



The City of New York

Manhattan Community Board 1

Catherine McVay Hughes CHAIRPERSON | Noah Pfefferblit DISTRICT MANAGER

**NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Public Meeting on the MS4 Progress Report
Diana Switaj, Director of Planning and Land Use
90 Church Street, 4th Fl Board Room, New York, NY
Wednesday, June 22, 2016, 6:30PM**

My name is Diana Switaj, Director of Planning and Land Use at Manhattan Community Board 1 which includes most of Manhattan below Canal Street and south of the Brooklyn Bridge, as well as Ellis, Governors and Liberty Islands. Thank you for holding this important public hearing today and inviting our testimony.

A key component of the Stormwater Management Plan is public education, outreach, involvement and participation. The community engagement process began in 2015. However, Community Board 1 has not been informed about the Stormwater Management Plan and only learned of it during the June 2016 Planning Committee meeting during a presentation by a representative of Riverkeeper, Inc.

Stormwater management is a critical concern to CB1, as our district is surrounded by water on three sides and includes Ellis Island, Governors Island and Liberty Island. We also remain highly vulnerable to extreme weather events and have been advocating for improved stormwater management for years.

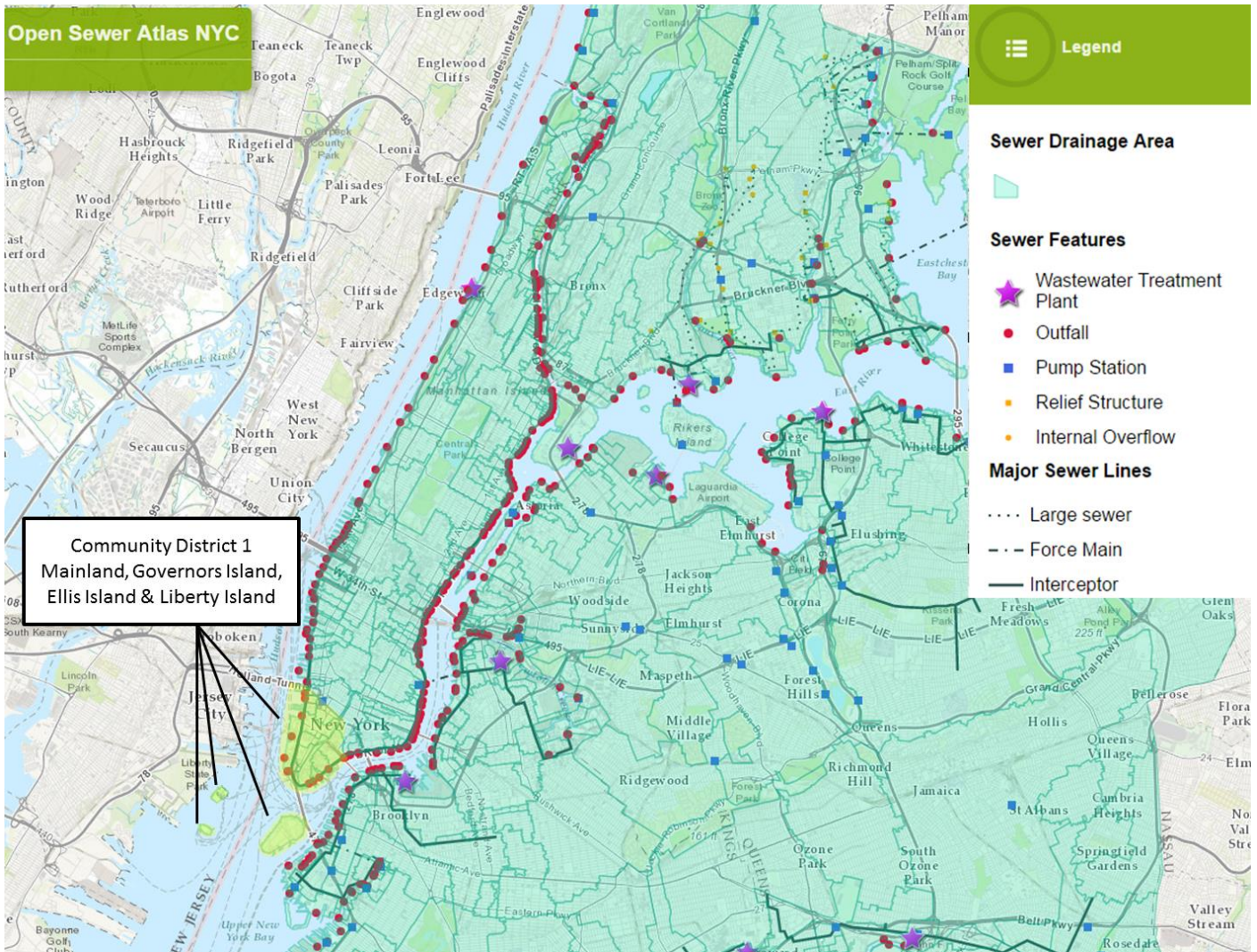
CB1 has for years been on the record in our support and request for bioswales. In CB1's 2016 District Needs Statement, we requested a funding increase for more bioswales and maintenance of existing ones because pollutant removal rates increase when bioswales are well maintained, and as the residence time of water in bioswales increase. CB1 has also reported many empty tree pits in our district, which continue to be empty, but would capture some run-off which is critical since our district, the 4th largest business district in the country, is highly dense and largely impermeable.

Our District's water quality is affected by three bodies of water since it is at the confluence of the East River, Hudson River and the New York Harbor. According to Open Sewer Atlas NYC (see attached), Community District 1 (CD1) is downriver from many discharges.

Enjoyment of the waterfront with boats and other vessels in the water has increased over the years in CD1, including human-powered vessels at the Downtown Boathouse at Pier 26 in Hudson River Park, Governors Island and sail boats.

The City's community-based resiliency planning has not yet even begun for the Manhattan Tip resiliency project, and drainage is a critical component of it which must be addressed. Superstorm Sandy, which impacted our community with up to 7 feet of water at the historic Seaport, resulted in contaminated water flooding our streets, buildings and tunnels.

CB1 is disappointed and concerned that it has not been notified or involved in the City's development of a Stormwater Management Plan, and requests to be kept informed moving forward.



<http://openseweratlas.tumblr.com/map>