

## Jamaica Bay and Tributaries Long Term Control Plan Public Meeting #1 Public Kickoff Meeting

### Summary of Meeting and Public Comments

On September 22, 2016 the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) hosted the first public meeting for the water quality planning process for the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) in Jamaica Bay and its tributaries. The two-hour event, held at Jamaica Chamber of Commerce in Jamaica, Queens, provided overview information about DEP's Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) Program, presented information on Jamaica Bay watershed characteristics and status of waterbody improvement projects, obtained public information on waterbody uses in Jamaica Bay, and described additional opportunities for public input and outreach. Four breakout sessions were held to further discuss Jamaica Bay Water Quality sampling, CSO controls, affordability, and Green Infrastructure (GI) and the MS4 program. The presentation can be found on DEP's LTCP Program website: <http://www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp>.

Approximately 15 people from the public attended the event, as well as representatives from DEP and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Information presented included:

- Overview of Consent Order and LTCP Process;
- Jamaica Bay and Tributaries Waterbody and Watershed Characteristics;
- Jamaica Bay and Tributaries Classification and Water Quality Standard;
- Jamaica Bay and Tributaries Sampling and Monitoring Program;
- Jamaica Bay and Tributaries Water Quality Sampling Results;
- Jamaica Bay and Tributaries Water Quality Programs and CSO Mitigation Projects;
- Jamaica Bay and Tributaries Green Infrastructure Projects & Green Infrastructure Opportunities;
- LTCP Modeling and the Alternatives Development Process; and
- Summary of Next Steps, Additional Information and Resources.

The following summarizes the questions and comments from attendees as well as responses given.

#### **Q1: An attendee asked to explain Request for Information (RFI) for private programs.**

A1: DEP stated that they have comprehensive knowledge about green infrastructure on public properties; however there are additional opportunities for private property incentives. The purpose of the RFI was to procure a third party entity to support DEP's effort to develop a private incentive program.

#### **Q2: An attendee asked how much funding is needed for the CSO program and how the specific areas within CSO watershed will be targeted.**

A2: As part of the LTCP development process, DEP conducts costs/benefit analyses to determine the costs and benefits of various CSO alternatives. DEP acknowledged that the final recommendation would include information about the projected costs.

**Q3: An attendee asked if DEP is considering using permeable pavement on parking lots, and if so, by whom they will be paid.**

A3: DEP acknowledged that parking lots can be a source of stormwater runoff and good opportunities for green infrastructure. Currently DEP partners with City agencies to retrofit City-owned parking lots with green infrastructure.

**Q4: An attendee acknowledged that parking lots within the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) are the biggest impervious areas.**

A4: DEP agreed and stated that it has a robust partnership with NYCHA to incorporate green infrastructure where cost-effective and feasible.

**Q5: An attendee asked if DEP will reach out to the NYCHA residents.**

A5: DEP stated that it is currently working with NYCHA property managers to bring green infrastructure projects onto NYCHA property and involve youth and other residents in City programs. DEP stated that maintenance of GI projects is key to having them working properly; therefore, even though bioswales, rain gardens, etc. are City-owned, help from the community is always welcome.

**Q6: An attendee asked to explain the Green Infrastructure Grant Program and how DEP will encourage Queens's community for bioswales implementation despite opposition from local elected officials.**

A6: DEP is aware that some elected officials in the area of Northeast Queens have expressed concerns about bioswales. DEP is planning on having a community meeting with them and local community representatives to explain the process. DEP is planning on clearing up misconceptions about bioswales and explaining the benefits of GI. DEP stated that the Green Infrastructure Grant Program provides up to 100 percent of design and construction costs for projects that manage one inch of stormwater runoff. Active projects within the program are green roofs, rain gardens, and permeable pavement installation. The program is effective in targeting large properties. Some of the institutions that are part of the Grant Program are Lenox Hill Neighborhood House in Manhattan, the Osbourne Association in the Bronx, colleges including Queens College and Pratt Institute, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, and the Bronx Zoo.

**Q7: An attendee asked what kind of disinfection DEP is planning on using.**

A7: DEP explained that disinfection was only proposed for the Alley Creek, Hutchinson River, and Flushing Creek LTCPs and stated that it is considering hypochlorite chlorination and sodium bisulfide for dechlorination. DEP looked into parasitic acid and ultraviolet light but both did not provide successful results for CSO related wastewater disinfection.

**Q8: An attendee pointed out that a lot of non-profit organizations are concerned about the residue from chlorination.**

A8: DEP stated that it is aware of this problem and is actively performing a Spring Creek Pilot Study and Bench Scale studies. LTCP projects that include chlorination will also include dechlorination.

**Q9: An attendee asked about water quality in Jamaica Bay in the next 50 years.**

A9: DEP stated that there will be continuous improvement of water quality in Jamaica Bay.

**Q10: An attendee asked what is DEP's water quality goal.**

A10: DEP stated that the water quality is based on the standards provided by DEC. For fecal coliform, the current standard is 200 cfu/100mL and all LTCPs have this value as a target. The second criterion evaluated is *Enterococci*. The *Enterococci* criterion is more restrictive than fecal coliform; however, the *Enterococci* target has not been adopted by the CSO Program yet.