



November 12, 2010

By electronic mail (swimmablenyc@gmail.com)
Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (S.W.I.M.)
Coalition Steering Committee

Re: Preliminary Comments on NYC Green Infrastructure Plan

Dear Steering Committee Members:

Thank you for your preliminary comments on the *NYC Green Infrastructure Plan* and your support for the green infrastructure approach. S.W.I.M. is an important partner in this and other DEP efforts, and we look forward to working with you to continue the historic improvement in water quality that is making it possible to re-open the City's waterfront as a place for New Yorkers to live, work, and play. We agree that public engagement is critical to the success of the *NYC Green Infrastructure Plan*; indeed, it has been a crucial element of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC, and many other City initiatives. This is a plan for New Yorkers, and we want to offer all stakeholders the opportunity to participate in its development and implementation.

That is why one of the five main elements of the *NYC Green Infrastructure Plan* is community engagement, and why we have committed to incorporating public input throughout the implementation of this Plan. In the six weeks since the Plan's release we have met with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), numerous elected officials, and our most important constituents, the public—including the S.W.I.M. Steering Committee—to explain the Plan and seek input as we take preliminary steps to implement it.

While many of the details will be worked out as our discussions with State DEC continue, we can already commit to a number of concrete actions:

1. DEP will form and consult with a panel of independent, qualified experts—a Technical Advisory Group (TAG)—that will review green infrastructure designs as well as the status of green infrastructure implementation and offer recommendations. We agree that this is appropriate at the end of an initial three to five year start-up period, when there will be a significant track record of installations, using a variety of techniques in different conditions. Even before that check-in, we will solicit expert advice to inform our development and implementation of green infrastructure initiatives. The TAG will likely be reconvened periodically, and all documents provided to or by the TAG will be made available publicly on DEP's website.

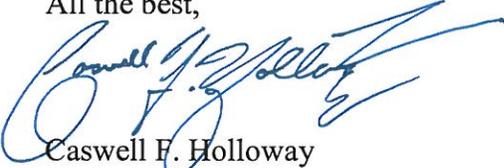
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2. DEP will work with S.W.I.M. and other community stakeholders to establish a Citizen Advisory Committee to work with us on the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Plan. We intend to establish the CAC immediately, and it would become an element of the required public participation during the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) process. As LTCPs for individual waterbodies are developed, participation would be expanded to include individual, watershed-level citizen advisory groups. But with so many common issues across the City, we agree that a Citywide CAC should be established and start work immediately. Matt Mahoney, DEP's Assistant Commissioner for Government Relations and Community Affairs, will be in touch shortly to begin this process. Matt can be reached at 718-595-6605 or by email at mmahoney@dep.nyc.gov.
3. DEP maintains webpages dedicated to stormwater management and green infrastructure generally, and the *NYC Green Infrastructure Plan* in particular, at www.nyc.gov/dep. DEP has already posted a summary of the June 2010 public meeting on a draft of the plan and maintains an electronic mail account—sustainability@dep.nyc.gov—for the public to submit comments on a rolling basis. By the end of the year, we will add any correspondence from S.W.I.M., other stakeholders, and the public, approved Waterbody/Watershed Facility Plans, public presentations, watershed maps, and other critical materials. We will update the materials on a rolling basis, including future CAG and TAG materials.

We look forward to working with the S.W.I.M. Coalition to seize the tremendous water quality and sustainability benefits that the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan can achieve as we strive to create greener, greater New York.

All the best,



Caswell F. Holloway

- c: Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, U.S. EPA Region 2
Nancy Stoner, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water, USEPA
James Tierney, Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources, DEC
Steven Goldsmith, Deputy Mayor for Operations, New York City
David Bragdon, Director, Mayor's Office of Long-Term Planning & Sustainability