Sewer System Characterization work is performed. This section was initially created as the CSO Waterbody Advisory System under Public Information, but will be redesigned with general CSO information, general LTCP information, and specific project information related to the Authority’s LTCP Program. Updates will be developed and posted to the website upon initiation of activities and completion of key program milestones.

The CSO Waterbody Advisory System pages on the Authority’s website provide the public with real-time information that notifies the public of CSO occurrences and CSO impacts. An interactive map of CSO outfall locations is provided to alert the public when a dry or wet weather CSO discharge occurs at an NHTA outfall to the Hudson River. The system utilizes level sensors in the sewer system to monitor and report CSO activity in real-time. The map depicts inactive CSOs as green circles, indicating no CSO activity at the outfall. Red circles indicate that there has been CSO activity and the website advises that contact with the water in areas near the outfall should be avoided. Figure 3- below shows the waterbody advisory system map as it appears on the Authority’s website.

Selected construction project information is currently provided on Public Information website pages (i.e. H5 Wet Weather Pump Station). Information on CSO-related construction projects will be posted on the website before beginning construction. The purpose of the project, its value to the community it serves, and the schedule will be provided. Completed projects will also be listed.

Figure 3-1. North Hudson Sewerage Authority CSO Public Advisory Map



### 3.4 Periodic LTCP Public Meetings

The Authority has had limited success in attracting attention and engaging with the public via public CSO-related meetings in previous public outreach efforts. The purpose of public LTCP meetings in this program is to provide periodic program updates to interested parties. Meetings will also enable the Authority to solicit public comment to facilitate linking of stakeholder input to decision milestones in the three steps of the LTCP process (System Characterization, Development and Evaluation of Alternatives, and Selection and Implementation of Alternatives). As many as six public meetings may be held based on how successful the Authority is with initial meetings and feedback from the public. The meetings will typically be a traditional workshop or presentation format in the Authority's Board Room at 1600 Adams Street in Hoboken, during the evening hours to facilitate for the greatest level of participation. The meetings will cover the LTCP work for both the Adams Street and River Road service areas.



**Public Meeting Schedule:**

- 2018 – Meeting to introduce the LTCP planning process and the findings of the Sewer System Characterization.
- Early and mid-2019 – Two meetings to discuss the development of CSO control strategies.
- Late 2019 – One meeting to introduce potential CSO control alternatives.
- Early 2020 – One meeting to discuss the final selection of CSO control strategies.
- Mid 2020 at project completion (June 1, 2020) to discuss the LTCP submitted to the NJDEP.

A presentation and handouts will be provided at the public meetings. All public meetings will be documented for eventual reporting to NJDEP in the LTCP.

## 3.5 Bulk Mailings

Direct mailings will be created by the Authority to communicate information on the development of the LTCP, project milestones, and schedules of upcoming meetings. These mailers may be included with the Authority’s quarterly bill. However, since many customers house multiple residential or commercial tenants who are not directly billed by the Authority, an alternative direct mailing may be used to directly reach all of the Authority’s customers and residents in its service areas. Bulk mailings will be archived for eventual reporting to NJDEP in the LTCP.

# Supplemental CSO Team

The Authority has formed and works with a CSO Community Advisory Board that fulfills the requirements of a Supplemental CSO Team specified in the NJPDES permit. The following describes the Board, its members and activities conducted up to the writing of this report.

## 4.1 CSO Community Advisory Board

The NJDEP transmitted to the Authority a resource document via email on May 17, 2016 titled “Forming and Utilizing Your Supplemental CSO Team, For New Jersey’s Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Permits and Long Term Control Plans.” The Board was formed consistent with this document.

This Committee includes members from representing Hoboken, West New York, Weehawken, and Union City. Committee members were identified by the Authority’s leadership to include a diverse group representing all aspects of life in the community it serves. Committee members represent the business community, environmental groups, and community citizen action groups.

The following are the members of the Authority’s CSO Advisory Board:

- Brian Battaglia, Battaglia’s Home and Hoboken Chamber of Commerce, Hoboken resident
- Larry Bijou, Bijou Properties (Hoboken business), Weehawken resident
- Jason Capizzi, Port Imperial Homeowners Association, West New York resident
- Carter Craft, Hoboken Cove Community Boathouse Board, Rebulid-by-Design Hudson River Citizens’ Advisory Group (RBBD), Hoboken resident
- Mary Kelly, Hoboken Quality of Life/Nature Conservatory Committees, Hoboken resident
- Frank Raia, Raia & Sirignano LLC, Long time member of HOPES, former NHSA Commissioner, Hoboken resident
- Robert Sosa, Weehawken Parking Authority, Weehawken Resident
- Anthony Squire, Union City resident
- Debra Tantleff, New Jersey Committee of the Regional Plan Association and the Board of Directors for Downtown New Jersey, New Jersey Future and New Jersey Mixed-Use, Developers, West New York resident

## 4.2 Board Meetings

The first CSO Community Advisory Board meeting was held on November 14, 2016. Meetings are intended to be held on a regular basis through completion of the development of the LTCP on June 1, 2020. Meetings are being scheduled quarterly at the members convenience and coincident to activities and findings occurring in the development of the LTCP. Following the kickoff meeting, additional meetings have been held thus far on the following dates:

- March 13, 2017
- September 22, 2017
- March 5, 2018

CSO Community Advisory Board meetings consist of a review of ongoing activities, important findings during the development of the LTCP, and planned activities. The NJDEP spoke to the Board during the March 5, 2018 meeting. The Board has been solicited for suggestion on how best to engage with the public on the development of the LTCP. Meetings and other activities are documented for eventual reporting to NJDEP in the LTCP. Presentation materials and attendance rosters can be provided to the NJDEP on request.

# References

EPA, 1995. Combined Sewer Overflows-Guidance for Long-Term Control Plan. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Washington, DC. EPA 832-B-95-002. September 1995.

NJDEP, 2016. "Forming and Utilizing Your Supplemental CSO Team, For New Jersey's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Permits and Long Term Control Plans." New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Water Quality, CSO Division. May 17, 2016.

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