

BRONX RIVER PUBLIC COMMENT RESPONSE SUMMARY

Public Letters Received:

1. Bronx River Alliance, March 3, 2015. Long Term Control Plan for Bronx River
2. Carolyn McLaughlin via email, June 20, 2015. Bronx River Long Term Control Plan Comments
3. Nandan Hara Shetty via email, May 29, 2015. Bronx River CSO LTCP
4. S.W.I.M. Coalition, January 29, 2015. Comments on the June 2015 Bronx River CSO Long Term Control Plan Second Public Presentation

1. Improve public outreach and present information in a more easily understandable format.

Response:

- Based on comments received, DEP has implemented several enhancements to its Public Participation Program including streamlining presentations and securing larger venues for meetings.

2. Ecosystem Health. Proposed alternatives do not address oxygen demand, nutrients loadings, floatables, dissolved oxygen and other pollutants impairment.

Response:

- Under the recommended plan for the Bronx River, the annual CSO volume is projected to be reduced by 170 MG. As discussed in Section 8 of the LTCP, the saline reach of the river is projected to achieve annual attainment of the Class I DO criterion. Nutrient loading from CSOs was not identified as a source of impairment and current nutrient loading associated with CSOs are estimated to contribute about 37 lbs/d of nitrogen. That is significantly less than other sources of nitrogen such as wastewater discharges and atmospheric deposition. Floatables control is currently provided via a netting system at outfall HP-009, and mechanically-cleaned bar screens at outfall HP-007.

3. Effect of chlorination on aquatic ecosystem.

Response:

- The approved Bronx River LTCP project does not include chlorination.

4. Coordination with MS4 programs and reduction of other pollution sources. Better evaluation of separate and direct drainage discharges.

Response:

- DEP's MS4 and CSO LTCP's programs are closely coordinated.

5. The LTCP should maximize the use of cost-effective green infrastructure (GI) to reduce CSOs.

Response:

- *DEP's strategy is to utilize GI where it is feasible and provides the highest benefits for water quality and other co-benefits. The City designs, constructs, and maintains green infrastructure in City owned streets and sidewalks and retrofits City owned property such as parks, schools, and public housing. The City also offers a grant program for private property.*

6. The Impact of pollution coming from Westchester County

Response:

- *As documented in Section 2 of the June 2015 CSO LTCP for Bronx, DEP's sampling program identified elevated bacteria levels in the Bronx River at the boundary with Westchester County. DEP coordinated its sampling program with Westchester County. In accordance with the CSO Order and the EPA CSO policy, the CSO LTCP evaluates alternatives to address the impacts of CSOs. Therefore, in accordance with discussions with DEC for the purposes of evaluating the performance of CSO control alternatives, it was assumed that the upstream sources of non-attainment in Westchester County would be addressed, and that the flow in the Bronx River at the border with Westchester County would be in attainment with WQS.*