

Public Participation Plan

For

City of Lancaster, Pennsylvania



CITY OF
LANCASTER

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

February 7, 2020

I. Introduction

The City of Lancaster owns and operates a wastewater treatment plant and a collection system that collects stormwater and wastewater from residential, commercial, and industrial sources. Lancaster's Combined Sewer System is designed to discharge, under certain conditions specified in NPDES Permit No. PA0026743, through Combined Sewer Overflow ("CSO") Outfalls, into the Conestoga River, which ultimately flows into the Chesapeake Bay.

In 2017, Lancaster entered into a Consent Decree (No. 17-cv-5684) with the United States and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) to ensure that Lancaster undertakes measures necessary to comply with the Clean Water Act, including, but not limited to, 33 U.S.C. § 1342(q) and the regulations promulgated thereunder, and the Clean Streams Law and the regulations promulgated thereunder. In accordance with Paragraph 13 of the Consent Decree, the City must prepare an Amended Long-term Control Plan (LTCP) for approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The City of Lancaster is committed to actively involving the affected public in decision making to select the long-term CSO controls to be included in the Amended LTCP, as required by Consent Decree Paragraph 24. This Public Participation Plan (PPP) was prepared in accordance with the Consent Decree and addresses the following required elements:

1. The means by which Lancaster will make information pertaining to the development of the Amended LTCP available to the public; including, but not limited to, website development, neighborhood meetings, newsletters, media outreach, direct mailing, and special events;
2. The means by which the City will solicit comments from the public on development of the Amended LTCP, including efforts to reach, at a minimum, homeowners and renters, commercial businesses, industrial businesses, community groups and neighborhood associations, civic organizations and clubs, business and trade associations, schools, service organizations, and the media; and
3. Developing a process for consideration of comments provided by the public during the City's development of the Amended LTCP and for providing the public with the City's response to comments from the public.

II. Long-term Control Plan Amendment

Lancaster must develop and implement a long-term Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control plan that will ultimately result in compliance with the Clean Water Act, and the Pennsylvania Water Quality Standards, 25 Pa. Code Chapter 93.

The Amended Long-term Control Plan (LTCP) is being developed by the City of Lancaster, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Wastewater with support from the Bureau of Stormwater Management. Technical support is being provided by CDM Smith, Geosyntec, Jacobs, and Stantec.

An Advisory Committee, comprised of individuals representing the interests of stakeholders, including Lancaster residents and businesses, has been assembled to advise the City on matters related to development of the Amended Long-term Control Plan.

Development of the Amended LTCP is an incremental process, requiring EPA approval of specific elements throughout the planning process. The City's public participation process has been developed in accordance with that process.

III. Public Participation Plan

A. Overview and Goals

The City of Lancaster's Strategic Plan contains commitments to strong neighborhoods, safe streets, secure incomes and sound government. The following statements from the Strategic Plan, regarding the City's commitment to *sound government*, provide a foundation for this effort:

- *Lancaster's leaders are approachable, responsive, and always working to make the City a better place.*
- *Human and financial resources are put to their best use and competing interests are balanced through public dialogue.*

To ensure that decisions affecting human health and the environment embrace environmental justice, the City reviewed and incorporated guidance outlined in the EPA Office of Environmental Justice publication "The Model Plan for Public Participation" (EPA-300-K-00-001) into this Public Participation Plan.

The public participation process outlined below, when implemented, will ensure the following goals are met:

1. The public is informed about the development of the Amended LTCP;
2. The public understands its role in the development of the Amended LTCP, including how to comment and provide input on the various components of the Amended LTCP; and
3. The City considers comments and input provided by the public and provides a response to comments and input from the public during development of the Amended LTCP.

B. Activities to Date

The City of Lancaster has engaged the public around the CSO issue for many years. Specific public participation and education activities to date include: establishment of a Green Infrastructure Advisory Committee; development of a Green Infrastructure Plan; postings to social media; identification and direct outreach and engagement of stakeholders including environmental and neighborhood groups, business and industry, civic organizations, faith-based institutions, regulatory agencies, and service organizations and the media; web-sites promoting Pollution Prevention Practices; placards on storm inlets; fliers in City sewer billings; posting of

fixed signs at CSO Outfalls and public access points; and, development of a Green Infrastructure program that engages residents and businesses. Selected stakeholders, including environmental civic organizations, and governmental agencies, were involved in identifying Sensitive Areas for the Amended LTCP in late 2018 and early 2019.

The actions outlined below will build on the activities undertaken to date and address the requirements for public participation set forth in the Consent Decree, CSO Control Policy, and other guidance provided by EPA.

C. Information Sharing

The City of Lancaster will share information about the development of the Amended Long-term Control Plan with the public through the following forums and/or venues:

- City of Lancaster website and social media;
- Public Meetings - Details are provided in Section III.D Public Comment/Input (below);
- Advisory Committee Meetings;
- Correspondence with stakeholder groups (neighborhood organizations, community service organizations, faith based organizations, civic organizations and clubs);
- Media Briefings/Press Releases; and
- Stakeholder Meetings - Advisory Committee members will be asked to share vital information through their networks/affiliations.

A copy of the EPA approved Public Participation Plan will be made available at Lancaster City Hall, on the City's website, and the Lancaster City Branch of the Lancaster Public Library.

D. Public Comment/Input

Public comment and input will be solicited through public meetings and Advisory Committee meetings. The City will host at least three (3) public meetings to solicit input at the following points in the planning process:

Public Meeting #1 - Planning Phase I - Following EPA approval of Sensitive Areas and Pollutants of Concern (Consent Decree Paragraph 15), the City will host a public meeting to introduce the Amended LTCP development process and schedule, and share information regarding the following: Financial Capability Assessment; Sensitive Areas and Pollutants of Concern; System Characterization; Alternatives Evaluation process, including benefits criteria; and, Public Participation Plan. This meeting will also include an overview of the City's FOG Plan. The anticipated date for this meeting is during the second quarter of 2020.

Public Meeting #2 - Planning Phase II - Following Screening of Available CSO Control Alternatives and Development of CSO Control Alternatives (Consent Decree Paragraphs 30 & 31 respectively), but prior to Selection of CSO Control Measures (Consent Decree Paragraph 33) the City will host a public meeting to present, and solicit feedback on, the

CSO Control Alternatives. This meeting will include an explanation of the Alternatives Evaluation criteria and process, including analysis of the Amended LTCP's impact on communities that have historically borne a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from Lancaster's CSOs, and an explanation of how the Amended LTCP ensures that the selected CSO Control Measures will mitigate those historical consequences and will not impose a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences on such communities in the future (Consent Decree Paragraph 32.f). The community will be kept apprised of ongoing progress and will be notified well in advance of Public Meetings 2 and 3.

Public Meeting #3 - Planning Phase III - Following completion of the CSO Control Alternatives Evaluation, the City will host a public meeting to share the Draft Amended LTCP, including selected CSO Control Measures, Implementation Schedule, Post Construction Compliance Monitoring Plan, and revised Operation and Maintenance Plans if required. If Green Infrastructure Projects are included in the selected CSO Control Measures, then the updated Green Infrastructure documents required by Appendix A to the Consent Decree will also be shared at this meeting.

In addition to accepting comment at public meetings, the City will accept written comments throughout the planning process. A dedicated e-mail account will be established for electronic submission of comments. A means of receiving comments in writing will also be made available consistent with the City of Lancaster's policy for access, notices and communications will be made available in Spanish as well as English, and if requested, in other languages as well.

The City will also host Advisory Committee meetings to solicit guidance and feedback on matters related to development of the Amended Long-term Control Plan. The committee will serve throughout the development of the Amended LTCP. Committee members will be expected to participate in quarterly meetings during the first year and semi-annual meetings thereafter. Regulatory agency staff will be invited to attend Advisory Committee meetings.

The date, time and location of all public meetings will be publicized at least 30 days in advance. Notice of Advisory Committee meetings, which will be open to the public, will be posted on the City's website. Regulatory agency staff will be notified of all public meetings and encouraged to attend. Accommodations will be made for those with disabilities.

E. City Response Protocols

The City of Lancaster is committed to providing a meaningful public participation experience and to actively seeking input from residents and other stakeholders during development of the Amended LTCP.

Public comments received during development of the Amended LTCP will be entered into a Comment Registry and reviewed for incorporation into the Amended LTCP as appropriate. Each party submitting written comment will receive verification that the comment was received. The Comment Registry will be housed on the City's website so that the public and regulatory agency staff can review all comments received.

Responses to comments will be included in the Comment Registry upon completion of the Amended LTCP. The Comment Registry, including the City's responses to comments, will be included as an Appendix to the Amended LTCP.