

City of Elizabeth
Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties
Public Participation Program

CSO Long Term Control Plan Permit Compliance

Daniel J. Loomis, PE, CME
City Engineer

New Jersey CSO Permittees Network Meeting
November 8, 2018
City Hall Council Chambers, Elizabeth, NJ



Public participation process report

- Joint Program b/w JMEUC and the City
- Process to inform, engage, and solicit input from the public
- Identify and select CSO control projects that are supported by the public to the greatest extent possible
- Maintain Supplemental CSO Team involvement throughout



Public participation process report

Key issues addressed

Identification of stakeholders

Engagement methods

Supplemental CSO Team summary

Opportunities for education and outreach

Opportunities for public input

Approach to addressing comments

Stakeholder identification

Attempt to engage diverse range of stakeholders

- Groups already interested and active in the area
- Outreach to those not yet aware of CSOs and LTCP requirements

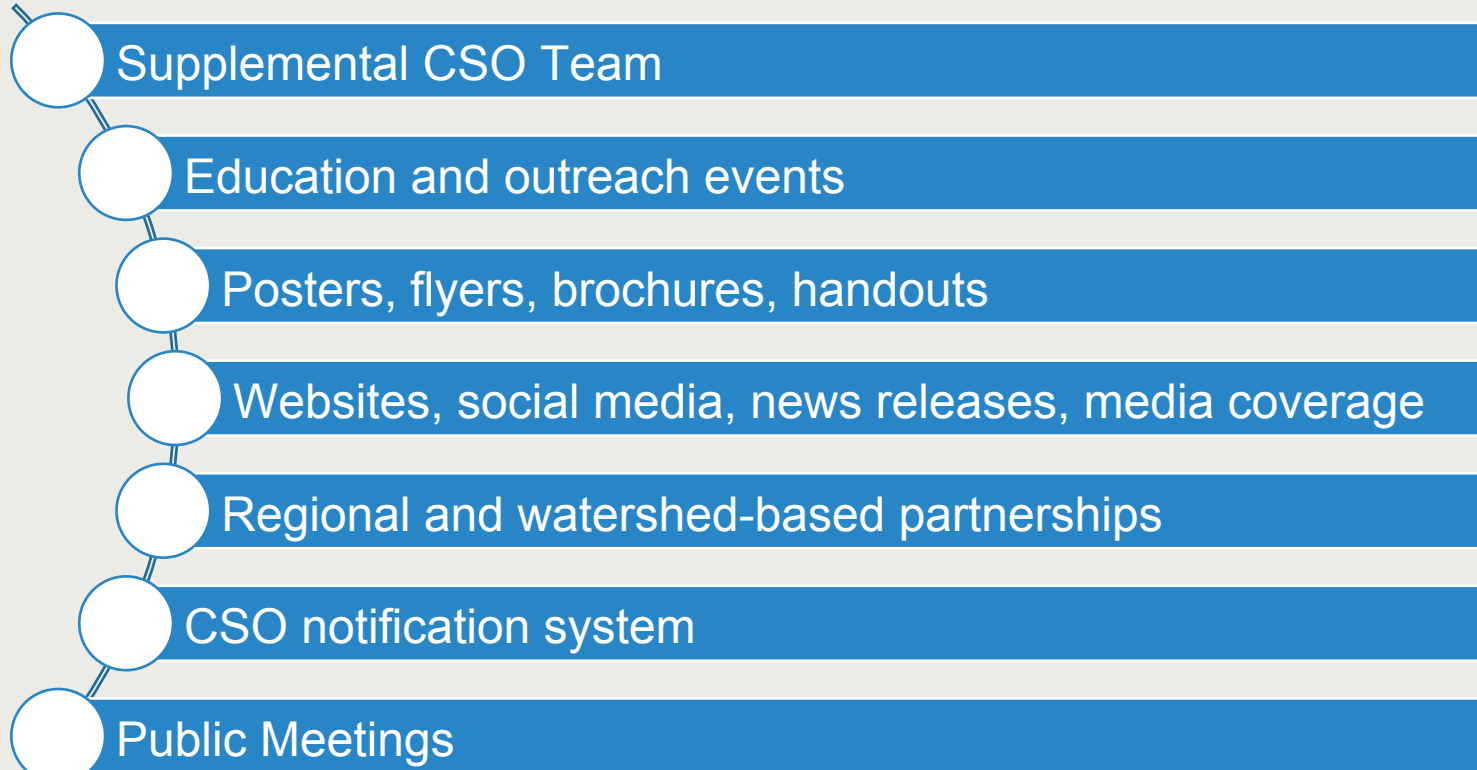


Affected public

- Rate payers
- Community residents
- Environmental groups
- Economic development groups
- Industrial, institutional, and educational interests
- Governing body and municipal executive boards
- Hydraulically connected municipalities
 - Roselle Park (direct connection at upstream end of major drainage basin)

Public participation engagement methods

Public outreach and education; Public input and involvement



Supplemental CSO Team

Invitations to stakeholders



Department of Engineering,
Public Works and Facilities
Management



Elizabeth River / Arthur Kill
Watershed Association



Supplemental CSO Team

Purpose and goals

- Informal workgroup of community, environmental, business, public health, and regional representatives
- Fostering long term public involvement in the CSO control program
- Two-way dialogue:
 - Opportunity for the permittees to share information about LTCP work.
 - Opportunity for team members to provide input on the plan.
- Intended to reach a broad base of citizens by working with representatives of key local organizations
 - Link to the general public
 - Obtain feedback and gain an understanding of the public's willingness to accept or participate in alternatives to reduce CSOs



Supplemental CSO Team

Meeting procedures

- Quarterly meetings
- Doodle poll web application used for date selection; circulated a month in advance to maximize team member availability
- Meeting invitation with agenda then emailed; invitees asked to confirm planned attendance
- Initial meetings held at City Hall, moved to community center for more open venue
- Copy of presentations provided to all team members within 1 week of each meeting
- Comments and feedback received are recorded and summarized in reports. Considered in developing and evaluating alternatives

Getting feedback

Interactive Surveys

Obtain feedback on items such as:

- Who you are / who you are representing
- Water pollution sources, issues, and concerns
- Public engagement methods
- Priorities for CSO alternatives
- Financing CSO controls

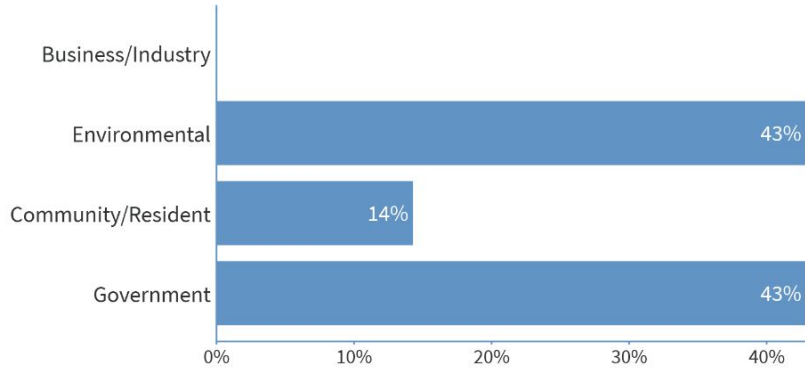
Conduct survey electronically through interactive web-based application

- PollEverywhere website (free version):
www.polleverywhere.com
- Visit website using mobile devices
- Answer survey questions anonymously
- Poll results presented in real-time
- Encourage active discussion and participation at meeting

Results of member surveys

What kind of organization do you represent?

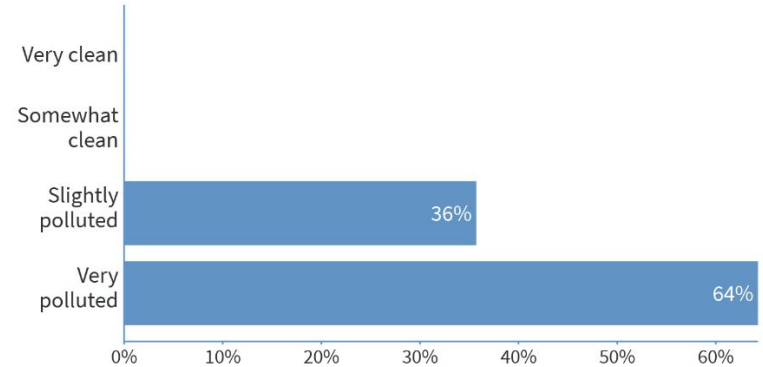
When poll is active, respond at [PollEv.com/mottmac355](https://www.poll-ev.com/mottmac355) Text **MOTTMAC355** to **223333** once to join



Poll Everywhere

How clean do you think the Elizabeth River is?

When poll is active, respond at [PollEv.com/mottmac355](https://www.poll-ev.com/mottmac355) Text **MOTTMAC355** to **223333** once to join

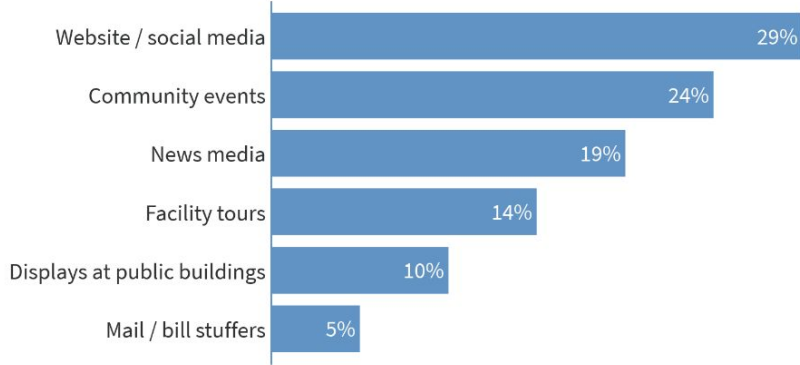


Poll Everywhere

Results of member surveys

What is the most effective way to engage with the public for CSO awareness?

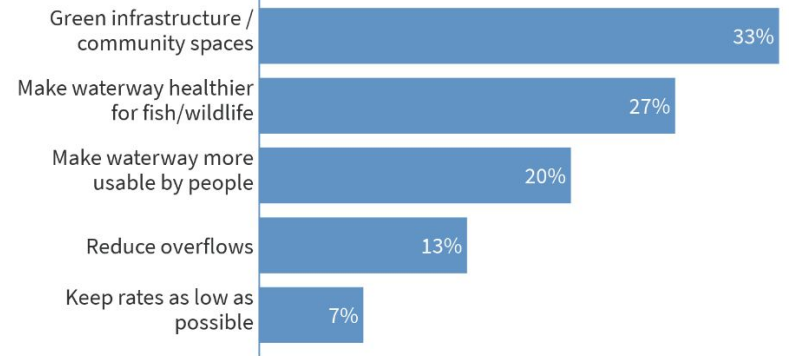
When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/mottmac355



Poll Everywhere

What is the most important criteria in developing CSO controls?

When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/mottmac355

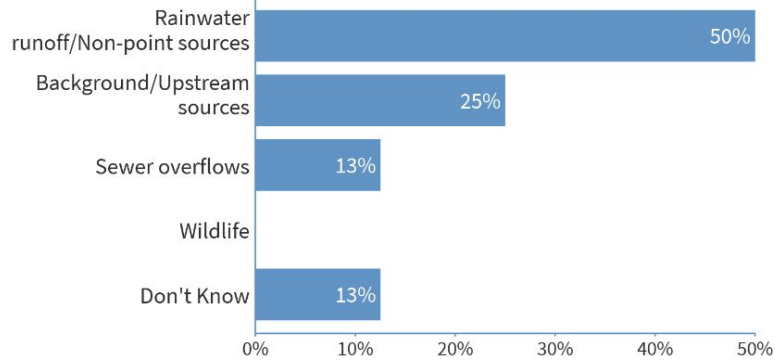


Poll Everywhere

Results of member surveys

What is the main cause of pollution in local waterways?

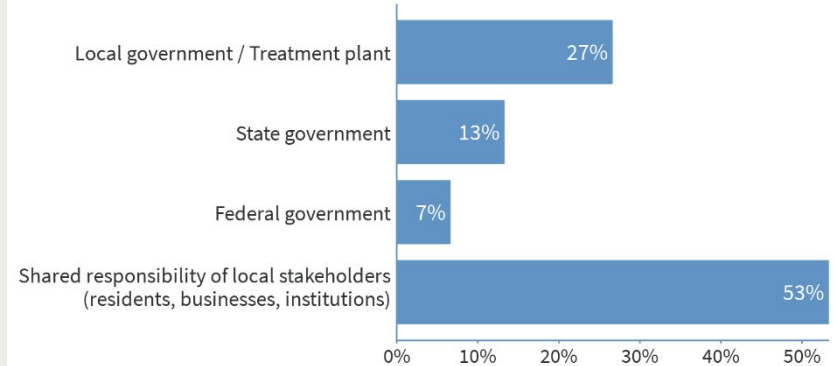
When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/mottmac355 Text **MOTTMAC355** to **223333** once to join



Poll Everywhere

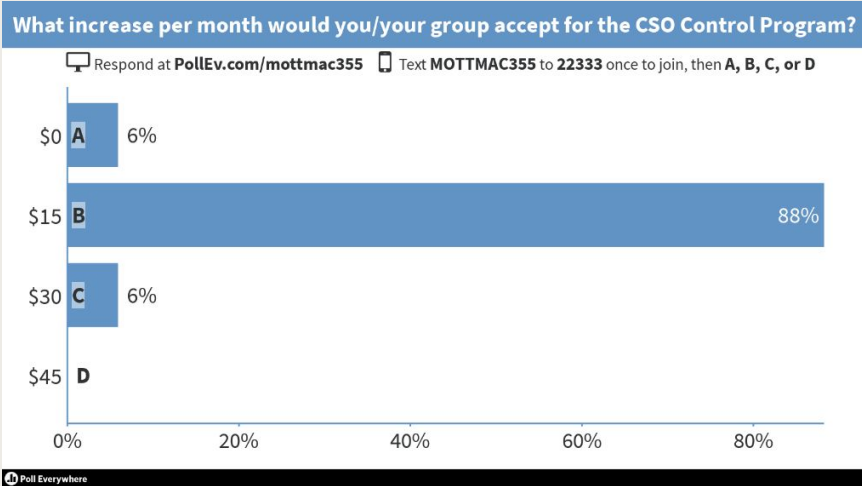
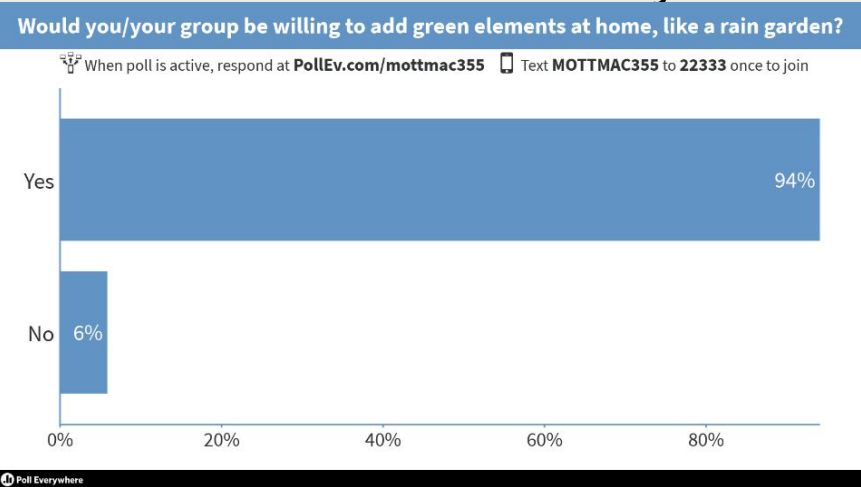
Whose responsibility is it to protect local waters from pollution?

When poll is active, respond at PollEv.com/mottmac355 Text **MOTTMAC355** to **223333** once to join



Poll Everywhere

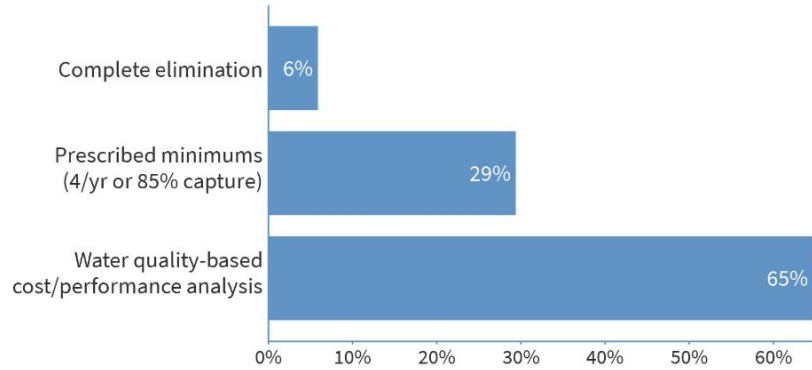
Results of member surveys



Results of member surveys

What is your preferred level of CSO control?

When poll is active, respond at [PollEv.com/mottmac355](https://www.poll Everywhere.com/mottmac355) Text MOTTMAC355 to 22333 once to join

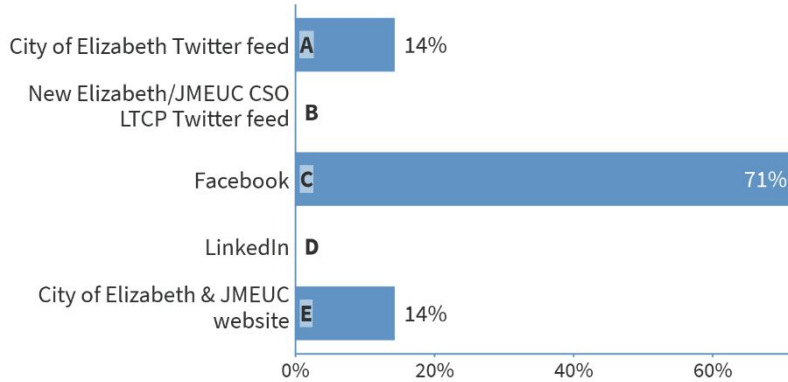


Poll Everywhere

Results of member surveys

Which social media method would you suggest for effective LTCP messaging?

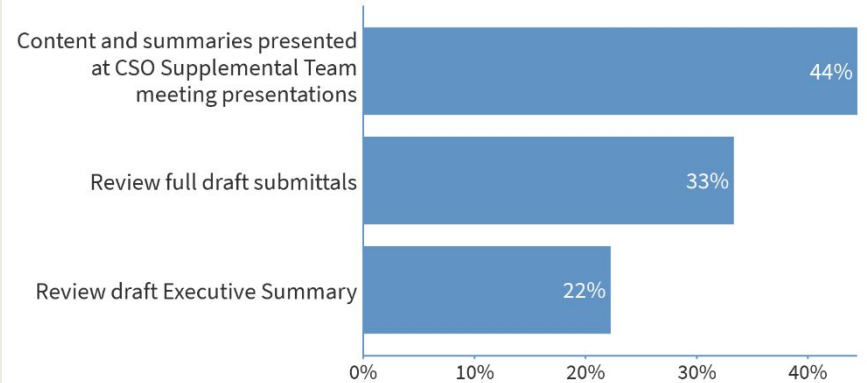
Respond at [PollEv.com/mottmac355](https://poll-ev.com/mottmac355) or Text **MOTTMAC355** to **223333** once to join, then **A, B, C, D, or E**



Poll Everywhere

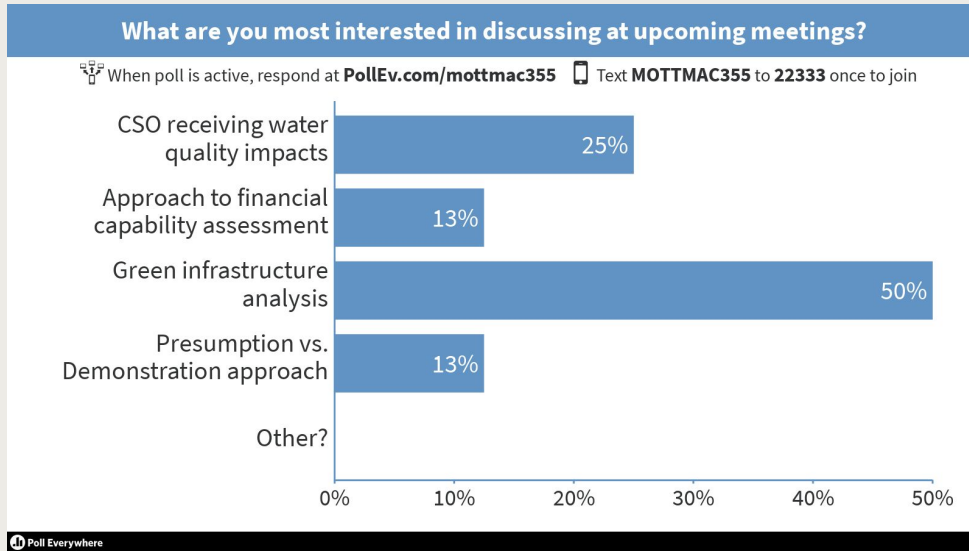
How would you like to review key draft submittals?

When poll is active, respond at [PollEv.com/mottmac355](https://poll-ev.com/mottmac355) or Text **MOTTMAC355** to **223333** once to join



Poll Everywhere

Results of member surveys

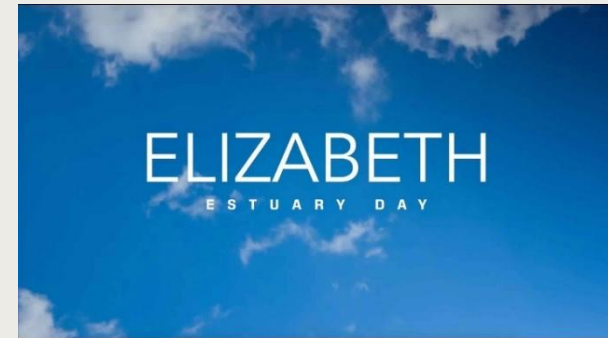


Public outreach and education

School groups and community organizations

Future City Inc.

- Local organization aiming to facilitate sustainable environmental and community development
- Holds semi-annual educational events for Elizabeth Public School students
- Elizabeth CSO team presenting at each event (4 events to date)
- Interactive exhibit and multiple presentations at each event
 - Outreach to over 250 students and 40 adults at each event
 - Students get involved in demonstration of surface runoff on different types of surfaces
 - Inform students on combined sewers, overflows, and things they can do to help



YouTube video at:

[Elizabeth Estuary Day 2018 – YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbKlabITf9M&feature=youtu.be)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbKlabITf9M&feature=youtu.be>

Public outreach and education

Posters, flyers, brochures, & handouts

- Distributed at public education events, like Future City Environmental Day and Estuary Day
- Placed at Elizabeth City Hall for circulation
- Distributed to Supplemental CSO Team members for dissemination through their networks
- To be adapted for mailing with recycling circular or water bill

What's Going On Under Your Streets? Follow Your Flush!

What is a Combined Sewer?

Most of Elizabeth's sewers are **combined sewers**, which means that they carry both sanitary sewage and stormwater in one piping system. When it rains, to prevent flooding at storm drains and in basements, the sewers fill up and release excess flow to nearby water bodies, called **Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)**. Elizabeth has 29 locations where CSOs discharge, called **CSO outfalls**. During wet weather, untreated wastewater can be discharged to receiving streams including contaminants such as pathogens, oxygen-demanding pollutants, suspended solids, nutrients, toxics and floatable matter. **Nets** along the outfalls catch floatables as a control measure. The City of Elizabeth is working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to reduce the number of CSO events that take place every year to improve **water quality** in Elizabeth's receiving streams.

When it's dry...

When it's wet...

- 1 Wet Weather Event (Rainfall)
- 2 Wastewater from your home (toilets, sinks, shower drains)
- 3 Combined Sewer Network = Sanitary + Storm Water
- 4 JMEUC Wastewater Treatment Plant
- 5 Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) to Arthur Kill

The City of Elizabeth, Keeping Your Community Green & Clean

- 1 Trumbull Street Green Infrastructure (under construction)
- 2 Trumbull Street Green Infrastructure (architectural rendering)
- 3 Solids/Floatables Control Facilities - netting frame being lowered
- 4 Verona Gebhardt Pumping Station - box culvert
- 5 Levee along Elizabeth River
- 6 Headwall for Elizabeth River Levee
- 7 Verona Gebhardt Pumping Station - precast concrete structure

News releases and media coverage

- Can serve as a connector to various community sectors and the greater public
- Press releases on CSO-related projects
 - Trumbull Street urban green space and stormwater storage facilities
 - Rain garden at Kenah Field Park
- Interviews with local online and print media
- Media coverage from attending community events

The screenshot shows the TAPinto Elizabeth website. At the top left is the editor's profile: Editor Kathy Lloyd, 908-279-0303, with a link to 'Advertise in This Town'. The site logo 'TAPinto Elizabeth' is in the top right, with the tagline 'Your Neighborhood News Online' and a 'Subscribe to E-News' button. Below the logo are links for 'Login' and 'Submit Content'. A navigation bar includes 'HOME', 'SECTIONS', 'OPINION', 'EVENTS', 'CLASSIFIEDS', 'REAL ESTATE', 'DIRECTORY', and 'OBITUARIES', along with a search box. The main content area is titled 'EDUCATION' and features the article 'City Engineer Explains Ambitious Flooding Resolution Project At Environmental Day' by Fran Sullivan, dated May 2, 2017 at 7:47 PM. Social media sharing icons for Facebook, Twitter, Email, Print, and a plus sign are visible. Below the text is a photograph of a street intersection with a white building in the background. A caption below the photo reads: 'The site of the underground tank at Trumbull and Sixth streets. Credits: Fran Sullivan'. On the right side of the page, there is a 'TAPinto Nearby' section with an 'Advertise in This Town' button, a large 'TAPinto 7 MILLION READERS ADVERTISE RIGHT HERE' banner, and a 'YOU MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN' section with 'EVENTS' and 'COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS' sub-sections. The 'EVENTS' section lists 'Wed, November 07, 11:30 am West Orange The Susan G. Komen North Jersey Pink Champagne Lunch & Fashion Show'. The 'COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS' section features a graphic with two alarm clocks and the text 'Remember to turn your clocks back on Saturday night!'.

Combined sewer infrastructure and treatment plant tours

- Residents observe directly sewer infrastructure conditions and CSO control challenges
- Tour of CSO outfall and associated S/F control facilities
- JMEUC treatment plant tours



Informational signs

Install informational signs for existing and future CSO and stormwater management infrastructure

- Kenah Field rain garden installation
- Upcoming Trumbull Street stormwater control storage tank and rain garden
- CSO outfall identification signs



Websites / social media

- City of Elizabeth website
 - Division of Engineering page (under re-construction)
 - CSO and municipal stormwater management plans, sewer system mapping, link to the CSO notification webpage
 - Twitter – over 2,300 followers
 - Facebook – 10,800 followers
- JMEUC website
 - Information about water infrastructure, sewer rates, F.R.O.G. (fats, roots, oil, and grease), schedule for plant tours
 - Post educational and permit compliance information
 - Increasing social media presence and advertising of public participation events



Public involvement schedule

Alternatives evaluation and plan selection

- Continue periodic meetings of the Supplemental CSO Team
- Presentations to City and JMEUC governing bodies
- Additional distribution to public schools, libraries, and community groups of CSO control plan materials
- Public notices and public meetings in late spring 2019 and 2020
- Additional outreach to separately sewerer communities served JMEUC
- Posting of CSO control information on website and social media pages

Approach to addressing comments

- Educate and obtain input from broad range of constituents
- Duly consider comments received through engagement process in evaluation and plan selection
 - JMEUC and Elizabeth joint consideration
- Compile input received through surveys, by mail, email, and comment sheets
- Summarize and address in permit submissions



Thank you

Daniel J. Loomis, PE, CME
City Engineer

New Jersey CSO Permittees Network Meeting
November 8, 2018
City Hall Council Chambers, Elizabeth, NJ

