



*Donovan Richards*  
*Queens Borough President*

## Community Board No. 2

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*Danielle Brecker*  
*Chairperson*

*Debra Markell Kleinert*  
*District Manager*

March 10, 2023

Rohit T. Aggarwala  
Commissioner  
NYC Department of Environmental Protection  
59-17 Junction Blvd.  
Queens, New York 11368

Re: **Borden Avenue Pump Station Upgrades**  
**NYCDEP Contract CSO-NC-4**

Dear Commissioner Aggarwala:

The Environment Committee of Community Board 2 recommends changes to the Borden Avenue Pump Station Upgrade project, as presented on Thursday, February 24, 2022.

The committee, as well as community members and stakeholders propose that DEP incorporate "green infrastructure" within the project's footprint. This could include bioswales, plantings, and other water-retention measures.

The committee also recommends that NYCDEP submit this project to the Dept of Cultural Affairs' [Percent for Art](#) program. The pump station itself could incorporate a mural or other form of beautification which would enhance the surroundings.

The pump station's location lacks "placemaking" elements and bears signs of municipal neglect (cracked sidewalks, potholes, etc.) This contributes to vehicle speeding on the adjacent streets and informal activity on the Borden Street end. Last May, a driver sped off the end of a skateboarding ramp into Newtown Creek, killing three ([Gothamist](#).)

We understand that this presentation was a required update on a project that is already underway, but given that most of our recommendations are primarily cosmetic and should not significantly delay the project's core functions, we urge the agency to incorporate our feedback and issue a change order. The community's needs and priorities have changed as our demographics have shifted and climate risks are more present and severe.

*"Serving the Communities of Long Island City, Sunnyside, Woodside, and Maspeth"*

Thank you for your review of this matter and if you have any questions, please contact CB 2.

Sincerely,



Debra Markell Kleinert  
District Manager

DMK/mag

Cc: Vincent Sapienza, NYC DEP  
Karen Ellis, DEP  
Robert Olivari, DEP  
Danielle Brecker, Chairperson, Community Board 2  
Laura Shepard, Chair, Environment, Parks and Recreation Committee