



GOWANUS CANAL
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)
your local voice for Superfund

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The following CAG resolution requests formal consideration by the indicated parties to conduct activities related to the Gowanus Canal Cleanup with regard to the concerns and interests of the Gowanus community.

To: New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP);

Rohit Aggarwala, Commissioner and Chief Climate Officer
Vincent Sapienza, Chief Operations Officer
Angela Licata, Deputy Commissioner of Sustainability
Pinar Balci, Assistant Commissioner
Kevin Clarke, Portfolio Manager
Mikelle Adgate, Senior Advisor for Strategic Planning

NYCDEP, Bureau of Water & Sewer Operations (BWSO);

Jannine McColgan, Director of Engineering
John Bazik, Review Engineer, Drainage Review Section
Steve Carrea, Chief, Drainage & Modeling

Date: February 22, 2022

Re: Requesting NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) cooperation with US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates regarding proposed sewer separation projects that are protective of the Superfund remedy, allowing direct discharge of stormwater flows where feasible for further reduction of combined sewer overflow impacts (CSO) as a result of new development in the Gowanus neighborhood.

Resolved:

The Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group (CAG) supports the EPA mandates outlined in paragraphs 73c (Stormwater Controls) and 73d (Separated Outfall Treatment Units) of the Executive Administrative Order (EAO) dated March 29, 2021, as affirmed in the [June 2021 CAG resolution in support of EPA's Administrative Order](#). The community sees benefits to allowing the direct discharge of stormwater flows where source control measures for pollution control are in place, particularly at street end sites along the Canal. Currently, most street ends drain downhill overland flow directly into the Canal. If this stormwater is re-directed uphill into the already overburdened sewer infrastructure, it will lead to increased Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO). From a water quality standpoint, with appropriate source controls that pre-treat stormwater before entering the waterway, direct discharge of stormwater is far less polluting than CSO.

With regards to a recent proposal submitted for the Huntington Street End site on the Gowanus Canal, the developer proposes to separate stormwater and sanitary flows at the developer-owned site and adjacent street end with EPA approved source-control pollution prevention, a Vortex Separator, installed and maintained by the developer. DEP has denied the permit application and directed the developer to instead construct a combined system, which adds both new sanitary and street end stormwater volumes to the constrained combined sewer main capacity.

The CAG requests that DEP cooperate with EPA and work with them to implement the recent separated street stormwater plans submitted by the developer at the Huntington Street End site as well as implementing solutions for direct discharge on similar sites along the Canal. The CAG further requests acknowledgement of receipt with regards to this correspondence. If DEP objects to the CAG request, we kindly ask that the Department provide clear justification or reason within a timely manner.

cc:

Christos Tsiamis, Project Manager, Gowanus Canal RPM, USEPA
Brian Carr, Counsel, EPA Region 2 Legal Council, USEPA
Natalie Loney, Community Liaison, Gowanus Canal CIC, USEPA
Walter Mugdan, Deputy Regional Administrator Region 2, USEPA
Lisa Garcia, Administrator Region 2, USEPA
Pat Evangelista, Director, Superfund & Emergency Management Division, USEPA
John Prince, Deputy Director, Superfund & Emergency Management Division, USEPA
Basil Seggos, Commissioner, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)
Honorable Nydia Velazquez, Congresswoman, NY 7th District
Honorable Jo Anne Simon, Assemblymember, Assembly District 52
Honorable Antonio Reynoso, Brooklyn Borough President
Honorable Shahana Hanif, Council Member, District 39
Honorable Lincoln Restler, Council Member, District 33
Mike Racioppo, District Manager, Community Board 6
Dan Garodnick, Director, NYC Department of City Planning

Please direct responses and inquiries to Doug Sarno, CAG Facilitator, doug@forumfg.com.