

4 ways you can help ahead of the December 13th NYC Council hearing

Help us spread the word about the hearing so we can pack the hearing room with concerned citizens, activists, and experts that care about clean water!

- 1. Draft your own testimony about what clean water means for your waterway!** Let the City Council know that the plans DEP has proposed for our waterways do not go far enough, fast enough, and that the public expects them to do better. The room holds 100-150 people, let's fill that room full of concerned citizens!! Let us know you're coming [here](#).
2. Before the hearing, **share SWIM Coalition's [event page on Facebook](#)** to your social media networks, and connect with us at [@SWIMCoalition](#) for updates as the hearing draws closer.
3. **[Click here to send an email](#) to the City Council, the DEP Commissioner, and the Mayor letting them know you want the City** to get raw sewage out of our NYC Waterways - we want to see the City capture sewage, not just bleach our sewers!!
- 4. Invite your neighbors, friends and family to join you at the hearing on Facebook, by e-mail, or in person.**

Why this hearing matters

1. New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) approved a series of deeply flawed Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long Term Control Plans (LTCP) without public participation.
 - Learn more in recent SWIM Coalition [blog posts](#) and attached fact sheets.
2. We must tell the New York City Council Environmental Protection Committee:
 - ***The City's CSO LTCPs will not make our waterways safe for recreational activities.*** In each waterbody, the respective plans will leave hundreds of millions (for some waterways, over a billion gallons) of sewage overflows annually. In many places, overflows will occur dozens of times per year.
 - ***Chlorination is not the answer- Capture, don't chlorinate or divert CSOs.*** The City proposed - and the state approved - plans to dump chlorine into sewers before it enters Alley Creek, Flushing Creek and the Hutchinson River. This is an unproven technology that will not make our waterways safe for recreation and will add a new toxic chemical to vulnerable habitats.
 - ***More green infrastructure and incentives for private properties.*** The City hasn't met its first major milestone under a State-mandated Green Infrastructure Plan; right now, there is no coherent strategy to make up for lost ground, let alone meet the next milestone in 2020. We want to see a more robust green infrastructure plan, with more adaptable designs for public property and real incentives for private property owners - implemented today, not tomorrow or a decade from now
 - ***Improve transparency and take public input seriously.*** DEP and DEC have led a secretive process, and much of the public is not being informed about development of the LTCPs, or given real opportunities to weigh in on the plans before they are approved. Even the most basic information about risks to water users – when sewage overflows are occurring – is not being communicated effectively.

Join SWIM Coalition in advocating for NYC waterways by raising your concerns about your waterway!