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THE COUNCIL  
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**PETER KOO**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, QUEENS

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November 30, 2016

Acting Commissioner Vincent Sapienza  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
9605 Horace Harding Expressway  
Corona, NY 11368

Re: Flushing Bay CSO Long Term Control Plan

Dear Commissioner Sapienza:

I am writing regarding the Department of Environmental Protection's Flushing Bay CSO Long Term Control Plan. As the City Council representative for the 20<sup>th</sup> Council District, the boundaries of my district include the Flushing Creek and its intersection with the Flushing Bay. While the city is considering the Flushing Creek and Bay under separate CSO Long Term Plans, the two bodies of water are interchangeable and flow into each other due to changes in tidal flows. What happens in one affects the other.

I would like to commend the DEP for hosting and participating in several community meetings regarding the Long Term Control Plan, during which stakeholders from the DEP and the community were given an opportunity to have open and honest discussions regarding the long term planning process for sewage outfalls in our communities. This process has been markedly improved over the years, and our community is grateful for the opportunity to have its voice heard.

As you are aware, Flushing is developing at such a rapid rate that it is already outpacing the existing infrastructure on every level of the urban planning spectrum. Our transit, schools, streets, and sewers are all overburdened. In 2007, the city completed construction of a 43 million gallon CSO tank, but even that significant piece of infrastructure quickly becomes overwhelmed by heavy rainfall. New capacity is needed.

In fact, I recently rejected a proposal by City Planning to rezone and encourage the development of an entire swath of western Flushing along the Flushing Creek for new housing, retail and community space opportunities. I rejected these plans reluctantly because although I would love to see these parts of my district flourish under a targeted and strategic rezoning plan, the plans did very little to address the serious infrastructure problems that would be created by thousands of new units, particularly with regard to how it would affect the Flushing Creek and Bay.

To combat continued overflows, the city has proposed chlorinating to kill toxins during parts of the year. Not only does this tactic ignore the capacity problems that stand to worsen with new development, it goes against many of the community's recommendations. Community Board 7, Flushing Creek and Bay advocates and professors of hydrology and environmental microbiology and water quality have rejected the plan due to similar toxicity and capacity concerns.

At the last LCTP meeting, it was suggested that the Flushing Creek plan be reevaluated before further pursuing a separate plan for the Bay due to concerns over chlorination. I strongly agree with this position given the interconnectivity of the Bay and the Creek. Chlorinating any part of these waterways may pose immediate harm to both, and does nothing to solve the problems with capacity.

Finally, I strongly encourage greater consideration be given to Willets Point and the Citi Field vicinity as potential sites for future storage tanks and grey infrastructure given the proximity to existing Creek and Bay outfall infrastructure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter Koo