

Why is this NYC Council hearing critical?

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.

[The New York City Council Committee for Environmental Protection is holding a public hearing on wastewater issues on Wednesday, December 13th at 10am and this is our time to voice our concerns.](#)

Learn more in recent SWIM Coalition [blog post](#) 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, and raise your own concerns about your waterway!](#)