



City of Newport
Department of Utilities

PRESS RELEASE

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NOTICE

Combined Sewer Overflow Events

During significant rain events excessive amounts of rain water enters the sanitary sewer system. The capacity of the sanitary sewer system is exceeded and the excess flow is discharged into Newport Harbor. These combined sewer overflows (CSO's) occur at the Wellington Avenue CSO Facility and/or the Washington Street CSO Facility. The Wellington Avenue Facility outfall is located north east of the Ida Lewis Rock and the Washington Street facility outfall is east of the north end of Goat Island. The Wellington Avenue and Washington Street Facilities both provide treatment to any CSO's that occur. Treatment includes screening of all flow that enters the facilities. The facilities also provide storage to prevent some overflows from occurring. Any flow that is discharged into Newport Harbor is disinfected with chlorine.

The City is working under a Consent Agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management to develop a long term control plan to be in compliance with EPA and RIDEM CSO Policies. CSO control is an extremely complex issue for which the City of Newport is committed to identifying and implementing improvements to prevent the occurrences of overflows.

The City is instituting a program at the CSO facilities to notify the public as to when a CSO is occurring. A red flag will be raised at the Wellington Avenue or Washington Street Facility by EarthTech staff who are the operators of the wastewater system for the City. The red flag will not be lowered until twenty four (24) hours after the overflow has stopped. EarthTech staff will notify the Harbor Master and a red flag will also be raised at the Harbor Master's Building on America's Cup Avenue at Perrotti Park to indicate a CSO event.. Information on CSO's will also be posted on the City's website at www.cityofnewport.com.