Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-1	5/12/2026	Sarah	McClellan	smcclellan34@gmail.com					I feel very strongly that dumping untreated sewage into our public waterways needs to stop. Over the past several years I have noticed the days that Shannon Beach on the Mystic Lakes, Kings Beach in Lynn and other public swimming places have increased substantially. I myself got a rash two years ago from swimming at the Mystic Lakes. These places should be preserved for public usage as well as for wildlife. It is unacceptable for the state not to provide funds to improve the sewer system. I live in Somerville and am willing to contribute a to the costs but fear that many other people here would struggle to afford significant fee rises. It should be our right as tax payers to enjoy natural recreation and also we should leave a legacy of clean water to the next generations. Step up Massachusetts!	No
E-2	5/13/2026	Paula	Silver	jacobisaacnana@gmail.com			Marlborough	MA	Whatever the cost is to protect our rivers and the lives of all living creatures, including us humans, it is worth it. I don't even live near Cambridge or Somerville, but I would be willing to pay more in water costs ($42. !!) To help. We are so short=sighted when it comes to environmental issues. Think of our children and grandchildren.	No
E-3	5/30/2026	David	Jackson	djackson@jacksonadvisorgroup.com			Dedham	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-4	5/31/2026	Wyatt	Roy	wyatt_roy@gsd.harvard.edu			Cambridge	MA	Our river could be cleaned and swimmable like Paris's Seine. It just takes your courage to make the right call to support communities up and down our watershed. I would absolutely pay the few dollars a month to be able to swim in the Charles all summer, to turn its banks into beaches where families played, and to create a new vision of a cleaner, healthier, happier Boston. My name is Wyatt and I live in Cambridge. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-5	6/1/2026	Elizabeth	Steen	esteen@rcn.com			Brighton	MA	My name is Elizabeth Steen and I live in Brighton. I love the Charles River and walk along it with my dog nearly every day. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-6	6/2/2026	Mike		mikeccinbos@protonmail.com					The MWRA, Cambridge and Sommerville and violating the court ordered clean up of our waterways in greater Boston and dumping raw sewage into my neighborhood. It's not complicated how to fix this, it's expensive perhaps, but not complicated in the sense that we know what needs to be done. Do IT! The current draft plan ignores the input from the people most directly affected. We want to end the raw sewage, the goal of reducing overall contaminates is laudable but not what we are asking. We in Arlington are rate payers to MWRA we want the situation remediated and it isn't an unreasonable ask to have raw sewage not be dumped into our neighborhood. At the meeting tonight it was pointed out that the storage plans in Paris were not enough to stop serious impact. All the projections go to 2072 for all alternatives. If your family member is sick you do what you need to do. We in Arlington are sick. Are we included or not in your community? The impact to rate payers does not reveal a reason not to fully eliminate CSO's in the Alewife Broke it reveals that the rate system is broken. The more wealthy subscribers like myself are more than willing to pay a more fair share of the benifits.	No
E-7	6/3/2026	Heidi	Friedman	oggandweatherwax@gmail.com			Somerville	MA	I'm Heidi Friedman, a long-time resident of Somerville, MA. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination. thank you for your attention to this matter.	No
E-8	6/3/2026	Ryan	Pfenning	ryanpfenning10@gmail.com			Boston	MA	My name is Ryan Pfenning and I live in the Leather District. I love the Charles River, I run around it daily, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-9	6/2/2026	Caroline	Lee	leecaroline42@gmail.com			Waltham	MA	My name is Caroline and I live in Waltham a block away from the Charles River. I am an avid runner and most every day I am running along the river in all seasons, training for marathons, admiring the wildlife, or soaking in the greenery to clear my head. I know that there are many others like me that love and know the importance of having a clean river in our backyard! I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-10	6/1/2026	Guy	Staff	guystaff@gmail.com			Brookline	MA	I'm old enough to remember when the Charles was a festering body of water to be avoided at all cost. Great progress has been made and a world class, swimmable Charles is in reach. Don't drop the ball now! Reject these plans that bring back the toilet version of the river. My name is Guy Staff and I live in Brookline.	No

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E-11	6/3/2026	Andreina	Granado	agranado811@gmail.com			Lynn	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-12	6/6/2026	Cynthia	Snow	csnow2@verizon.net			Brookline	MA	My name is Cynthia Snow and I live in Brookline; I used to live on Beacon Hill. And throughout my more than 50 years in the Boston area, I have frequently walked, biked, picnicked and boated on or by the Charles. The Charles River is a tremendous community asset, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in infrastructure to end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily used water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-13	6/7/2026	Kirsten	Hansen	kirsten.anne.hansen@gmail.com			Brighton	MA	My name is Kirsten Hansen and I live in Brighton and work in Watertown. I drive, bike, or walk by the Charles River every day. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-14	6/9/2026	Maria Isabel	Rosario	mgrosa101@gmail.com			Cambridge	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-15	6/9/2026	Glenn	Benson	benson.gsb@gmail.com			West Newton	MA	My name is Glenn Benson and I live in Newton. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-16	6/9/2026	Emily	Miller	odmiller84@gmail.com			Newton Center	MA	My name is Emily and I live in Newton. I have been sailing, kayaking, and more on the Charles river, since I was a small child, and continue to be alarmed with each instance of sewage discharge into the Charles River. The current plan harms my safety directly as a recreational boater, as well as the broader environment, by continuing to allow untreated or only partially treated sewage to enter the river, and the frequency with which this occurs only continues to increase with climate change. All of our sewage must be treated as the Deer Island treatment plant, for the safety of myself, our community, and our environment. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-17	6/11/2026	John	Player	johncplayer50@gmail.com			Holliston	MA	My name is John Player and I live in Holliston.I love the Charles River and canoe on it every summer. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-18	6/10/2026	Kathleen	Mcneely	kmcneely2001@yahoo.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-19	6/10/2026	Emma	Helfrich	emmahelfrich@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-20	6/10/2026	Fred	Cunningham	fbcham7@gmail.com	Individual		Sherborn	MA	My name is Fred Cunningham and I live in Sherborn, with the Charles next door. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. Although I am not near the sewage overflow area of the Charles, what happens in Cambridge has upstream effects and in general, our rivers should be clean, not places to dump excess sewage.	No
E-21	6/10/2026	Allison	Fleck	af325@cornell.edu	Individual		Waltham	MA	I live and work in Waltham and I love the beautiful area that is the charles river and am asking you to stop letting sewage overflow impact this place that could be so incredible for the community. I want to be able to swim in the Charles! We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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E-22	6/11/2026	Pamela	Francis	1pamelafrancis@gmail.com	Individual		Bellingham	MA	My name is Pamela Francis and I live and serve as a conservation comissioner in Bellingham. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. The Charles is a beautiful, scenic waterbody, and a recreational asset to many local communities. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. The river should be swimable again!	No
E-23	6/11/2026	Debbie	Demauro	debdemauro@verizon.net	Individual		Sherborn	MA	I live very near the charles river and am VERY concerned about the possible dumping of sewage into it! this cannot happen, we can not go backwards in trying to keep this precious river clean. I don't want to kyak in a sewer dump!!! STOP THIS ACTION NOW!!! My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-24	6/11/2026	Emily	White	isobelarcher@hotmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Emily White and I live in Cambridge. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. I was proud to see Governor Weld jump in the Charles to celebrate the 1996 beginning of cleanup. I have swum in the annual Charles River 1-mile swim several times, and I have sailed at Community Boating. But every recent summer there are times when the water is unsafe, even for sailing or kayaking. Sewage runoff during big storms is one big source of pollution (and has canceled a few 1-mile Charles swims). Why not really tackle the problem instead of letting it fester for many more years? Why not continue Weld's vision and aim to make the Charles healthy for public use 85-90% of the time?	No
E-25	6/11/2026	John	Player	johncplayer50@gmail.com			Holliston	MA	My name is John Player and I live in Holliston. I love the Charles River and canoe on it every summer. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-26	6/12/2026	Sara	Shaw	sarashaw20@hotmail.com			Wrentham	MA	My name is Sara Shaw and I live in Wrentham. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-27	6/13/2026	Angela	Downing	adowning71@gmail.com	Individual		Holliston	MA	I love to kayak and have dreamed of paddling the Charles River. I want to know that it is clean and safe. My husband loves to fish and we kayak together. He fishes from his kayak and I paddle around. The river impacts so many towns in MA and dumping into it by any of the towns impacts the usability for all citizens. This should not be up for debate. The citizens of MA deserve sewage free rivers! My name is Angela Downing and I live in Holliston. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an easy solution to sewage issues that occur with heavy rain. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-28	6/13/2026	Amanda	Rich	apr115@protonmail.com	Individual		Wellesley Hills	MA	My name is Amanda, and I live along the Charles River in Wellesley. My family, especially my children, love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. It's not fair to the people or the plants and wildlife. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practive of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat, and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-29	6/14/2026	Jen	D'Intinosanto	jendintinosanto@yahoo.vom	Individual		Ayer	MA	My name is Jen D'Intinosanto and I live in Ayer. I am writing to ask that you stop using the Charles River it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-30	6/15/2026	Alan	Palm	alan@betterfutureproject.org	Individual		Belmont	MA	My name is Alan Palm and I live in Belmont. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-31	6/15/2026	Marian	Lazar	mlazar32@yahoo.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	My name is Marian Lazar and I live in Brookline. I am writing to ask that you stop using the Charles as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. All of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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E-32	6/16/2026	Erik	Bittner	bittner4711@gmail.com	Individual		Newton Center	MA	I have been paddling the Charles for over 25 years. This morning I went out on a lovely summer morning, only to find that my part of the river stank of sewage and was choked with vegetation typical of a dirty, low oxygen content body of water. As more people discover the beauty of the Charles, more controls are needed to keep it clean, not less. The proposal to keep dumping sewage in the rivers is a practically criminal against future generations who rightly deserve to experience clean water managed under the highest standards. My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in out beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-33	6/16/2026	Noa	Stone	noahstone14@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	My name is Noa and I live in Brighton. The Charles River brightens my day every time I get home from work. It is a huge joy to live in a city with such a beautiful river, so I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-34	6/16/2026	Paul	Reynolds	paul@reynoldsTLC.org	Individual		Dedham	MA	I live in Dedham and have paddled the Charles as it meanders through town with all its beauty, flora and fauna. Truly, I love the Charles River and I'm writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-35	6/17/2026	Danielle	Angel	dreamfeather444@gmail.com	Individual		Millis	MA	I deeply care about clean water access for Boston. Rivers are a precious resource for our land and animals and for us as well. Please help us to have a river we can swim in and fish in! Does Boston really want to be known for Poop Water???? We are better than that!!! My name is Danielle Angel and I live in Millis, MA. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-36	6/17/2026	Meredith	Jamicky	mjamick61@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	The fact that we are still dumping sewage into the Charles is pathetic. It's 2026 and we can't invest in infrastructure to adequately deal with the sewage??? There is absolutely no reason to keep putting this off, the Chales should have been clean enough to swim in decades ago. My name is Meredith Jamicky and I live in Brighton within Boston. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-37	6/17/2026	Jaclyn	Pillitteri	jacy.pillitteri@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	My name is Jaclyn Pillitteri, and I am a homeowner in Somerville. I'm writing because I'm deeply disappointed in the proposed CSO. It's really unacceptable that any proposal that only manages CSO during a "typical year" is setting the bar far too low. My seven year old daughter is loving learning to kayak, and the Blessing of the Bay Boathouse on the Mystic is such a joy and an asset. And if I have this once-in-a-generation to make the river cleaner so that it doesn't adversely affect her health, I think we should take it! If she is still in the Boston area in 2050 and *still* worried about CSO affecting her enjoyment of the river - then we as stewards of this watershed have failed. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No
E-38	6/18/2026	Macky	Buck	buck.rome@comcast.net	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I live in North Cambridge and am never sure if I have modern sewage during rainy weather. Green solutions are available to us. Please employ them while Cleaning the Charles, Alewife and Mystic rivers. My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a geneation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-39	6/18/2026	Catherine	Cezeaux	cathcez@gmail.com	Individual				Why are companies not required to clean up the mess that they make? Why in the world would you knowlingly allow companies to contaminate rivers? Please don't allow the contamination to continue!	No
E-40	6/18/2026	Amy	Hunter Maguire	aehunter3@gmail.com	Individual		Winchester	MA	I am a resident of Winchester and I am writing today to tell you that I am concerned about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. The health of the Mysitc River watershed is so important to our community, its citizens and its wildlife. The MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville should not advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I walk along the Shannon Beach and the Mystic Lakes everyday, birding and walking my dog. My whole family does this regularly and we applaud the DCR for taking such good care of it. But with your plan to allow sewage into the River and Alewife Brook, you are endangering the wildlife and the health of the river we hold dear. I know that there are plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs in an affordable way. Our rivers and our cities deserve better. Please find a way to eliminate the release of CSO's into our watershed.	No
E-41	6/18/2026	Mary	Burkhauser	mary_burkhauser@gse.harvard.edu	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Mary Burkhauser, and I live in Arlington, MA. I frequently walk along the Mystic River and Alewife Greenway Bike Path after dropping my daughter off at Thompson Elementary School. Yesterday, I saw a family of geese that included 17 goslings! I've also observed swans, herons, and ducks spending time in that water. I hate that—per the current plan—raw and partially treated sewage will still be polluting my community's water. It's 2026. Enough. Please try again. Please come up with a plan that will not put any sewage in our waterways!	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-42	6/18/2026	Lisa	Murphy	lmurphy33333@gmail.com	Individual		Everett	MA	My name is Lisa Murphy, and I live in Everett, Massachusetts, in the Mystic River watershed. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan submitted by the MWRA and the cities of Cambridge and Somerville. It is unacceptable that, in 2026, we are still allowing raw and partially treated sewage to be released into the Mystic River, Alewife Brook, the Charles River, and surrounding waterways during heavy storms. These rivers and brooks are not dumping grounds. They are public resources that belong to all of us: residents, families, wildlife, and future generations. The Mystic River is an important part of our community. People walk near it, bike near it, fish near it, paddle on it, and simply rely on it as a place of nature and relief in a densely populated urban area. No one should have to wonder whether contact with the river means possible exposure to sewage pollution. With climate change bringing heavier storms and more frequent extreme weather, an incremental plan is not enough. We need a plan that is designed for the future, not one that continues to accept sewage overflows as unavoidable. The project teams have already shown that stronger options, including plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs, are possible and affordable. This plan is a partial measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. We can't afford to take partial measures when public health, environmental justice, and the health of our rivers are at stake. I urge the MWRA, Cambridge, Somerville, MassDEP, and the EPA to reject any plan that allows ongoing sewage pollution in the Mystic River and Alewife Brook and to move forward with a stronger plan that eliminates CSOs. Our rivers and our communities deserve better.	No
E-43	6/18/2026	Dean	Stevens	dean@deanstevens/com	Individual				ABSOLUTELY NO SEWAGE SHOULD BE DUMPED IN THE MYSTIC, OR ANY OTHER WATERWAY IN THE COMMONWEALTH. I regularly paddle on the Mystic and Charles Rivers; I bring my children to the river to fish; I walk to work every day on the Alewife Brook greenway; I live just blocks away from the river and walk there every day. It is inexcusable that in order to do these activities, I risk coming in contact with raw, untreated sewage.	No
E-44	6/18/2026	Adrienne	Naylor	cyd.grayson@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	It's unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge and Somerville would advance a plan that allows the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I live in Winter Hill, Somerville. I run alongside the Mystic in the mornings. I kayak on it from time to time. I bike past it when errands take me that way. Like many of my neighbors, the Mystic is part of my life, full of meaning and memories and admiration for its beauty and the local wildlife. You have shown plans to virtually eliminate CSO are not only possible, but affordable. The watershed and its wildlife deserve better. Recreational users like me deserve better. We shouldldn't have to settle for half-measures. Stop being gross and eliminate CSOs in our rivers and cities.	No
E-45	6/18/2026	Mitch	Ryerson	mryersondesign@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I urge you to reconsider the plan you have presented for the future of the Mystic River. Much progress has been made in the improved water quality of this critical urban river. The communities along the river have worked long and hard working to bring it back to good health. It is a loved and treasured asset in these densely populated places. Progress has been made but we aren't nearly done, there is much more work to do, work that will take many years. Please do not turn against this progress. Please join with these communities to go forward in reclaiming this critical habitat. We need your support and you need to keep our trust.	No
E-46	6/18/2026	Deb	O'Donnell	debi.odonnell@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I am both outraged and disappointed in this new updated CSO plan. We have the resources. What is more affordable and important than the community health and enjoyment of this precious water resource, the Mystic Lakes. I swim there weekly and there are always people enjoying the water with swimming, kayaking, sailing or paddling around the lake. They do not need to be swimming in water that is polluted with sewage. That is totally unacceptable in today's world and with our current resources. Thank you for your consideration of a better water system.	No
E-47	6/18/2026	L.L	Grace	l.l.grace3000@gmail.com	Individual				I am writing to formally voice my strong opposition to the draft plan submitted on April 30th by the MWRA and the cities of Cambridge and Somerville. Allowing the continued dumping of raw and partially treated sewage into the Mystic River, Charles River, and Alewife Brook for the foreseeable future is entirely unacceptable. As a resident living right along the Mystic River, I see the immediate, devastating reality of Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) first-hand. This isn't a theoretical issue—after heavy rains, trash and raw sewage are visibly floating through our river. I have attached photos below for viewing. We have made incredible strides in reviving the Mystic River ecosystem. The herring are finally coming back, and our shores are home to swans and an abundance of beautiful wildlife. Forcing these animals to live in a toxic environment where they will get sick or be driven away entirely defeats decades of community conservation efforts. Furthermore, I have deep concerns regarding the fiscal and structural logic of this plan: • The $2 Billion Burden: The proposed $2 billion price tag for an "updated" pipe system will pass a massive financial burden onto residents, costing us hundreds more in future taxes. • No Visible Clean-up Strategy: While taxpayers are expected to foot an astronomical bill for a massive gray-infrastructure project, the plan offers no visible, effective strategy to actually clean up and manage the stormwater. We are being asked to pay more for a system that still permits the degradation of our waterways. Investing billions of dollars should result in a clean, sewage-free river, not a continuation of the status quo at the expense of local taxpayers and our reviving wildlife. I urge you to reject this draft and return with a plan that prioritizes complete separation of stormwater, green infrastructure, and a definitive end to CSO discharges. Thank you for your time and your consideration of your constituents' environment and wallets.	Yes
E-48	6/18/2026	Melanie	Abrams	melanie.b.abrams@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I am a resident of Cambridge, writing to you about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. I am deeply disappointed that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville have put forward a draft that allows ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook, and strongly urge a plan that leads to virtual elimination. Untreated raw sewage is a major health hazard. My friends' basement was flooded a couple years ago by some of the tens of millions of gallons of wastewater, contaminating their belongings with human fecal bacteria. Children bike through puddles of this, and I have gotten food poisoning kayaking in Cambridge after CSO events. My brother lives right near the brook and can smell the CSOs from his apartment--I have to warn him when it isn't safe. Most people from out of town can't believe this is happening here when I tell them - for example, when my colleagues and I went kayaking a week ago and I explained why it's important to sanitize your hands after touching this water. You have shown us plans for virtual elimination that are not only possible, but affordable - and would keep our waterways and the nearby residences free from this huge volume of dangerous sewage. I urge you to protect public health by taking full rather than half-measures. After decades of dangerous neglect, we need the highest level of CSO control.	No
E-49	6/18/2026	John	Rutkowski	johnjack.rutkowski@gmail.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	My name is John Rutkowski and I live in Dedham. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-50	6/19/2026	Marie	DeBenedictis	ma31rie@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	My name is Marie DeBenedictis and I live in Medford just 2 blocks from the Mystic River. I'm writing to say that the Draft Updated CSO Control plan is not strong enough as it allows the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic. I am a coordinator of the Winthrop St Community Garden which lies just a few yards away from the Mystic. I and 55 of my neighbors grow our food there. I also walk along the river from Medford Square to Alewife Brook almost every day either to reach a retail store or simply for enjoyment of the many herons, turtles, swans and other wildlife that inhabit this section of the Mystic. The plan you are considering is a half measure that will only provide minimal control as we progress into the future. We cannot afford that. Please choose a plan that will virtually eliminate CSOs so that neighbors of our precious rivers will not come in contact with untreated waste.	No
E-51	6/19/2026	Kathleen	Mcneely	kmcneely2001@yahoo.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-52	6/19/2026	Claire	Paduano	paduano.claire@gmail.com	Individual		Malden	MA	My name is Claire Paduano, I live in the City of Malden. I am writing to express concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. I am dissappointed that this plan allows for ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I am a regular paddler on the Mystic and have a 2 year old son who I look forward to bringing to the river. I do not want to be at risk for coming into contact with sewage. The Mystic is one of the most beautiful natural areas of the local Boston area and I always feel extremely priviledged to be able to access it so close to the city. I am also a primary care physician in the city of Revere, and I would consider a healthy watershed tightly linked to human health - especially in are warming climate, access to parks and water is going to become more and more important as our Boston summers get more hot and erratic. This is in addition to the existing mental and physical health benefits to spending time outdoors and in recreation. It is unacceptable that a public space such as the Mystic River and Alewife Brook would be allowed to be contaminated by sewage. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. CSO elimination seems to me to be an essential step to building a healthy and resilient water system.	No
E-53	6/19/2026	Elizabeth	Zraket	lisa.zraket64@gmail.com	Individual		Manchester	MA	My name is Lisa Zraket and I live in the North Shore. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. I swimin the Charles River every year and my husband rows for Community Rowing for 6 months ; my kids kayak there as well. We need to do everything possible tokeep the river clean. Thank you.	No
E-54	6/20/2026	Beth	Lott	bethlott2013@gmail.com	Individual		Gloucester	MA	My name is Beth Lott. Please do not use the Charles as an open sewer. Untreated sewage is a health threat. Sincerely Beth My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-55	6/20/2026	Joyce	Bailey	freshair2b@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I am very concerned about the Updated draft of the CSO Control Plan. The health of the Mystic River watershed is very important to me. Allowing ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook is totally unacceptable to me. I am not sure how the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville good with good conscious advance a plan that allows this to happen. I live just blocks away from the river and walk around it regularly. I paddle my kayak there. I bring my granddaughter to the playground next to the river. I do not want my granddaughter, myself or anyone else to be exposed to the raw sewage. We need plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs, not half-measure plans. We all deserve to have our rivers and cities pollution free.	No
E-56	6/20/2026	Catherine	McNiff	cmcniff22@gmail.com	Individual		Rockport	MA	My name is catherine. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-57	6/20/2026	Kara	Tutunjian	wisteriak@yahoo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	My name is Kara Tutunjian and I live in Arlington, but I have also lived in Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. It would probably cost the average household about $100/year to support proper wastewater treatment and control. That is a reasonable price to pay for clean public waterways. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-58	6/22/2026	McCauley	Meyer	mcobmeyer35@gmail.com	Individual		Woburn	MA	My name is Dr. McCauley Meyer and I live in the city of Woburn. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I am an avid outdoorsman and fish in these waterways and its inexcusable that in order to do that I have to risk coming into contact with raw, untreated sewage. Moreover the residents living adjacent to these waterways ought to be able to swim and play in the waters without worrying about encountering raw sewage or the dangers associated with that. I am ashamed by the proposal you have put forth that continues to allow this when we know very well the result is that people and the environment will continue to be damaged because we don't want to pay for a nicer future. It doesn't get cheaper to fix this problem. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No
E-59	6/22/2026	Siobhan	Conaghan	smurphybbal@gmail.com	Individual		Newton Center	MA	My name is Siobhan and I live in Newton. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-60	6/23/2026	Jasmine	Zhao	jasminezhao321@gmail.com	Individual		Malden	MA	My name is Jasmine Zhao and I am from the city of Malden. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I regularly paddleboard on the Mystic River and swim in the Upper Mystic Lake. It is inexcusable that in order to do these activities, I ris coming in contact with raw, untreated sewage. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination. Thank you for your time and consideration.	No
E-61	6/23/2026	Andrew	Wigren	awigren@yahoo.com	Individual		Wellesley	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-62	6/23/2026	Barbara	Elfman	belfman@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Barbara Elfman and I live across the street from the Charles River. I am also a rower and member of the Cambridge Boar Club. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. We must stop the dumping and clean up the Charles. Every rain storm brings more dumping of raw sewage. We deserve a better river that is used by so many.	No
E-63	6/23/2026	Kathy	Harding	kathard9@yahoo.com	Individual		Wayland	MA	My name is Kathy Harding and I live in Wayland. My son rows along the Charles River, often falling in as he leans, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-64	6/24/2026	Kimberly	Gladman	kgladman@gmail.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-65	6/24/2026	Nina	Kornstein	crescentmoonoak@gmail.com	Individual		Framingham	MA	My name is Nina Kornstein and I live in Framingham. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that we stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-66	6/24/2026	Michael	Hayes	hayesvibe@yahoo.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-67	6/24/2026	April	Halloran	april.halloran@gmail.com	Individual		Winthrop	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-68	6/24/2026	Eran	Tromer	vvc2eran@tromer.org	Individual		Brookline	MA	My name is Eran Tromer. I live in Brookline and teach at Boston University. I am an avid kayak paddler on the Charles River, as are many of my students and colleagues at Boston University. The quality and safety of the Charles River water, and adjacent bodies of water, is of great importance to us. We are aghast at the ongoing dumping of sewage into the water that we frequently paddle in. It forms risks to our health, and harms the environment directly around us. In this day and age, we should no longer be dodging raw sewage and fearing the health effects of water immersion. I thus strongly encourage you to make the strongest commitments, and utilize all means, to eliminate sewage overflows.	No
E-69	6/24/2026	Alida	Castillo	alida.castillo@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Alida Castillo and I live in Cambridge . I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-70	6/24/2026	Ronald	Jantzen	r-djantzen@comcast.net	Individual		Sherborn	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-71	6/24/2026	Pamela	Moor	pmoor@comcast.net	Individual		Norfolk	MA	My name is Pamela Moor and I live in Norfolk, Ma quite close to the Charles River. I'm also a dragon boater thst belongs to a cancer survivor team and uses the river for practice as well as the Fort Point channel. love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-72	6/24/2026	Erin	Rowland	rowland_erin@hotmail.com	Individual		Belmont	MA	My name is Erin Rowland and I live in Belmont. I love kayaking on the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. To date, we have invested billions of dollars into cleaning up Boston Harbor and the Charles River. Why not finish the job?	No
E-73	6/24/2026	Lloyd	Tarlin	bltarlin@msn.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	My name is Lloyd Tarlin and I live in Dedham. I love the Charles River which runs close to my residence and look forward to the time when it runs unpolluted by sewage dumping as it runs to Boston Harbor. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-74	6/24/2026	Lucas	Hartsough	Lhartsough@pm.me	Individual		Watertown	MA	This is critical not only for the communities that live along the Charles, but also for the countless wetland species that call it home, especially including the endangered and protected species. It is unconscionable that we would allow ourselves to be such poor stewards of such a critical body. My name is Dr. Hartsough and I live in Watertown. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people and wildlife sick. I ask that you select the HIGHEST level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-75	6/24/2026	Robert	Thomas-Kearns	robsterkmc@gmail.com	Individual		Quincy	MA	I request that you end the Sanitary Sewer Overflows in the Monatiquot River, Fore River and Smelt Brook as well as the CSO issues in the Charles and Mystic Rivers. My name is Robert and I live in Quincy. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River and Mystic River and Alewife Brook.	No
E-76	6/24/2026	Jill	Silvia	jillnjay@hotmail.com	Individual		Bridgewater	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-77	6/24/2026	Joshua	Berkowitz-Geller	jberkowitzgeller@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I grew up in Brookline when there were regular advisories on the dangerous water quality of the Charles. As the cleanup progressed, I was able to take advantage of the increasingly available public activities like Community Boating on the Charles. I regularly enjoy biking into Boston along the beautiful waterway. The river is a public trust of Boston and we must not permit it to be destroyed again. The public will pay the price for sewage either way, we should do so in a way that does not also destroy one of the jewels of this region and contribute to a potential public health crisis. Now is not the time for short-term thinking. My name is Joshua Berkowitz-Geller and I live in Watertown. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-78	6/24/2026	Erin	Leiman	erinleiman@hotmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Erin and I live in Cambridge. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-79	6/24/2026	Claire	Dunne	lobeila1949@gmail.com	Individual		Auburndale	MA	Hi We live on the Charles River and are afraid to let our grandchildren play in the water of Auburndale Cove. Of course, we don't eat the fish either; sorry the fish have to live in it. My name is Claire Dunne; my family lives in Auburndale. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-80	6/24/2026	Resa	Blatman	resa@blatmandesign.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-81	6/24/2026	Arun	Sannut	asannuti@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I thought we wanted to clean up the environment, not make it worse. My name is Arun Sannuti and I live in Watertown. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-82	6/24/2026	Nonie	Valentine	nonie.valentine1@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I wasn't ready to insist on total sewer separation in the beginning because of cost and heaviness/length of construction which I dread, but I've come to the conclusion this has to get done fully now. It's been too long a cleanup delay and with the obvious drought/deluge cycle we're in for all the more, it's timely to get it done! I would love to WANT to swim there. My name is Nonie Valentine and I live in Cambridge. I value the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you give up using it as an open sewer. We have a responsibility to invest in our infrastructure now to end dumping sewage in our water bodies which need to have the chance to restore themselves. Untreated sewage is a nasty health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, no longer dumped in the river where it will literally sicken people. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-83	6/24/2026	David	Jackson	djackson@jacksonadvisorgroup.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-84	6/24/2026	Mary	Gershanoff	marydanag@verizon.net	Individual		Lincoln	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-85	6/25/2026	Danny	Cuff	dannycuff@hotmail.com	Individual		Norwoord	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-86	6/25/2026	Carole	Grossman	caroleawake@gmail.com	Individual		Waban	MA	My name is Carole Grossman and I live in Waban across from the Charles.. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-87	6/25/2026	James	Frawley	frimjolly@hotmail.com	Individual		Walpole	MA	My name is James Frawley and I love the Charles River. I give Duck Tours and am on the river 20 times per week. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. I actually had to explain to guests from around the world Monday why they could smell sewage while we were on tour. A guest from Scotland asked out loud why this is allowed. I'd love to hear your answer because I was at a loss. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and an utter embarrassment. All of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of contol, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. DO BETTER.	No
E-88	6/25/2026	Richard	Hassinger	richhassinger@verizon.net	Individual		Newton	MA	My name is Richard Hassinger and I live in Newton. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-89	6/25/2026	Dan	Foreman	foreman.dan@comcast.net	Individual		Melrose	MA	THIS SEWAGE PLAN IS AN OUTRAGE! THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD CLASS CITY DESERVE CLEAN WATER TO ENJOY SWIMMING IN DURING THE HOT SUMMER MONTHS! THAT'S WHAT MAKES US A WORLD CLASS CITY… My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-90	6/25/2026	Roberta	Brunelle	vashabru@yahoo.com	Individual		Vineyard Haven	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-91	6/25/2026	Katherine	Evers	backupemailforkatherine@yahoo.com	Individual		Medway	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health and environmental threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make human people and nonhuman people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-92	6/25/2026	Joshua	Colantuoni	jtcolantuoni@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	My name is Josh and I live in Boston. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-93	6/26/2026	Tomas	Grudny	tomasgrudny1@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	My name is Tomas Grudny and I live in Allston-Brighton. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-94	6/26/2026	Damore	West	picassothesage@yahoo.com	Individual		Boston	MA	My name is Damore West and as a life long Boston resident I have many fond memories of spending time at the Charles River like many other people. I am writing to ask that you stop using this sacred waterway as an open sewer so that future generations can learn to once again live in harmony with it. Peopl over profit!!! My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-95	6/26/2026	Victoria	Spies	victoria.wolff@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Torrey and I live in Cambridge. The Charles is such a critical part of the City, but the sewage and periodically unsafe swimming conditions from CSO's are concerning. It's surprising, so many years after the big harbor cleanup, that we have not addressed this issue for good. My son plans to learn to sail in the Charles this summer, but the water quality concerns me, and I struggle to find that balance between asking him to avoid the water on certain days and scaring him about the river in his own backyard. I will not pretend that the cost of the fix is insignificant, but the impact is worth the investment. The Mystic River is of equal importance to my neighbors, and has a strong presence of climate justice communities impacted by the water quality.	No
E-96	6/28/2026	Amanda	Mackie	amandamackie24@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Amanda Mackie and I live in Cambridge. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-97	6/29/2026	Christopher	Leininger	716cwl@gmail.com	Individual		Malden	MA	I'm a concerned citizen and civil engineer living in Malden. I often canoe and fish on the Charles, Mystic River, and their tributaries. They hold a special place in my heart as a little bastion of wildlife and green and blue here in the urban heart of Greater Boston. I'm an active member of the Mystic River Watershed Association and a supporter of its stances in regards to our waterways. Not committing to fully eliminating sewage discharges would be a staggering blow to the unique work and progress that has been made to Boston's water quality in the last few decades. We are leading the nation in clean water and the potential that opens up for us. Multiple cultural events and activities that put our region on the map take place here because of the improving water quality of our rivers: The Charles River Swim, the Head of the Charles Regatta, and other smaller events all require we have high quality healthy rivers. I've been involved with large construction projects in the past and understand the myriad intricacies and impacts that large scale wastewater retention and treatment entails. I understand the cost implications involved with retention of grey and stormwater and that this might not be in the 'budget'. However I would challenge you to view this as an opportunity: We can create high value construction and engineering jobs, we can create a thriving green-urban riverfront for our cities that generate tax income and become places that people want to spend time. We can envision and enact a brighter cleaner future for our cities that begin here with eliminating CSO's in our rivers.	No
E-98	6/29/2026	Corey	Sheehan	cmsheehan319@gmail.com	Individual		Natick	MA	My name is Corey and I live in Natick, MA. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. The Charles River is a place where I, and many others enjoy paddling, fishing and recereating. There has been a huge effort to undo some of the massive amount of damage that has been done by the industry and improper management of this river and watershed. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you please select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-99	6/29/2026	Melissa	Ludtke	melissa.ludtke@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Melissa Ludtke and I live in Cambridge. I row on the Charles River out of the Community Rowing boathouse, and whenever we row we go through the area where the outflow is the most intense. Given my love for the Charles River, I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-100	6/29/2026	Lynn	Sheehan	lynn.sheehan56@verizon.net	Individual		Natick	MA	The destruction of our environment must be stopped! My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-101	6/30/2026	Christopher	Provost	chris.provost@gmail.com	Individual		Lancaster	MA	My name is Christopher Provost and I live in Lancaster, MA. I have participated in the Run of the Charles numerous times. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-102	6/30/2026	Rebecca	Larkin	rebeccadaylarkin@gmail.com	Individual		Waltham	MA	My name is Rebecca Larkin, and I live in Waltham. Until last month, I lived directly on the shore of the Charles River. I love my "river" and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. When I was a high school student in Cambridge, I never suspected that people would ever choose to swim in the Charles, much less that the tickets would sell out! We have a gift of opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage into our beloved, heavily restored water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. Please enact the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-103	6/30/2026	Martha	Collins	martha.collins@oberlin.edu	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-104	7/2/2026	Cynthia	Snow	csnow2@verizon.net	Individual		Brookline	MA	I live in Brookline and frequently bike or walk along and across the Charles River. I love it and am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-105	7/2/2026	Matthew	Poulsen	matthewkpoulsen@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	My name is Matthew Poulsen and I live in Watertown. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-106	7/2/2026	Lauren	Russo	laurenxxrusso@gmail.com	Individual		Wayland	MA	My name is Lauren Russo and I live in Wayland. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-107	7/2/2026	Karen	Buck-Gilbert	karen.buck.mt@gmail.com	Individual	Friends of Malden River	Malden	MA	My name is Karen Buck-Gilbert and I live in Malden. I am a co-founder of the Friends of the Malden River; our members are from Everett, Malden, and Medford. The Malden River is a subwatershed of the Mystic River Watershed. One of our major missions is to increase public access and use of our Malden River and our Mystic River. We tout its positive impact on public health with green and blue open space. We encourage people to engage with their watershed to increase awareness of our precious resources and to create good stewards. We model good stewardship of our eco-systems. We work closely with the Mystic River Watershed Association. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has been by our side as we develop projects that will create climate resilient municipalities, especially in dense urban areas. The contradiction is sad and frustrating; we work together for a greater and healthier watershed and then we bypass solid solutions to eliminate CSO's. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. We bring people onto the river for enjoyment of our local environment. We work with youth groups to create strong advocates for a cleaner watershed now and for the future. We model good stewardship for future generations. Our local governments need to model good stewardship for its citizens. It is your responsibility that we can utilize our public space without fear of illness. Our time in the outdoors cannot be limited by lack of strong leadership. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination. Please demonstrate to the present and future generations that you can cut the crap out of our watershed.	No
E-108	7/6/2026	Elizabeth	Roche	elizabeth.roche17@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-109	7/6/2026	Hunter	Campbell	huntercampbellbp18@gmail.com	Individual		East Taunton	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-110	7/7/2026	Jean	Jonah	jjonah1@icloud.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-111	7/8/2026	Timothy	Lee	tim@tlla.net	Individual		Lexington	MA	My name is Timothy Lee and I live in Lexington. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-112	7/8/2026	Robert	Mann	rgmann@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	It is a beautiful sunny day with less than scorching temperatures, and I want to enjoy the Charles River, but cannot because it is full of raw sewage. How can a state as advanced and progressive as Massachusetts allow this disgusting situation to continue? I live in Cambridge, which claims to be a progressive city, but thinks it's acceptable to use the river that flows its flank to be used as a sewer for decades to come? I look around and I see wondrous accomplishments from the past several decades: the Big Dig, the extension of the red and green lines, the transformation of a trash dump into Danehy Park. Can we not do these things anymore? Can we not find the money to end a practice more suited to the Middle Ages than the 21st Century? I would happily pay a one-time, directed assessment to upgrade our infrastructure to allow the Charles to again flow clean as it did before we built along its banks. At a time when many of us have increasingly lost our faith in government, leadership in this area could restore faith in our collective power to improve, as wells as restoring our most prominent river. My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-113	7/8/2026	Monica	Davis	davismk07@gmail.com	Individual		Lexington	MA	My name is Monica Davis. I line in Lexington and I row in Cambridge at the Cambridge Boat Club. My daughter, age 14 also rows. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. Please think of the numerous children and adults who use the river on a daily basis. They should not have to be subject to alerts in the 21st century that they risk disease from exposure to raw sewage. It's time to fix this.	No
E-114	7/8/2026	Katherine	Plosky	kplosky@icloud.com	Individual		Winchester	MA	My name is Katherine Plosky, and I live in Winchester MA. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. Near where I live, a beach on the Mystic Lakes is frequently closed due to pollution. It is a needed way for the community to keep cool in the summertime, especially with increased extreme heat. It is very important that this body of water is kept clean. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No
E-115	7/8/2026	Soleil	Ribon	soleilribon@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My name is Soleil and I live next to alewife brook who is also experiencing issues with sewage overflow. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-116	7/8/2026	Marley	Kapsimalis	mgkaps13@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I frequently use Mass waterways to canoe and row and love being able to spend time outdoors in the city. It does the city(s) a great disservice to not have reliably clean and swim able water in the Charles River. My name is Marley Kapsimalis and I live in Arlington. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-117	7/8/2026	Nicole	Johnson	njnicole211@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-118	7/8/2026	Jayme	Basitansen	j.bastiansen@aol.com	Individual		Natick	MA	Please do what is right and end this raw sewage polluting our waters. Water is life. It is the most important aspect of our environment. Polluting our waters is absolutely unacceptable and needs to stop. My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-119	7/8/2026	Kayla	Celani	kayla.celani@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	My name is Kayla Celani and I live in Arlington, with my two children who are 6 and 4. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the WMRA, Cambridge and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. My children and I recently went on a tour with the Mystic River Watershed Association where we were saddened to see ducks and a deer in the Alewife Brook, drinking this CSO polluted water. I worry about the long term effects these CSOs will have on our wildlife and I fear that it will be similar to that of the alewife fish that will no longer swim in the brook that was named for them. Let's protect this water so that it is safe for animals, plants and the community! Please see the comments made by my children, attached to this email. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No
E-120	7/9/2026	Troy	Thompson	troydthompson+CRWA@gmail.com	Individual	CRWA	Brookline	MA	My name is Troy and I live in Brookline. The Charles River is one of the places that makes Greater Boston feel like itself. It is not just scenery. People row on it, run beside it, paddle through it, sit near it, and build whole parts of their lives around it. That is why it is so hard to accept a plan that still treats the river as a place where sewage can go when the system is overwhelmed. We have already done the hard work of believing the Charles could be cleaner. Now we need to finish the job. Untreated sewage does not belong in a public river. It belongs at Deer Island, where it can be treated properly. I understand infrastructure decisions are complicated. But the standard here should be simple: a river people use, love, and depend on should not be part of the sewer system. Please select the highest level of contol - no CSOs in the 2050 25-year storm - as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-121	7/9/2026	Aiden	Wheaton	aidenwheatonware@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	My name is Aiden Wheaton and I'm a rower at Community Rowing Inc on the Charles River. Our community wants a clean and accessible water to row on everyday without worrying about getting sick after every practice. Sometimes people flip the boats on accident and have to tread water in the Charles. No one wants to swim in waste at all. My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	Yes

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-122	7/9/2026	Andrea	Killory	acs005@yahoo.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	It's outrageous, in this day and age, that anyone would allow sewage to be dumped in a body of water like the Charles River. The Charles is used by many for rowing, fishing, sailing, and more. It's also a beloved and treasured stretch of wildlif and nature within an urban setting. Students, professionals, and tourists from all over the world appreciate its beauty, and the river hosts the world renowned Head of the Charles. It's an embarassment and hugely disappointing that progressive cities like Boston and Cambridge aren't prioritizing keeping the water in the Charles sewer free. Please cut the crap going into the Charles River and invest in rerouting sewage to a proper treatment facility. My name is Andrea Killory and I live in Cambridge. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-123	7/10/2026	Eric	Sacca	eric.sacca@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	My name is Eric and I live in Back Bay. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-124	7/13/2026	Joseph	LaFond	jlafond1732@gmail.com	Individual		Chelsea	MA	My Name is Joe LaFond, and I live in Chelsea. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. As a resident Chelsea, a marginalized, environmental justice community that is already disproportionately impacted by myriad environmental and health risks, I find this plan—advanced by wealthier neighboring cities—to be particularly deplorable and unjust. I live in the Admiral's Hill neighborhood and walk in Mary O'Malley Park on the banks of the Mystic and Island End Rivers every single day. After any amount of rainfall, it seems, the warning lights to avoid contact with the water are flashing. With climate change affecting weather patterns, we are sure to more sudden downpours, resulting in combined sewer overflows. Likewise, with regular temperatures increasing, the benefits of a healthy, swimmable watershed must be considered. Especially for communities like Chelsea— which is already a heat island—being essentially surrounded by water on all sides and being barred from swimming in or otherwise engaging with the water is particularly cruel and unjust. This cannot be ignored, and the need to plan for these inevitable conditions is now. In addition to the detrimental effects that CSOs have on human health, they also degrade and destroy our watershed for the immense array of wildlife that call it home. As a birding and wildlife enthusiast, I watch with great sadness as ducks dive, geese swim, and herons hunt in a literal river of excrement! If the risks to human and environmental health are not enough of a call to action, the recent CSO incident in the Merrimack River which closed beaches and fisheries for days clearly show that CSOs pose immense financial risk to tourism and other of our state's industries. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination now.	No
E-125	7/14/2026	Nicholas	Daddona	njdaddona@hotmail.com	Individual		East Boston	MA	My name is Nick daddona and I have lived in the boston area for over 20 years. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-126	7/14/2026	Julia	Abbott	abbottjulia33@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	My name is Julia Abbott and I live in Dorchester. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-127	7/14/2026	Neil	Warrington	ncwarrin@mit.edu	Individual		Medford	MA	My name is Neill Warrington and I live in Medford. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-128	7/15/2026	Lauren	Graham	laurengraham2021@gmail.com	Individual		Allston	MA	Hello, my name is Lauren and I live in Allston. I recently swam a mile in the Charles and was so thankful for the efforts that have gone into cleaning the river and making it swimmable for me. It was a truly amazing experience to see Boston and Cambridge from inside the veins of the city. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer, and keep on the path of cleaning it for future generations. We have come too far to miss this opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-129	7/15/2026	Judith	Pinnolis	jpinnolis@gmail.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	After decades of work to clean up the Charles River, I am writing to ask you stop using it as a sewer overflow system. We need to put an end to the thinking that the river can take the sewage without treatment. We need to spend the money to invest in the infrastructure to end this practice. This plan will do great harm to people, to health, to the environment and to all the previous money spent for decades to clean up the Charles River. Don't waste our resources by making the river dirty for decades into the future. We cannot afford that. It makes NO sense to undermine those many cleanup efforts now. I ask that you select the highest levels of control. No CSOs in the 2050 25-year storm plan as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. We need to take control so our children can have a safe river and enjoy the benefits of living near water... not in fear of it making them sick. The MWRA and the cities need to come to grips with this very real need to stop sewage overflow into the river, NOW, not leave for future generations. My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-130	7/15/2026	Victoria	Frothingham	vfrothingham@gmail.com	Individual		Newton Center	MA	We need to stop polluting our environment! We need to start thinking more about the impact of our actions today on the environment our children, grandchildren, and their children will inherit. This especially concerns the Charles River. My name is Victoria Frothingham and I live in Newton. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. With climate change warming MA's bodes of fresh water and providing conditions that promote the growth of pathogens, dumping sewage becomes an ever greater danger of infection and disease. Please take action!	No
E-131	7/15/2026	Fran	Fidler	franfidler@aol.com	Individual		Naples	FL	Fran Fidler and I love the Charles River to SWIM in and I am writing to ask that you STOP using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in (that means you as well) our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you NOW select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-132	7/15/2026	Matha	Abdella	marthaabdella@gmail.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	My name is Martha Abdella and I live in Dedham near the river. I kayak on the Charles regularly and enjoy spotting wildlife including turtles, otters, all kinds of birds, and deer. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. We should be working on being able to make the Charles clean enough for fishing and swimming!	No
E-133	7/16/2026	Sasha	Knittel	sashafinophoto@gmail.com	Individual		Burlington	MA	My name is Sasha Knittel and I live in Burlington MA. I regularly visit the Charles River Esplanade and enjoy the water and seeing wildlife there. Releasing sewage into the river is unacceptable because it will ruin the decades of clean up of the river. It will affect the health of fish and birds and other bodies of water. Please protect public health and the environment because it's desperately needed during this time and it's your job as well. Please work on solutions for sewage management during heavy rains that doesn't damage the environment and public health. My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-134	7/17/2026	Clara	Davis	clarad73@yahoo.com	Individual		Boston	MA	My name is Clara Davis and I live in Boston. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. One of my favorite things to do is walk along the Esplanade, and when I learned that raw sewage can still be dumped into the Charles, I was disgusted. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-135	7/18/2026	Mary Ellen	Morris	memorris7@hotmail.com	Individual		Ayer	MA	Growing up in MA, it was impossible to even go near the Charles River it was so polluted. Due to the extraordinary work by the CRWA, it is now a resource that can be used by the public for recreation. This precious resource is not Somerville an Cambridge's toilet! This must not happen. My name is <<name>> and I live in <<community>>. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-136	7/19/2026	Patty	Cruite	patty.estep@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	Hi, my name is Patty Cruite's and I live in Medford but work in Cambridge within a half mile of the Charles River. My name is Patty Cruite and I live in Medford it far from the Mystic River and I work in Cambridge within a 2 minute walk to the Charles. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-137	7/20/2026	Julia	Ivashina	jivashina@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	My name is Julia and I live in West End. I love the Charles River and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. We have a once in a generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No
E-138	7/22/2026	Maria	Ciro	r87933@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	Sewerage overflow has gone on too long. It's time to fix it permanently. With sea level rise, we need to get ahead of the problem, not kick the can down the road. More and more people are using the Charles for paddling, boating, fishing. Protect public health now and get rid of sewerage overflows! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer.Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavilly recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where larger and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-139	7/23/2026	Sarah	Gianino	sarahmgianino@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I had the unique opportunity to swim in the Charles during City Splash 2026, and I realize how incredible a swimmable river could be for citizens, especially those without a car, who need to cool off on increasingly hotter summer days. I have been to other major cities that have swimmable rivers (like Oslo and Bern) and think it's a fantastic model that we should strive for. Swimmable spots along the Charles create opportunities for new businesses nearby and provide affordable entertainment for city children and adults alike. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where larger and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-140	7/23/2026	Judith	Boroschek	job10014@gmail.com	Individual		Newton Center	MA	I am deeply surprised and horrified that a plan has been submitted to continue to have overflow sewage dumped into the Charles. After all the funds and effort to clean the Charles to continue to use it as a place for overflow is real negligence. Please use the Green Solutions that are available! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer oveflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safter and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-141	7/23/2026	Rajesh	Mohan	rmohan26@yahoo.com	Individual		Woburn	MA	Please accept my dissent in rejecting the proposed cso plan. This is a disaster. I have kayaked in various spots in Charles river and it is an important reservoir and ecosystem. I produced a documentary on alewife run which is an important not only for land ecosystem but also for the ocean health. A city with brilliant minds and a forerunner in doind great things, this is an ill thought plan. Please stop it. Thank you, Rajesh. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-142	7/24/2026	Carole	Grossman	carole@krcsg.com	Individual		Waban	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-143	7/24/2026	Deb	Hohler	debbiehohlerwalsh@yahoo.com	Individual		Allston	MA	The Charles River Watershed Association already presented a solution. The continuous Dumping is DESTROYING plants, trees, soil, air, animals, insects, fish, etc… My grandfather took us to the Charles River aka the Speedway as children but he would be very disheartened to hear that humans are choosing to destroy ourselves. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-144	7/24/2026	Naomi	Ridge	naridge@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-145	7/24/2026	Marian	Ferro	attila5@comcast.net	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-146	7/24/2026	Landon	Samo	landon.samo@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-147	7/24/2026	Carla	Salvadori-Black	salvadoriblack@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-148	7/24/2026	Andres	Guzman	guz.andres@comcast.net	Individual		Watertown	MA	I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from fully enjoying the river. As someone who majored in Environmental Science I understand the need to be ambitious. The time is now to end sewage dumping. As the climate crisis progress in the next couple of decades intense storms will become more frequent and over time help erode all the gains we have made over the years. We must make the necessary large scale investments into our infrastructure to be better prepared. no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-149	7/26/2026	Ev	All	no@nocso.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am asking that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying in a river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the targer for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where larger and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-150	7/26/2026	Teresa	Chick	tchick92@hotmail.com	Individual		Belmont	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. I am out on the Charles River at least once a week and even though I am on a boat, I still get wet from the wakes of passing boats. Please don't water more polluted. O don't water to have to go back to getting a short if I get too wet or wind up capsizing. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-151	7/26/2026	Sarah	Scott	smscott025@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	We like to walk our dog on the path along the river, but we can never let him swim or play in the water because of the potential that dangerous bacteria could be present. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-152	7/27/2026	Joe	Hyatt-Davenport	josephdaven+petition@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-153	7/27/2026	Emilia	Deimezis	deimezis@gmail.com	Individual		Kent	CT	I grew up in Boston, rowed the Charles River with the Boston Latin School Crew Team at CRI, learned how to sail at Community Boating, and worked with Boston Public School students on the Harbor Islands through the Connections Programs. These are huge benefits that come from investment in cleaning up our Charles River and Boston Harbor, and continue to need investment in proper storm and sewage water handling. There were many days that we were unable to go out on the water due to red flag days that indicate unsafe water quality. Stormwater overwhelms the old combined systems, and raw sewage flushes into the river. Do you want your kids to be exposed to raw sewage? Me neither, lets improve our systems, and protect the Charles, and our community that relies on it for ourdoor access! We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-154	7/27/2026	Cynthia	Snow	csnow2@verizon.net	Individual		Brookline	MA	As a resident of Brookline who often walks and bikes along the Muddy River and the Charles, I have been aware of the problem of illicit dumping and combine sewage overflow in both rivers, and I am appalled that this is still going on. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-155	7/27/2026	Jeffrey	Orlin	jeff3140@gmail.com	Individual		Newton	MA	I really can't believe we're having this conversation in 2026. It's way past time to stop abusing our natural resources because it's hard or expensive to do otherwise. All of these calculations neglect to include the cost of the damage being done. If it's not ok to dump all our sewage into our rivers why is it ok to dump a little bit of it? Enough already. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-156	7/27/2026	Katherine	Dander	kat.dander@yahoo.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-157	7/27/2026	Brianna	Rainville	brianna.rainville@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles can cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-158	7/27/2026	Kathleen	Ho Sang	katiehosang1@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I urge you to reject the proposed CSO plan and commit to a stronger solution that ends sewage dumping into the Charles River. Many of the world's greatest cities have clean, swimmable rivers that are central to daily life. Cities like Zurich have transformed their waterways into places where people safely swim, paddle, sail and gather. Boston should aspire to be a model for other U.S. cities, not settle for a plan that continues allowing sewage overflows. I want to be able to sail, windsurf, kayak, and swin in the Charles River without worrying that it could be a health hazard. A truly clean river would improve public health, expand recreational opportunities, and make the city even more enjoyable for residents. A swimmable Charles River would also be an economic asset. It would attract more visitors, support local businesses, and strengthen Boston's reputation as a world-class city that invests in its environment and quality of life. We have the opportunity to create a cleaner, healthier, and more vibrant Charles River for future generations. Please reject the proposed CSO plan and pursue a solution that eliminates sewage dumping into the river.	No
E-159	7/27/2026	Carol	Lorente	clorente@comcast.net	Individual		Somerville	MA	I live in Somerville & am always disheartened when after a rainstorm I get a notice that yet again there's been sewage discharged. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-160	7/27/2026	Marian	Lazar	mlazar32@yahoo.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-161	7/27/2026	Sam	Kauffmann	samfilmtv@yahoo.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I kayak on the Charles River and it has given me so much pleasure, but I'm really worried that the river is being destroyed by countless discharges of sewage into the river. Please. The Charles is a gift. It connects so many communities and people. It should be treated like the public treasure it is, not like some fetid sewer where harmful plants, cyanobacteria and human waste threaten it and our health! I want to swim in the river water, not worry about having it touch my skin. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-162	7/27/2026	Gabriela	Romanow	gabiromanow@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-163	7/27/2026	Resa	Blatman	resa@blatmandesign.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-164	7/27/2026	Mary	Loeken	mary.loeken@joslin.harvard.edu	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	I love the Charles River, and for 25 years, I lived on one of its shores. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-165	7/27/2026	Ann	Dix	adixanndix@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I am writing to ask that you take the action to stop the dumping of untreated or undertreated sewage into the Charles River. Data shows that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations, making the river unsafe for people and for wildlife. We have an opportunity to invest in our infrastructure to end the medival practice of dumping sewage into our beloved and critically important water bodies. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan to achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. The less aggressive plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix at best. The more comprehensive plan is necessary given the reality of climate change, where large and intense storms are expected to become the norm. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits to people and wildlife justify this cost. Please support the boldest action now.	No
E-166	7/27/2026	Stephen	Brody	stbbrody@aol.com	Individual		Norwood	MA	Any dumping of sewage into the Charles River is not acceptable. People swim or boat along the Charles. It took years and years to clean it up. Lets keep the Charles River clean. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-167	7/27/2026	Danny	Cuff	dannycuff@hotmail.com	Individual		Norwood	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles River cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-168	7/27/2026	Kin	Chow	kchow5@yahoo.com	Individual		Allston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-169	7/28/2026	Alexander	Novak	skilaxer23@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As a 4-yr resident of Cambridge, and 10-yr resident of Mass, I love to fish, kayak, and birdwatch on the Charles River, as well as walk and bike along it. I have witnessed firsthand what it looks like after a heavy rain event (spoiler: it's disgusting). I've also seen how clear it can be when it hasn't rained in a while and _____ hasn't overflowed into it. I prefer the latter. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river safely! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-170	7/28/2026	Gabriela	Sgambettera	gabrielsgam@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; thye also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-171	7/29/2026	David	Gaudian	djgaudian@gmail.com	Individual		Charlestown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-172	7/29/2026	Patricia	Tholl	patriciatholl@hotmail.com	Individual		Needham	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-173	7/29/2026	Noah	Albino	noavalbino2@gmail.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	Having worked on boats that operate along the Charles River for over 10 years, I've gotten to see how its health has changed through its increased biodiversity and uses by the people who live around Boston. Blue herons, geese, ducks, and turtles have all become more present on the Charles; and I see a lot more people fishing and paddling the waterway. It'd be awful to see all the progress people have worked so hard to achieve reversed by turning theriver back into a cesspool like it was in the 60s. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-174	7/30/2026	Elizabeth	Farrar	lizafarrar64@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	The Charles River is an intergral to my family's well being and connection. My kids have grown up with the connection of sailing and recrating on the River through Community Boating. My blind husband and many other disabled folks depend on access to the river for their recreation and support of their mental health with access to the outdoors and positive support to do a active sport. There are enough times when the program and people are affected by bacteria; allowing sewage drain off is just going to hurt the river and all the people and wildlife that it supports. It does not make sense to revert BACKWARDS just because the river is "cleaner". There must be a better long term solution. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the distressing practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-175	7/30/2026	Martin	Solomon	solomon.martin@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-176	7/31/2026	Michal	Rubin	michalsrubin@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love boating in the Charles with my kids. It's one of the many joys of living in this area. Please keep sewage out of our river! There has to be a better way! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-177	7/31/2026	Kat	Nilov	nilovcdn@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	In the position that if you don't imagine the clean future, you do not get one. Please consider my plea along with many of my fellow neighbors to strengthen the engineering proposal and create a solution that empowers all of us. It is always possible to submit a project proposal to students in engineering universities around Boston/MA/US to consider outside of what working engineers are thinking of. We have a huge student body of brains. Put it to good use! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-178	8/1/2026	Alana	Berman-Gnivecki	alanabg18@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-179	8/1/2026	Joseph	Nash	treecuplinkage@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	My name is Joe and I live in Brookline. I am writing to urge you to stop using the Charles River as an open sewer and select the highest level of control—no CSOs in the 2050 25-year storm—as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan. I love the Charles River and regularly use it to paddleboard. I hope to swim in it one day. However, every time heavy rain falls, raw sewage threatens the very water so many of us recreate in. Untreated sewage is a major public health hazard; all of our wastewater should be routed to and treated at the modern Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped into a river where it makes people sick. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and finish the job of cleaning up our waterways. The draft plan submitted on April 30th falls short of what the Clean Water Act promised and what residents expect. Considering a stronger, sewage-free alternative costs less than a few dollars per household per month, there is no excuse to delay. Please deliver the sewage-free Charles River we deserve.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-180	8/1/2026	Mary	Canavan	mcana7@aol.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. NO SEWAGE in the Charles River!! Enjoy a healthy river and all that it provides, a balanced ecostructure for plant, animal and human LIFE!!	No
E-181	8/2/2026	Yvonne	Chekaluk	ychekaluk@gmail.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	The Charles River is one of Boston's greatest treasures. It is home to the world-renowned Head of the Charles Regatta, which brings thousands of international athletes, spectators, and millions of dollars in economic activity to our region every year. Imagine the embarrassment if a major rainstorm occurred just before the event and raw sewage was floating in the river. Beyond the economic and reputational impact, untreated sewage poses serious health risks to people, wildlife, and pets, including the many dogs that play and swim in the Charles. While upgrading our infrastructure may require additional investment today, it is a lasting solution that will protect public health, the environment, and this iconic river for generations to come. It's time to stop allowing sewage to be dumped into the Charles River.	No
E-182	8/3/2026	Richard	Hassinger	richhassinger@verizon.net	Individual		Newton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-183	8/4/2026	Jimmy	Johnson	forcedexposure@yahoo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	See PDF attachment of email.	Yes
E-184	8/4/2026	Beth	Melofchik	bethmelofchik@gmail.com	Individual			MA	See PDF attachment of email.	Yes
E-185	8/4/2026	Jonathan	Burgess	jburgess171@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	See PDF attachment of email.	Yes
E-186	8/4/2026	Ari	Krumbein	ari.krumbein@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As a rower and a sailor on the Charles, I use the river multiple times a week. The health of the river is incredibly important to me, and to many others. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-187	8/5/2026	Emilio	Lopez	emilio@soptechint.com	SOP Technologies		Coral Gables	FL	I read about the ongoing Combined Sewer Overflows into Alewife Brook,the health advisories, and the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. Is someone on your team exploring ways to reduce the impact of urban stormwater runoff contributing to these CSOs, particularly from an operational or maintenance perspective? Our stormwater filters help prevent blockages and reduce maintenance needs.	No
E-188	8/6/2026	Wendy	Parker	wjp55@verizon.net	Individual		Dover	MA	I love the Charles River, I walk along its banks nearly every day and love seeing the wildlife there. And we kayak on the river as well. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-189	8/6/2026	Erin	Leiman	erinleiman@hotmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-190	8/9/2026	Kathy	Streeter	ksfurseals28@gmail.com	Individual		West Newton	MA	Rivers, oceans, streams, and all water bodies are not dumping grounds for sewage, toxic waste, garbage, or anything else. Bodies of water already struggle with contamination from runoff created by chemicals used on land and falling into the water during rainstorms and melting snow. The contamination negatively impacts wildlife and ecosystems in general. It also impacts our ability to support activities that encourage a healthy economy. You likely know all this in great detail. Please do whatever you can to support efforts to continue protecting and cleaning up the Charles River. Thanks so much. I moved to Boston and later Newton in 1987. Having grown up on the Long Island Sound in NY, swmming and boating throughout my childhood and early adult years, I was stunned to find out that it was not safe to swim in the Charles. Over the years since then, it has been encouraging to see the river and Boston Harbor water quality improve. We know it is possible to keep improving it and to protect the waterways. Please do not let all past efforts go to waste and cause the water quality to decline! Please!	No
E-191	8/10/2026	Anna	Allen	allen.anna.a@gmail.com	Individual		Newton Center	MA	My husband and I have our wedding anniversary in August, and it's become a tradition for us to go canoeing on the Charles out of the historic Auburndale boathouse to celebrate our anniversary. For the past few years, we've also brought our son, who is now 7. We just went yesterday and this issue is on my mind. We love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. My family and I appreciate your consideration.	No
E-192	8/11/2026	Sam	Owen	samness7@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I lived next to the Charles for 2 years, and it's such a painful thing to know that I'm tantalizingly close to living next to a beautiful, swimmable body of water. Yet, every time it rains, I'm afraid to go near the water. If there's any opportunity to invest in a plan to end the practice once and for all, it needs to happen so that Boston can be a leader and an example for all other cities! I won't stand for Boston to remain on the wrong side of history. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-193	8/13/2026	Caroline	Weeks	caroline.e.weeks@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	As a resident of Allston-Brighton, it is incredible that we have this resource in our backyard. However, it cannot be fully utilized and enjoyed by residents given the current water quality issues. I urge you to finally be the generation that fulfills the promise to residents that they will have a clean Charles River. I am happy to support this project and pay more to ensure that we have a clean, safe, useable resource for our community. I would also like to emphasize that after the events this summer across Boston and the globe, it is clear that climate change is here to stay. We can no longer be complacent about this. It is time to take action, not just for ourselves, but for those to come after us. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-194	8/14/2026	Debra	Borkovitz	dborkovitz@yahoo.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-195	8/15/2026	Laney	Zuerlein	laney.zuerlein@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	Have you read Is A River Alive? by Robert MacFarlane? It should be required reading for anyone making decisions that impact so many of us. We don't want sewage in our rivers. We want the Charles River to be what a river should be - a source of life, joy, and wonder for the beings who dwell on the river, and the beings who dwell beside the river. You know what doesn't provide life to either of these groups? Sewage. Waste. A river is not an energy efficient conveyor belt carrying your unwanted items out of your life forever. Unfortunately, there's (prepare for pun) downstream impact. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-196	8/15/2026	Rachel	Massey	mailto:massey12@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	I'm also concerned about sewage in the mystic lakes! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
									I live on Henderson St in East Arlington and have regularly walked the path between Cross St and Alewife station. Between May and September, depending on the frequency and magnitude of storms, the the brook can be smelt blocks away. When I took my child on the path over a decade ago, I had to explain why they couldn't play in or even touch the water. Please help stop the Alewife's frequent use as an open sewer. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the	

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E-197	8/16/2026	David	Olson	lo-viz@protonmail.ch	Individual		East Arlington	MA	of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-198	8/16/2026	Beth	Quigley	funkfamily12@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	It's unfathomable to think that doing nothing about sewage being dumped into Arlington is acceptable. It's not. As flooding increases, it will only worsen. We walk in the area as so many people do. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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E-199	8/16/2026	Ross	Dickson	ross.m.dickson@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Just because trump is in office is no reason to go back on a commitment to clean water, land, and air. Taxing Arlington higher due to being in easy walking distance of alewife and then blocking all walking paths with an open sewer does not feel right. Especially when bus service is cut as part of an improvement plan. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-200	8/16/2026	David	Hughes	davidhughes100@yahoo.com	Individual			MA	I often walk from East Arlington to Alewife under Route 2 and I also am concerned about sewage in flooding that could reach my home. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Both sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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E-201	8/16/2026	Robert	Morgan	robbwmorgan@gmail.com	Individual		Winchester	MA	I have lived along the alewife brook for many years and care deeply about the restoration of this sliver of precious green space surrounded by urban and suburban sprawl. I have enjoyed kayaking from behind my house but always had to be very careful about timing to avoid exposure to raw sewage. I hope that we can find a way to move past the arcane practice of dumping poop directly into waterways. My concerns are as follows: ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community. (Formerly of 37 Sunnyside Ave Arlington MA 02474, directly adjacent to the brook)	No
E-202	8/17/2026	Bernard	Boehm	bernie0217@aol.com	Individual				My concerns are as follows: ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-203	8/17/2026	Ilene	Fiedler	lorifiedler@yahoo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I LIVE IN A COMMUNITY DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY THE POLLUTION AND OPEN SEWERS OF THE ALEWIFE AREA OF FRESH POND. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
									I live two blocks from Alewife Brook, in East Arlington. During the Covid lockdown, walking along the path was my brief daily escape from indoors and developed my love of birding - except when rain caused sewage to flow not only in the brook but overflow onto the walking path. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-204	8/17/2026	Elizabeth	Widerski	customerservice@bettywiderski.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-205	8/17/2026	Emily	Snyder	ells.ells0306@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	We live very close to the infamous Alewife Brook & appreciate the work Kristin & other citizens have done to improve sewage output in this waterway. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-206	8/17/2026	Emily	Holzman	eholzman22@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I live on a private way that ends at Alewife Brook. I use this walking path daily - to commute, to stroll with my infant and toddler, to jog. Every time I see the brook I think how lovely it could be, and am distracted by the smell and the signs cautioning me that if I see flooding, I need to turn around because there is raw sewage present. This is a highly trafficked area and it is unacceptable to have to worry about sewage-borne bacteria and illnesses, not to mention the environmental impacts. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Both sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-207	8/17/2026	Toni	Buzzeo	tonibuzzeo@tonibuzzeo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	It is unconscionable that sewer run-off continues into the Alewife Brook. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-208	8/17/2026	Ryan	Severy	ryansevery@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	We live right next to the brook and love the greenway path with the trees and wildlife. However, the smell certain times of the year can be overwhelming and the stagnant water is a breeding ground for mosquitoes without a solid fish population to control them. It is a health hazard for families. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-209	8/17/2026	Hal	Tepfer	eactuary@gmail.com	Individual				I'm writing as a local resident to ask you to reject the proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan. The current proposal fails to protect our neighborhood from untreated sewage, and we need a plan that actually puts public health first. Under the current setup, Alewife Brook receives raw, untreated sewage during rainstorms. Tests show E. Coli counts nearly 1,000 times higher than EPA safety limits, along with norovirus and other harmful pathogens. This isn't just an abstract environmental issue: people are getting sick. When the brook floods during rainstorms, sewage water flows directly onto the paths at Alewife Reservation where my neighbors walk, and into nearby yards and basements during heavier rains. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 called on the state to eliminate these overflows and make our waters safe. A plan that allows continued dumping into a brook that regularly floods our parkland and homes does not meet that goal. According to the MWRA, fully ending sewage discharges across all three rivers would cost average households roughly $45 a year. That is a manageable cost for a massive return in public safety. I urge you to require a plan that stops discharges except in extreme, 25-year storm events. Thank you for listening to the residents who actually live with these impacts every day. Please hold the MWRA to a higher standard.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-210	8/17/2026	Stephen	Gershman	steve.gershman@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	It smells terrible and my toddler just wants to enjoy the otherwise beautiful path without the overwhelming smell of feces :(My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Both sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-211	8/17/2026	Barbara	Costa	barbaracosta331@gmail.com	Individual			MA	I cannot imagine that the sewer overflow situation continues! This is a health hazard and is extremely unpleasant. I avoid the bike path area because of this problem, but I feel especially bad for any residents who live nearby. It's a public health problem and needs to be remedied asap! My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-212	8/17/2026	Suzanne	McLeod	suzmcl61@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	As an East Arlington resident I saw (and smelled) sewage in the brook and in puddles when I walked along Alewife Brook after rainstorms. I can imagine the direct impact on wildlife who (try to) live in the brook. and nearby neighbors who can't walk away. I'm disgusted by the presence of sewage and also by the refusal to address the problem of overflow with respect to current climate impact, cost sharing, and public safety. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. I gather that much of the research has been done, and that completing the job with attention to green, long term infrastructure is doable and affordable with MWRA commitment. Please prioritize this. Facing and mitigating the impact of humans and climate change on our local environment not only makes our home livable - it provides a positive example for other communities across the state and nation who are pulling together with government agencies to invest in long-term, sustainable solutions. Make us proud! Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community. (Now living in Arlington Heights but still walking along Alewife Brook and affected by its well-being)	No
E-213	8/17/2026	Paul	Fox	pgf@foxharp.boston.ma.us	Individual		Arlington	MA	I've lived in Arlington for over 30 years. The issue of CSO sewage in East Arlington was a problem before I got here, and continues to be a problem today. To be clear, we're talking about yards, cellars, and recreation paths made unsafe for children and adults by unsanitary, untreated, human waste. Please pause, and let that sink in. While a nor'easter may have sometimes given my home some basement flooding, and maybe caused me to rush to Home Depot for a pump with which to get rid of clean rainwater and groundwater, my neighbors on the other side of town have had raw sewage in their cellars, and in their backyards. These are not isolated incidents: there are reports of this after each and every major storm! It's shocking enough that these problems have gone unmitigated for many, many decades. But to learn that in 2026, a major new sewage plan for the area makes no effort at all to address this public health debacle is *horrifying*. How anyone can think that this plan is acceptable is beyond me. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-214	8/17/2026	Anju	Joglekar	joglekar.anju831@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I live in East Arlington and being able to enjoy the Alewife Brook - for example, the wildlife (herons, turtles) and the boardwalk - without the sewage pollution is not asking for much. It is basic quality of life. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-215	8/17/2026	Andrey	Fedorov	andrey.fedorov@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	This brook and the trails along it are such a treasured part of the community, the neighborhood. My son and I take the bike rides along it, and we would like to see it maintained and improved. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-216	8/17/2026	Erin	Barno	erin.barno@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	We walk by the Alewife Brook almost everyday. The path is one of my favorites in the greater Boston area in the fall and spring. However, it is unbearable to walk by in the summer due to the smell. It makes what should be an environmental gem of Arlington a safety hazard. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-217	8/17/2026	Wynelle	Evans	evco7@rcn.com	Town Meeting Member, pct. 14		Arlington	MA	I walk along the brook regularly, and see wildlife in, on, and around it. Heartbreaking to see cygnets and ducklings paddling in that filthy water, as well as turtles, muskrats, fish, rats, all the other mammals and amphibians and birds that make it their home. Never mind all the people who walk along the path, sometimes through sewage puddles, or who have to muck out their basements after storms. The state can make a cleanup happen, rather than using tactics of delay and neglect. Please do so NOW. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, CSO sewage waters flood over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-218	8/17/2026	Martha	Severy	marthasevery@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Alewife Brook runs along the back of our property, along with the bike path. We love this as a part of our community, helping to encourage walking, running and biking. The toxic smells and risk of EColi (including impact on local areas where boating and swimming are permitted) detracts from the sense of safety for the community, is a turnoff for regular use, and puts our kids at risk. A healthy and vibrant community provides safety for our kids and attracts new families to come to the east Arlington area, which will provide overall benefit for future generations. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-219	8/17/2026	Stephan	Miller	steffmiller@mac.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I have lived in Arlington for more than 50 years. Fortunately, never very near the Alewife Brook. For all the time I've lived here Cambridge and Somerville have been periodically dumping their sewage into the brook and subsequently into the streets and basements of East Arlington. The first time I experienced this I thought that this awful injustice can't go on. Now, decades later, despite many false starts, it's still regularly occurring. There is a solution and I implore you, for the sake of our environment and public health, to use it. Sincerely, Dr. Stephan Miller My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-220	8/17/2026	amy	cohen	acoh7680@yahoo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	It is unconscionable that raw sewage continues to be dumped in Arlington. Yes it's a huge project to eliminate this dumping, but we need some results. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-221	8/17/2026	Elliot	Eichen	elliot.eichen@choyu.net	Individual		Arlington	MA	I have carefully read and reviewed an analysis of the Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan for Alewife Brook, Upper Mystic River, and Charles River, drafted by Aecom.inc and submitted by the City of Cambridge, City of Somerville, and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority on April 30, 2026. It seems completely irresponsible to submit a plan that ignores the damage of pollution from upstream sewer overflow into the Alewife Brook. The statements in the executive summary - "Utilizes a forward-thinking approach to CSO control that incorporates future climate conditions, was informed by robust water quality analyses, and engaged stakeholders and the public" and "Recommends projects that are predicted to eliminate CSOs in a future year that accounts for a changing climate" - are indefensible. This plan does NOT "eliminate CSOs in a future year that accounts for a changing climate" nor does it incorporate all the views of "engaged stakeholders and the public." Instead, this plan seems to falsely prioritize 'financial impacts across Cambridge, Somerville, and the other 41 MWRA sewer communities." Spending close to $1B to NOT solve the problem, when spending a comparatively small amount more on a well-known solution that would solve the problem (stormwater separation), is fiscally irresponsible. I have lived in East Arlington for more than forty years, and for most of that time I have walked my dogs along the Alewife Brook and through the surrounding parks and wetlands. I have seen and smelt the raw sewage, and waded through the flooding; it's disgraceful and appalling. It is not surprising to me that studies show a causal connection between illness and sewage overflow. What is even more frightening is that the frequency of these events is projected to increase significantly in the coming years. Please ask the MWRA and the MassDEP to withdraw this recommendation, and have its consultant (Aecom) do it right!	No
E-222	8/18/2026	Alan	Jones	jones@carr-jones.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I am writing to urge immediate action to clean up the Alewife Brook and to develop and implement a modern, effective plan to prevent sewer overflows that discharge raw sewage into the brook whenever it rains. I strongly oppose any plan that continues to rely on the Alewife as a receptacle for untreated wastewater. The consequences of inaction have been severe. Almost every time it rains, Untreated sewage enters the brook, contaminating public walkways, private properties, and even the basements of nearby residents. This is a public health hazard. We should not wait for an outbreak of a fecal borne illness such as cyclosporiasis to recognize the seriousness of the problem. The region's sewage and stormwater systems must be upgraded to handle increased flows driven by population growth and a changing climate. Any overflow that does not reach Deer Island for treatment should be captured and treated before any effluent is allowed to enter the Alewife Brook. The CSO Control Plan currently on the table does not solve the underlying problem. In contrast, the plan advanced by local grassroots organizations like Save the Alewife Brook sets the right priorities, appears feasible, and provides a strong foundation for meaningful progress. This is a regional challenge and therefore a regional responsibility. The MWRA, not individual municipalities, must lead the solution. The agency has the capacity to fund and execute the necessary upgrades. The Alewife Brook has been used as a sewer for far too long. Yes, the problem is complex and the solutions are costly — but they must be done correctly, and they must be done now. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-223	8/18/2026	Christian	Klein	cklein@approach3.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I have lived most of my life in Arlington after having been a resident of both Cambridge and Somerville. I was appalled to learn that those two communities rely on dumping excess sewage into Arlington on a regular basis and the state condones it. These cities have had four decades if not a couple of centuries to correct this issue, but they won't if the state keeps giving them a pass. Now is the time to say "enough is enough" and force them to fix the problem for good. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-224	8/18/2026	Meredith	Landsmann	meredith.landsmann@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I remember when the Charles River water was to be avoided. We shouldn't be able to reverse the progress made. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-225	8/18/2026	Richard	Madden	richardkmadden@gmail.com	Individual				Please clean up Alewife Brook. Since the Nixon administration there has been a Clean Water bill to clean up the nation's rivers. A walking trail, put in by the Commonwealth decades ago, runs along the brook in Arlington. Let's get the job done. Dick Madden	No
E-226	8/18/2026	Karen	Mortimer	kcmortimer5@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-227	8/18/2026	Ayo	Lewis	lewisayodele17@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-228	8/19/2026	Carrie	Finison	carriefinison@mac.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I'm writing with concern today because I've been told that the updated sewage plan for Cambridge and Somerville involve the continued use of Alewife Brook as an open sewer, rather than treating and disposing of wastewater in some more clean and less disgusting way. As an Arlington resident, I frequently walk along the Alewife Brook and can remember the first time I did so after a big storm had flooded the brook, and apparently the sewers. There were bits of toilet paper and tampons embedded in the grass all around the walking path, puddles of water that I absolutely did not want to walk through, and a terrible smell. In 2026, there is no excuse for this in a crowded urban community. We have little enough green space to enjoy, and to have a waterway that COULD be a great asset to all our communities be instead relegated to sewer overflow is unconscionable. I urge you to revisit the plan, actually study how this decision affects the brook and the community around it, and come up with a better and more sanitary solution.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-229	8/20/2026	Joanne	Cullinane	cullinanejoanne@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	For years I walked my young kids along the brook and I had no idea what was in it. I knew that it often smelled foul near route 16, though. I had no idea how bad the pollution there was/still is. I still frequent the area and swim nearby at Dilboy pool. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-230	8/21/2026	Halima	Blackman	halimanblackman@gmail.com	Individual		Randolph	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-231	8/21/2026	John	Tortelli	tortjohn@yahoo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-232	8/21/2026	John	Tortelli	tortjohn@yahoo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I live on Sunnyside Ave in Arlington and have experienced raw sewage flowing onto my property and into my home , these events have led to sickness and loss of property to myself and neighbors. To keep using the Alewife as an open sewer in 2026 is totally unacceptable and unethical. It pains me to have to tell my grandchildren and other visitors they have to stay away from the water and not be able to enjoy our natural resources is totally ridiculous in this day and age. Cambridge, Somerville and the MWRA should be leading the way for clean water and not finding excuses to continue to use our Alewife Brook as an open sewer.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-233	8/21/2026	Kiami	King	kiamivk@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	The Charles River is one of the main places I go to relax after a long day. I love walking along the esplanade, taking photos and being near the water but if it starts to smell like sewage that will completely ruin the beauty of it all. I've been waiting for years for it to be clean enough to maybe take my family out on kayaks and the knowledge that this might not happen is devastating. Keep our river clean!! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-234	8/21/2026	Diana	Crockett	dianamcrockett@yahoo.com	Individual		Hopkinton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-235	8/22/2026	Rohit	Mynam	chicknkiller@gmail.com	Individual		Aubrey	TX	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-236	8/24/2026	Heather	Bowen	heatherbowenz@gmail.com	Individual		Hull	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-237	8/24/2026	Casey	Anderson	caseyruthanderson@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As someone who grew up loving swimming in public water ways knowing that we a knowingly polluting a water source is heartbreaking. When there is a clear problem and an even clearer solution it seems that its a lack of accountability rather than a lack of support or funds. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-238	8/24/2026	Madison	Walsh	madisonlwalsh2001@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
									I live in East Arlington within a mile of Alewife Brook and its bike/walking path from Alewife MBTA Stop and the Mystic River. When I walk within a block of that path, I smell the CSO on a regular basis. Many times I will not use the path due to CSO water on the path. Additionally the soil along the path remains muddy from this overflow and high water mark for much longer. This situation needed to end 2 decades ago. MWRA, Camb, & Somerville need to spend the money to resolve the CSO issue. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife	

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-239	8/25/2026	Carolyn	White	cawhitema@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-240	8/25/2026	Jessie	Taylor	jtaylor.contact@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	As a Somerville resident just blocks from a CSO location (SOM001), I am disappointed with the limitations of the new plan to eliminate CSOs. While I appreciate the collaboration and hard work of the committees and departments involved, the bulk of the plan being heavily reliant on the creation of storage tanks is short-sighted. We need to focus on sewer separation more significantly, and on Green Stormwater Infrastructure, both of which are mentioned in the plan but minimized (former) or mostly disregarded (latter) due to space limitations. However I urge the committees to reconsider- storage tanks are a short-term solution that doesn't represent the goals for longevity and sustainability under Climate Change. I walk alongside Alewife Brook regularly, canoe down it in good weather, bring friends from out of town to enjoy a bit of nature during their Somerville visits, and it is an absolute disappointment to see it full of trash, and to see our beautiful wildlife struggling and abandoning the area. We need a plan that will ensure sewage will not be dumped into our waterways for years and years to come, and this plan does not reflect that. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-241	8/25/2026	Erik	Holum	eholum@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	My wife studies MA's coastal ecosystems as a professor at UMass. We know first hand what the affects of sewage runoff are on our communities, beaches, and marine life. Addressing the shortcomings, especially in th days of extreme climate events, should not be optional. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-242	8/25/2026	Margaretta	Sangree	beth.sangree@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Alewife Brook is one block from my house. Every time it rains you can smell the sewage. It's like visiting a 3rd world country. Many people are exposed to hazardous bacteria from this. There is no excuse for allowing this to continue. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-243	8/25/2026	Maureen	Mueller	experienceaxiom@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I live directly next to the proposed 135 Sherman Street site in Cambridge, so the decisions being made about the Alewife Brook Sewage Plan are not abstract to me. They will affect the place I call home, the air I breathe, the environment immediately surrounding me, and potentially my health and quality of life for years to come. I am deeply concerned about the prospect of major excavation and construction at this site, particularly given the documented history of contamination in the area and the potential health and environmental consequences for those of us living closest to it. I absolutely support solving the devastating problem of sewage pollution in Alewife Brook. But protecting one part of our environment should not come at the expense of the health and safety of another community. I urge you to pursue a comprehensive, long-term solution that addresses sewage pollution at its source and fully considers safer alternatives before placing such an enormous infrastructure project beside people's homes. As someone who will live with the consequences of this decision every day, I ask you to listen closely to the residents most directly affected. Please choose a solution that protects Alewife Brook and the people who call this neighborhood home. We deserve both. Especially considering there are better long-term and more sustainable options in completing sewar separation in the city of Cambridge .	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-244	8/25/2026	Maureen	Mueller	experienceaxiom@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I live directly next to the proposed 135 Sherman Street site in Cambridge, so the decisions being made about the Alewife Brook Sewage Plan are not abstract to me. They will affect the place I call home, the air I breathe, the environment immediately surrounding me, and potentially my health and quality of life for years to come. I am deeply concerned about the prospect of major excavation and construction at this site, particularly given the documented history of contamination in the area and the potential health and environmental consequences for those of us living closest to it. I absolutely support solving the devastating problem of sewage pollution in Alewife Brook. But protecting one part of our environment should not come at the expense of the health and safety of another community. I urge you to pursue a comprehensive, long-term solution that addresses sewage pollution at its source and fully considers safer alternatives before placing such an enormous infrastructure project beside people's homes. As someone who will live with the consequences of this decision every day, I ask you to listen closely to the residents most directly affected. Please choose a solution that protects Alewife Brook and the people who call this neighborhood home. We deserve both. Especially considering there are better long-term and more sustainable options in completing sewar separation in the city of Cambridge . My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-245	8/25/2026	Margaretta	Sangree	beth.sangree@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-246	8/25/2026	William	McMillan	will@willsings.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I live near the Minuteman Bike trail (as do you, Governor Healey!) and I use it every day to walk/bike to the Alewife T station, to Trader Joe's, to Arlington Center, etc. The Alewife waterway(s) almost always smell yucky,. I have been told that neighboring towns' stormwater/sewage overflows (during a big storm event) can end up flowing into the Alewfie water system. Argh! You have probably been sent photos of some people walking and biking through flooded parts of the bikeway (which also runs through two very heavily used playing fields where children and adults practice and compete seven days a week). Unfortunately due to our collective human denial/ignorance about climate catastrophe(s) caused — at least in part — by our over-use of fossil fuels. the severity of storms is just going to continue to get worse in the upcoming years. It seems like the planners (who I am guessing try to design/envision/strategize years in advance) are coming up with solutions which are no longer wise. I would like to see construction of wetlands, for example, rather than burying huge storage pipes underground. I would like to see the creation of many more swales. We have one at the foot of our street which works very well at diverting water from pouring into our sewers during big storms. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community. ps: People with no homes who live in tents hidden away near the Alewife waterways probably do not help the water quality either.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-247	8/25/2026	Philip	Ballentine	pballent@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I often bike and walk along the Brook and this matters to me. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
									I have lived in Arlington for a long time. My kids are now considering moving to East Arlington in the next few years, but as my soon-to-be daughter-in-law is a water civil engineer she's not so happy about moving to a potentially sewage impacted neighborhood. Cambridge and Somerville have permanently addressed some of their CSO issues, but not the ones impacting Arlington the most. As we have paid so much over the years for Deer Island, it's time to extend the clean up to Arlington to protect the people and the largest Alewife run in the state. Do it for Arlington and in honor of the crusade Elsie Fiore championed for decades and that George Laite and others are still working hard to fix. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community. One of my favorite experiences living here in Arlington is all of the wildlife encounters I experience right in my neighborhood, from seeing a bald eagle fly over my house, to hearing coyotes howl at night, and just yesterday watching 3 teen raccoons explore my yard in a group. If we are going to survive a changing climate, we need to make sure we are creating permanent solutions for humanity and all the other species who call Arlington home. (That includes the Northern Short Tailed Shrew, over 30 birds I've identified in my yard, red foxes, turkeys, groundhogs, chipmunks, squirrels, Coopers Hawks I've had nest nearby, opossums, Monarch butterflies, and more). "We are going to overthrow some of our institutions, but in the way that Americans have always done it: through the ballot, through public consensus. That's a revolution. That is a real revolution." -Rubén Salazar	

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-248	8/25/2026	Colleen	Kirby	kirby.cho@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA		No
E-249	8/25/2026	Laurel	Kayne	laurel@maxmediacorp.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Alewife Brook and the surrounding Alewife DCR parkland are important local natural resources and should not be used as a big toilet for convenience. In our era of ever more severe storms, including flooding, it is a serious omission that the new CSO Sewage Plan does not take into account over-the-bank flooding, which poses an unacceptable risk of sewage overflow to the surrounding park, bike path, and neighborhoods. Would you want raw sewage pouring out where you live and recreate? Of course not. So please do better. Thank you for considering my feedback.	No
E-250	8/25/2026	Nate	Mendes	natemendes13@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I live nearby. The Brook and I walk that path almost every day by the water and on days when it is humid out or it has rained or it's just generally hot. The smell from the water is absolutely disgusting and I am appalled as a Massachusetts resident and as a part of this community that we have such a health hazard so close to home and no one has enough respect for this community to actually take responsibility and be accountable and clean up the issue I'm disgraced to be a Massachusetts resident who lives near this and sees this every day and you should too as our representatives. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-251	8/25/2026	Betsy	Lenora	betsylenora@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I live in senior housing very near to where Alewife Brook empties into Mysic River. I enjoy walking the Alewife Brook path & can walk all the way to Alewife Red line staion if I want. It feels like a sanctuary, a respite, from living in the congestion of the city. But it has become more & more murky. It's not healthy. Sewage is still allowed to flow or be dumped into it thru no fault of it's own. I have seen much wildlife in the past but no more. WHY IS THIS BEING ALLOWED? My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
									My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility.	

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-252	8/25/2026	Irene	Lanois	illanois@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-253	8/25/2026	Carla	Gates	carlagates247@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I want an end to sewage pollution at Alewife Brook through sewer separation and green stormwater infrastructure. NO to Grey Infrastructure on state parkland and YES to Green Infrastructure on state parkland. As a mom to a family in Arlington, I am concerned about the health impact of the MWRA's current sewage plan. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-254	8/25/2026	Resa	Blatman	resablatman@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	The Alewife path has the potential to be a beautiful wonderland for birds and other wildlife, but the sewage in the brook stinks, and it's a health hazard to animals and humans. Please do something about this!. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Both sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-255	8/25/2026	A.	Jochnick	jochnick@earthlink.net	Individual			MA	My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-256	8/25/2026	Cara	Foster Karim	cara.foster@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I live close to the Alewife Brook and I walk or bike along it frequently, often with my kids--it's so precious to have such a key part of watershed ecosystem so accessible to an urban area and I'm so grateful for the access to green space and nature. Every spring I take my kids to pull up invasive plants and clean up trash along the Alewife Brook; I want them to grow up with a sense of connection and belonging with the natural environment around us. But I find it upsetting and disturbing that we keep polluting it over and over again, every time there's a heavy rain--we have to do better and make it safe for wildlife and our communities. Please find the funding to stop CSO in the Alewife Brook!! My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-257	8/25/2026	Matthew	Dorson	mhdorson@yahoo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	It is 2026 and high time we stop dumping raw sewage into the Alewife brook! Separate the sanitary sewers from the storm water systems and eliminate the CSOs that pollute the stream near my home. I want to be able to walk along the brook without it smelling like the inside of a portable toilet! Don't just store sewage in a tank. Do the work and separate the sewage to eliminate the CSOs. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-258	8/25/2026	Judy	Hikes	judyhikes@yahoo.com	Individual		North Cambridge	MA	Yes to green infrastructure. No to gray infrastructure.	No
E-259	8/25/2026	Angeline	Nyquist	angeline.nyquist@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-260	8/26/2026	Libby	Shaw	elshaw@mit.edu	Individual			MA	Urban green spaces are vitally important to health and well-being, and we need them more than ever as cities become more dense and as the world heats up. We should be doing everything we can to preserve them, not trash them. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
									I walk along the Alewife Brook every single day and every day, no matter whether it has rained, it reeks of sewage. It's such a blessing to be nearby nature, but I will often avoid it for fear of being directly next to raw sewage. Somerville is one of the most expensive places to live in the country, and yet thousands of us are exposed to raw sewage with zero commitment from our government to do anything about it. I have been in Somerville for 8 years now and every time I tell people about the sewage next to my home they are shocked. I have seen so much activism towards fixing this problem, but zero actual actions taken. The state of the Alewife Brook is appalling. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE	

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E-261	8/26/2026	Elise	Keston-Smith	elise.kestonsmith@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-262	8/26/2026	Nonie	Valentine	nonie.valentine1@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Greetings from Nonie Valentine in Cambridge. Along with full sewer separation, I urge most strongly for joining “grey” infrastructure with “living” infrastructure -- like the beautiful wetlands that belong at Alewife. Why not be the cool cities that show we are catching up with climate realities, by not hesitating to turn the CSO stigma into design around living systems? Wetlands are a living system that restores natural balances, including a healthy water cycle, into the future. Concrete storage tanks hold water but can overflow. Living systems are dynamic and self-scaling. Wetlands are natural shock absorbers. The native sedges, rushes, and deep-rooted wetland trees slow down stormwater, spreading it across the landscape and allowing it to infiltrate the ground. This lowers the peak volume of water rushing into sewer systems during intense rain. The wetland is active as a living filter. Microorganisms in root zones of plants break down hydrocarbons, trap heavy metals, and neutralize harmful pathogens. Cattail and Pickerelweed take up phosphorus and nitrogen from urban runoff, cleaning water before it reaches the river. What happens when a person stops at the already restored wetland at Alewife in late summer? It is alive with biodiversity. They are caught by the scarlet of cardinal flower and the tall Joe Pyeweed, the flick of the damselfly skimming the water, the sound of bees and the bass of the bullfrog. They stop, they breathe out, they look around. The phone slides into a pocket. A wetland brings them right into the rhythms of a living ecosystem. What if we dare to live more beautifully.	No
E-263	8/26/2026	Arlene	Olivero	arleneolivero@yahoo.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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E-264	8/26/2026	Katie	Hohl	katiehohl1@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	The Charles River is one of my favorite places around the Greater Boston area. When I see it after I return from travel, that is the moment I know I am home. This is our own piece of precious nature within the city- it is imperative that we do everything we can to protect it and preserve the myriad of life it supports, human and more than human. It is a VITAL piece of our local history, ecology, and culture, and dumping sewage into it feels incredibly short-sighted. The indigenous practice of "thinking seven generations ahead" is what we should be doing - what will the Charles river be like in seven generations if we dump waste into it now? What could it be like if we take the critical step to prevent this, and re-commit to keeping it clean and protected? I know which option of those I would rather leave for future generations. Please, please oppose this action of dumpling sewage in the river and commit to protecting this essential place. Thank you 🙏 I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-265	8/27/2026	Yosuke	Terashita	yosuket05@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I've always wanted to swim in the Charles I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-266	8/27/2026	Andrew	Mott	theandrewview+charlesriver@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I just moved to Cambridge. I'm a young professional, love the area, and can see myself here for a long time. But why would you use the Charles as a sewage solution? Logistically, I understand. But many things in a city don't truly work on logistics alone. Many of the best parts of our city, in fact, are illogical: the old streets and nonsensical layouts, the generous Free Libraries, etc. We live in a place that has those things—let it have this, too. Stop dumping in the river. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-267	8/27/2026	Anna	Friedrich	annaalphinfriedrich@gmail.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	My husband and I love to kayak and SUP on the Charles, and we are regularly stunned by how rare it is for us to see others out on this River. But this shouldn't be! It's the Peoples' River! I am writing to ask you to reject this proposal that would increase sewage dumping into our beloved River. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-268	8/27/2026	Madeline	Webster	maddywebster@hotmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	My husband and I have lived in E Arlington for 20 yrs during which I have followed this issue. It is important to solve the problem NOW not postpone with stop gap projects which leave it to the next generation for a really expensive solution. I have seen several 100 yr storms when people were canoeing down Brooks Ave and I am notified regularly when there are CSO's which are frequent. Time for planners & the MWRA as leaders to step up to the plate and do the job right. I worked in the Seaport district when it was first being developed. It was obvious to anyone of us who took our picnic lunches over to the courthouse or other parts of the developing waterfront that the water was already lapping over the giant granite blocks. When ordinary citizens can see a problem and the engineers and planners turn a blind eye, as is also the case with the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic, it is very demoralizing. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-269	8/27/2026	Robert	Seidenberg-Spitzer	robertseidenbergspitzer@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-270	8/27/2026	Ben	Weisburd	ben.weisburd@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-271	8/27/2026	Charles	Magnarelli	charlie@magnarelli.net	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Keep the Charles clean! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-272	8/28/2026	Jeffrey	Shamon	nshamon@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I'm shame from MWRA trying to pause forever sewage raw sewage in the child's river. Look at your mission step up and do your job. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-273	8/28/2026	Alix	Gordon	alixagordon@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	Please try and create a plan that would stop all raw sewage from entering our waterways and soil. Many folks in the Alewife area also have community gardens that become contaminated. We want to contribute to a cleaner planet in our lifetime. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-274	8/28/2026	Brenda	Hugot	brenda.k.hugot@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Please acknowledge and address the sewage flooding at Alewife Brook and the associated public health impacts. I am one of the many people who walk and bike through Alewife regularly. This problem is disgusting and hazardous. Please do the right thing. Do not ignore this. Please separate the sewer system from the stormwater and fix this problem! My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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E-275	8/28/2026	Stephanie	Galaitsi	stephanie.galaitsi@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	Alewife Brook is one of the only places that my kids interact with a wild water body. The part near the Belmont line has so many animals, but the brook itself is pretty gross looking when we bike by it. I'm trying to teach them about environmental stewardship - and we adults should be walking the walk. This brook needs to get cleaned up. Thank you. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-276	8/28/2026	Peter	Gailitis	peterjgailitis@gmail.com	Individual		Belmont	MA	I live on Little Pond, in Hill Estates, a circa 1970 housing development. Our street water goes into the pond via a large clay pipe, so we are somewhat part of the problem, as little pond pours into little River which then joins Alewife. What is appalling is that Alewife receives CSO's. This is a neighborhood, shared by thousands of people in both Belmont and Cambridge. Dumping sewage into the Brook is a medieval solution. We are not in the Dark Ages, although it is starting to feel that way. Neither of these communities can be called poor. Or uneducated. Lets fix this gross aberration. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-277	8/28/2026	Laura	Saylor	laurasaylor@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Hello, I am a mother of 3 children living one block from Alewife Brook. My kids longed to play and fish in this brook when they were little, but I had to deny them--it is terribly unsafe. We have exceedingly high rates of norovirus in our neighborhood. I wonder if it's related to the sewage that often floods our streets from the brook, or attaches itself to our shoes when we walk local paths. Regardless, the smell is so bad, it inhibits our ability to enjoy our own neighborhood and exercise. This type of discharge of human waste into public waters is medieval and should not exist with modern water treatment options. Please do better! My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers is only $45 more per year to households. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-278	8/28/2026	Meredith	DiMola	meredithdimola@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Please please, please, please do something to stop this problem. There are many people who have worked tirelessly to come up with solutions and now they need support. We deserve a clean alewife brook as do all the creatures that rely on it. Let's do the right thing for all. Thank you My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-279	8/29/2026	Timothy	Bucciarelli	timbucc@gmail.com	Individual			MA	My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-280	8/29/2026	Reed	Foster	reedf@mit.edu	Individual		Arlington	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-281	8/29/2026	Brianne	Lowe	briannelowe@hotmail.com	Individual		Salem	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-282	8/29/2026	Mara	Huston	mara@hustonfam.net	Individual		Sudbury	MA	It's really embarrassing to live in a state with amazing technology and infrastructure while there's still conversation about dumping sewage in a river. No. This is not okay. I sail on the river and really enjoy it. I shouldn't have to worry about contamination in the river. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-283	8/29/2026	Meredith	Olsen	meredith.olsen@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	We live in North Cambridge, and the "nature" closest to us is the Alewife Brook area. We had been taking our dog and our daughter for walks around that area, but soon realized that it stunk, and there is no wildlife there for a reason. There are two poor swans that try to call the pond next to the Alewife T station home, and I just feel so so sad for them every time I see them. Then there is the area that floods, right next to homes in Arlington. Then of course there are the grates in our neighborhood that say "Don't dump--drains to Alewife Brook" that stink like a toilet every time it rains. Is it no surprise that North Cambridge is not the richest part of Cambridge? Not to mention all the public housing around this area. You can't dump literal poop on neighborhoods. People and animals get sick from this, and have to live with this smell. Please, please--someone help us. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-284	8/29/2026	Nina	Paradiso	nparadiso7@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-285	8/29/2026	Brett	Rado	brado1318@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I live close to the Charles, as many residents of Massachusetts do. We relax, we exercise, and we take pride in the natural beauty that spans many of the great towns and cities in Massachusetts. It would be a great shame to tarnish one of the defining features of our community merely for business interests. I implore you to chose people and environment over profit, and curb any efforts to dump waste and sewage into the Charles River. Someday, people you care about may live with the choices you make today; I hope the wise choice is made by our legislators. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-286	8/29/2026	Mary	Canavan	mcana7@aol.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. Hard to believe you need to be told this is a BAD IDEA!! For so many reasons, beginning with the health of the water, the people and the wildlife the river supports!!!	No
E-287	8/29/2026	Jake	Morgan	letusallbegods1@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester Center	MA	Certainly we can figure this out in 2026. Most taxes go to hidden expenses we never see or care about. What a nice way to actually put resources back in the community and facilitate better use of our natural waterways I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-288	8/29/2026	Joshua	Colantuoni	jtcolantuoni@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester Center	MA	It's disgusting that there is even consideration to continue dumping sewage into the river. Decades of work has tried to clean this river, and now's the time to remove all CSOs. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-289	8/30/2026	Eric	Lee	eric.lee2579@gmail.com	Individual		Quincy	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-290	8/30/2026	Jordan	Claman	jordan.claman@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-291	8/30/2026	Chris	Swift	funkynewagedude@hotmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As a European transplant to Boston and Cambridge, I have loved the crafted environment around the Charles river. However, I'm disappointed to learn that, although you have an opportunity to clean the Charles River, the administration is intending to keep it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. Whilst the world is taking great strides to clean up its rivers and installing swimming segments and encouraging more water sports such as triathlons etc, Boston seems at risk of being left behind, which seems at odds with its otherwise progressive and ethical drive. This sounds like a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in the needed infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in the water. We're not in the 1900s anymore, we don't have an excuse. The benefits absolutely justify the costs. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I went out on a kayak recently and the amount of trash in the water was both surprising and upsetting. But why would people look after it if they can't really enjoy it? I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. Don't get left behind and have to spend more money fixing the damage from shortsighted politicking.	No
E-292	8/31/2026	Jim	Recht	jimrecht@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	As a homeowner and resident of Somerville, and as a physician with decades of experience treating illnesses caused or exacerbated by water pollution, I want our cities and state agencies to STOP discharging sewage into our water. Despite what too some bureaucrats say, we can afford to eliminate CSO's. Let's DO it. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-293	8/31/2026	Roxanne	Reddington-Wilde	rredwilde@gmail.com	Individual				In the late '80s I lived on Alewife Brook Parkway in Somerville. Its shallows were filled with trash, tires, shopping carts and supposedly giant carp, the only fish that could live in those filthy waters. Alewife Brook itself dribbled into the Mystic River that fed into Boston Harbor. Over the many years, we've managed to clean up Boston Harbor —except when sewage from the Alewife Brook leaks into it. Isn't it time we cleaned up the Alewife too? My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-294	8/31/2026	PN	Usgaonkar	pooja.usgaonkar@gmail.com	Individual				I was pleased to see some representatives from my area attend a walkthrough of the brook, which is close to my house. This is just the start of what we need to address a distressing environmental and public health issue. Quite frankly it's embarrassing to explain to visitors who remark on the stink. When we explain to them how the sewer overflow system is contributing to the pollution, they are aghast at how last century the city's infrastructure seems. I appreciate the pockets of nature the city seeks to preserve, and it saddens me to see the brook's condition.	No
E-295	9/1/2026	Selena	Halabi	selenahhalabi@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-296	9/1/2026	Arun	Sannuti	asannuti@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	Will our water ever be completely clean? Probably not, but let's not make even worse. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-297	9/1/2026	Patricia	Carney	slowdowntoday@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As a rower on the Charles River, I have direct and frequent contact with the river's water. Every time I row, water can splash onto my body and face. It is common for oars to create a backsplash, and occasionally that water enters my mouth. There is also a very real risk of falling into the river, particularly when rowing a single sculling boat. Just last month, I flipped my boat shortly after rainfall and a combined sewer overflow release. In that situation, avoiding direct contact with the river water was simply not possible. For those of us who row on the Charles regularly, sewage discharges are not an abstract environmental concern. We are directly exposed to this water. Please do not allow sewage to be discharged into the Charles River. The river is a vital recreational resource used every day by rowers, paddlers, sailors, swimmers, and others. We should not have to worry that participating in the activities we love may expose us to sewage-contaminated water. The Head of the Charles Regatta, the world's largest rowing regatta, brings together 11,000–12,000 athletes, more than 2,400 volunteers, and over 375,000 spectators during its three-day weekend. The event also has a significant economic impact, generating an estimated $142 million for the local economy, with 66% of attendees traveling from outside Massachusetts. (Source: HOCR) I urge you to protect the health of the people who use the Charles River and to support solutions that prevent sewage from entering this treasured public resource. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-298	9/1/2026	Colin	Summers	colin@mightycheese.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	We ARE doing better. That's the good news. Please make your plan stronger. Hold the communities along river to account for their planning and dumping. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-299	9/1/2026	Edward	Rice	teddyrice77@gmail.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	Hi, I am really disappointed to see the MWRA give up on efforts to make the Charles River sewage-free. My daughter has rowed on the river for years - first at CRI, now as a member of the Varsity BU team - and we love our time cheering on her and her team from the banks. She and future generations deserve clean water to row on. There are solutions to the sewage problems that a more ambitious MWRA can implement to address the overflow issues, and their recent draft plan strikes me as underwhelming. Please go back to the drawing board and come to the public with long-term solutions that allow us to use the River to its fullest. As a local tax payer and Charles River enthusiast, I think the MWRA can do much better. And I'm certainly prepared to pay a bit more if I believed there is a long-term trajectory for clean, swimmable water.	No
E-300	9/1/2026	CC	LeBlanc	paixcatz@proton.me	Individual		Framingham	MA	For years I do river tidying along the Charles @ Magazine Beach, the shoreline @ BU boathouse to the Snood plaque @ MIT cross the bridge going west to BU bridge & back to Cambridgeport. I freaked out when I learned I was putting my hands in contaminated water as it NEVER occurred to me that raw sewage would be entering the river. I thought the river had been cleaned up!! As an Orthopedic Surgery Physician's Assistant & growing up on the 4 lakes in Madison, WI -CLEAN, SAFE, water bodies are sacred to me & the biosphere. It is time to stop this disgusting abuse of the river that drains into the ocean NOW. There is no excuse, the US has had plenty of money, technology, time to build reasonable infrastructure to address this AND flood plains & rising sea water AT THE SAME TIME. I just heard on the radio the lower basin closed due to unsafe biohazard. Out of patience, not even the next generation can hope for responsible leadership & public health if changes aren't made permanent now.	No
E-301	9/2/2026	Lucas	Good	lucasgood2003@gmail.com	Individual		Roxbury	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-302	9/2/2026	Pam	Steel	psteel@mac.com	Individual		Boston	MA	We were making progress so let's not go back! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-303	9/2/2026	Ayelen	Herrera	webayelenh@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-304	9/2/2026	Danielle	Dulchinos	danielle.dulchinos@gmail.com	Individual		Bellingham	MA	I look forward to a day where I can both kayak the river and swim without worrying about or having to check bacteria levels daily. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-305	9/2/2026	Amanda	Mackie	amandamackie24@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-306	9/2/2026	josue	arias ramirez	Josarir76@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester Center	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-307	9/3/2026	Liane	Douglas	lianemdouglas@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I am a resident of Boston and an active member of Riverside Boat Club in Cambridge. I row on the Charles River several times per week from March through November. Depending on conditions, I row downstream into the basin as far as the Museum of Science or upstream as far as Watertown. I am very concerned about the quality of water in the Charles and as someone who is in contact with its water on a frequent basis, it saddens me that it is often dangerous to be exposed to the water simply because it rained. Dumping raw sewage into the River is unconscionable, especially knowing we have the technology and means to correct this situation. Putting the health of our citizens and environment at risk is unacceptable. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-308	9/3/2026	Melanie	Abrams	melanie.b.abrams@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	The sewage discharged in our public waterways has a real impact on me. I don't have a car, so I rely on biking/walking paths near the Alewife Brook/Mystic River to get around. Those are also my main access to nature, especially since I can't easily drive further, and I kayak with Paddle Boston. However, I've gotten sick from kayaking water spray entering my mouth. I can (sadly) avoid recreation to some extent after a storm, but still need to commute and get around, so alerts aren't sufficient - we need real CSO management which accounts for increased flood risk with a changing climate. Sometimes the sewage comes to us: my friend's basement flooded after a storm, bringing untreated human waste right into their home and coating their belongings. It's also really distressing to see the impact on wildlife, when we could be doing so much better. When I tell family from out of town about CSOs, I'm met with disbelief and shock, and I believe those are the correct reactions to the extent of ongoing public health hazard and pollution. Our state has the resources to address this public health hazard if it is prioritized, and I respectfully ask officials to make it an urgent priority on their agenda, with a plan that is timely as well as adequate/extensible for future climate scenarios. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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E-309	9/3/2026	Gary	Goldsmith	wildeliver@aol.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I moved to Arlington 40 years ago. It seemed a solid, stable place to live and has indeed turned out to be so. I was appalled when I learned that the CSOs from Somerville and Cambridge regularly overflowed and dumped raw sewage into Alewife Brook and then into the Mystic River. East Arlington is not the only one to bear the consequences of this healthcare and social travesty. Also included are the rate-paying citizens of Medford, Everett, Chelsea, and Somerville, as well as those of East Boston, Charlestown and the North End, where the river eventually dumps the sewage and runoff it has collected from the CSOs. MWRA has calculated the likelihood, frequency and volume of bad weather in the 2050's. It most certainly will be worse than at present. Unfortunately, we have repeatedly discovered that climate change impacts us more severely than we once thought likely. The same underestimation is likely to play out for the future. It seems unwise to initiate a project which – even before it begins – the MWRA acknowledges will not solve the problem. The future is coming, whether we like it or not. Resources are always limited and inadequate to meet the needs of an urban area. The future is unknowable and there are indications of hard times ahead. Let's be smart and build a system that will maintain and improve Boston as a special and desirable place to live, both currently and as we address the dire consequences of inadequate housing, keeping in mind that solving that issue will only make this one worse. I urge you to revisit the current plan, considering the brook, the surrounding communities, and the second- and third-order impacts. These are the costs that reality will impose on us whether we want them or not. I watched with admiration the successful reconstruction by the MWRA of our regional sewer system in the 1970s and 80s. Let's do that again. We're Boston – there are lots of really smart people here. Surely we can come up with a better, more sanitary solution, one that better utilizes the resources we have available.	No
E-310	9/3/2026	Hannah	DeRusha	hannahderusha@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	My 7-year-old has tested different sewage plans at the Museum of Science in Boston and he wants a plan where all the people and animals using the river are safe and healthy. "Fishies eat poopy, some fishies get sick and some fishies die. No want fishies get sick and die." For the cost of living in Massachusetts, we deserve a river we can use safely without fear of disease. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-311	9/3/2026	Johnnie	Jones	johnniewillnine@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-312	9/3/2026	Ashley	Chen	ashleh.j.chen@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Now is the time to realize that any investment in our environment is worth it and helpful towards a sustainable future. I have so many good memories kayaking on the Charles, or enjoying it on the Esplanade. I'd love to be able to continue having these experiences in safe, clean, and beautiful conditions. Thanks so much. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-314	9/4/2026	Nada	Riachi	riachinada@gmail.com	Individual		Quincy	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-315	9/4/2026	Lev	El-Askari	lev.elaskari@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-316	9/5/2026	Akshay	Jaitly	akshayjaitly5312@icloud.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-317	9/5/2026	Jimmy	Johnson	jfj0124@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I walk & bike along the Alewife Brook almost every day. The smells of pollution are overwhelming — this needs to be addressed, not pushed off for 100 years. Dredge the sediment; eliminate the CSO's; stop pouring raw sewage into small local waterways that fish used to be able to swim through 50 years ago. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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E-318	9/5/2026	Danny	Gromfin	dgromfin@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	The brook is smelly and I've seen sewage on the path and I'd like to kayak there and see the fish return. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-319	9/5/2026	Daniel	Penny	danielwaitepenny@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Copenhagen, Paris, Chicago—all of these cities have figured out how to make their rivers clean and swimmable. Boston deserves the same. After decades of promises, it's time to get raw sewage out of our water. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-320	9/6/2026	Linea	Rowe	linea.rowe@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I walk along the Alewife Brook on a regular basis. It's visually beautiful but often reeks of pollution and sewage, particularly after rainfall. I've even seen sewage on the path. This dangerous health risk must be addressed. In addition, the brook is a precious natural asset that needs protection. Thank you for listening. Linea Rowe My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-321	9/6/2026	Liam	Donaher	liam.donaher@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I don't want to live in a dump. I want to live in a city that is at the cutting edge of urban development. Please just eliminate the Charles River CSOs once and for all so we have one less thing on our to-do list. I am imagining a city that uses its biggest water assets as an actual ASSET instead of just a ditch next to a highway. If not for the people, do it for the added real estate value.	No

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E-322	9/6/2026	Mary	Canavan	mcana7@aol.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-323	9/6/2026	Felipe	Gomez	pipe35@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-324	9/7/2026	Alexis	Fondacaro	Bestrperever@yahoo.com	Individual		Medford	MA	Do we not want a clean environment for years to come? Do we not deserve a clean home for the wildlife we share this planet with? Why even bother having a river to just treat it like a dump? If nature cannot pay us why do we continue to allow it to exist? I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-325	9/7/2026	Rhea	Lesage	rhealesage@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-326	9/7/2026	Ralph	Paul	lostboys1223@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-327	9/7/2026	Catherine	Rich	richcath@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I regularly row on the Charles and my family enjoys taking the boat that cruises the river out of the Cambridgeside galleria. Imagine if we could swim in the Charles - wouldn't that be amazing. I do cold water swimming in Mystic Lake and at South Boston's beaches. Swimming in the Charles would be a dream come true. We have this gorgeous resources in our cities and it would be the best thing ever of our kids could actually dip their toes in and learn to swim in the Charles! Other cities around the world have done it - why not us? I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-328	9/7/2026	Jessica	Sladek	jessica.a.sladek@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-329	9/7/2026	Nancy	Hendrickson	nhendrickson@comcast.net	Individual		Waltham	MA	The Charles River should be pristine for residents and travelers to enjoy ... and to maintain the birds and aquatic life hosted by the River. The Charles River should be pristine for residents and visitors to enjoy ... and to maintain the birds and aquatic life hosted by the River. I am a rower and it is very discouraging to deal with CSOs. Lately, I have been thinking to move to Hanover, NH, to row on the CT River -- it is clean and beautiful. I should not have to move to enjoy my water sport. FIX the problem now. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-330	9/7/2026	Michael	DeMello	demello06@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I want everyone to have clean parks. We deserve clean water and parks. We can afford this, do we have the political will? My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-331	9/8/2026	Christopher	Leininger	716cwl@gmail.com	Individual		Malden	MA	Hello, I'm writing in support of the elimination of CSO's and a 25-year level of control which proposes to curtail dumping of untreated sewage from Combined Sewer Outfalls (CSO's) from storm events up to a 25yr storm event. As a Civil Engineer and an avid outdoorsman, it pains me to see our city's infrastructure not up to the quality that it could be. We should be passed the point as a society where we are wantonly dumping trash and sewage directly into our streams and waterways. It is a challenging task, and it is expensive, but at the end of the day, this is a good use of tax dollars. The revitalization of riverside parks and the potential to create both construction jobs, and urban recreation jobs is a potent force. Boston and its surrounding Cities can be at the forefront of clean urban centers where people can work, recreate, and thrive. I dream of a day where we can routinely swim without fear in our rivers, not just once a day under the heavily monitored conditions of the Charles River Swim Race. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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E-332	9/8/2026	Nick	Selvitelli	nickselvitelli@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Look at Copenhagen. There is so much life on their rive because people can swim freely without fear of dirty water. Improving water conditions could be a great boon for bringing people into the city. More than that, there are so many animals that depend on the Charles. Who are we to intentionally poison these creatures by dumping raw sewage in these waters. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-333	9/8/2026	Chris	Pereira	chrispereira1999@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	My name is Christopher Pereira and I'm a resident of Boston. I finally had the means to take up sailing and paddle boarding this year but have been unable to go safely due to the cyanobacteria blooms in the river. Also, after a historically hot summer that appears to keep getting hotter year after year, I wanted so badly to swim in the nearby river. Unfortunately, it isn't clean enough to swim safely. The greater Boston area has a chance to do something groundbreaking for the betterment of all its citizens and wildlife, making the river clean and swimmable. How proud we could be of our city if we were able to do so? We could be examples for the entire nation of what is possible when you work together for the common good. Our citizens and our wildlife yearn for a healthy Charles River, and we have the power to make that possible. Let's remove the sewage from our river, stop our man-made destruction and work towards a cleaner river for everyone to enjoy. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

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E-334	9/8/2026	Paul	Kafasis	accounts@pbones.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I'm a former Cambridge resident who lived right near the Alewife Brook, and I stay connected to the area. CSOs also impact me in Boston, and it's long past time for them to go, everywhere. They are the shame of the past, and if we perpetuate them, they will be the shame of our generations as well. Do what's right. End the CSOs. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-335	9/8/2026	Randi	Mail	randicaryn@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As a former Cambridge DPW employee and long time city resident I'd love to know that we've evolved our waste water system to protect public health and our precious Charles River. Please reopen your plans to integrate better technology and investments to make good on decades old commitments to discontinue sewage dumping in the river. We are a modern community and must demonstrate best practices and be a model for other communities around the country and world. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-336	9/8/2026	Melissa	Ludtke	melissa.ludtke@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I am an active rower on the Charles River and a member of Community Rowing Inc. Three nights each week, from March until November, I row on the Charles River from the CRI boathouse to at least the Harvard boathouses, often farther. This means that on nights after there has been a CSO overflow into the river, which I track carefully, rowers are put in danger of jeopardizing their health if, and when, rowers splash water with their strokes sending river water into fellow rowers eyes and mouths. For this to still be permitted to happen when we have the ability to clean our waterways is simply wrong and should not be tolerated by the MWRA or the others officials currently affiliated with the Updated Draft of the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan, which in my view is sorely inadequate to the tasks at hand of assuring people health when they participate in activities on the Charles River. My public Comment on the Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan Now that you have information about my personal encounters with this sewer overflow in the river, let me say that I appreciate the significant work that MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville have undertaken to address combined sewer overflows and improve the health of the Charles River. However, the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan falls far short of what is needed to protect this extraordinary and heavily used public resource. The core issue is this: in 21st century America/Massachusetts, raw sewage should not be entering the Charles River. Yet the proposed plan continues to accept sewage discharges during significant storm events. The plan, as drafted, does not adequately address the fundamental environmental and public-health problem. A "typical year" is not the only year that matters, nor can we expect there to be "typical" years in our future since climate change is bringing more intense rainfall, and the Charles River should not be treated as a release valve for sewage when major storms do occur. The Charles is a living ecosystem and a public resource that should be able to be used safely for swimming, boating, fishing, rowing, recreation and enjoyment by hundreds of thousands of people. Untreated or inadequately treated sewage enters the river carrying pathogens, nutrients, debris and other pollutants into a waterway that people depend upon and are wanting to use more and more for recreation. It is also deeply troubling that the proposed Charles River improvements are expected to take 28 to 33 years to complete. We should not accept a plan that effectively tells the public that continued sewage pollution is an unavoidable reality for another generation. MWRA has already demonstrated that ambitious CSO reductions are possible. The agency reports that its earlier CSO program reduced annual CSO volume by approximately 88 percent. That progress should be a foundation for doing more—not a reason to accept continued sewage discharges into the Charles. I urge MWRA, Cambridge and Somerville to strengthen the Draft Plan substantially. The goal should not simply be “zero CSOs in a typical year.” The goal should be the elimination of sewage discharges to the Charles River to the greatest extent technically and economically feasible, including during increasingly frequent extreme-weather events. At a minimum, the final plan should: •Establish a much more ambitious schedule for eliminating CSO discharges to the Charles River. •Address the larger storm events that the current plan continues to allow, rather than defining success around a “Typical Year.” •Incorporate the reality of climate change and the likelihood of more intense precipitation into the standard for adequate CSO control. •Prioritize solutions that provide the greatest possible protection of water quality and public health, even when those solutions require greater investment. •Establish clear interim milestones so that substantial reductions occur well before the proposed 2050 endpoint. •Commit to measuring success by the actual health and cleanliness of the Charles River—not simply by whether the system meets a statistical model for a “Typical Year.” The Charles River has undergone an extraordinary recovery over the past several decades. We should not now settle for a plan that leaves sewage discharges as an accepted part of its future. MWRA has an opportunity to finish the job. I urge the agency to make the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan substantially more ambitious and to commit to a future in which putting raw sewage into the Charles River is no longer considered acceptable. Photos from the Cut the Crap rally I attending this morning at the Fiedler Dock along the Charles River:	Yes
E-337	9/8/2026	Jean	Jonah	jjonah1@icloud.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	I have been disappointed this year that parts of the Charles are un manageable by paddle. Please cut the crap and protect our river and our health. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-338	9/8/2026	Adam	Ellis	baldbeardedyogi@gmail.com	Individual		Weymouth	MA	Our ancestors prior to the Industrial Revolution would be appalled that the city's main water way is clotted with _____. Folks in Mass. love to wear the collective intelligence like a badge of honor, but our brightest city cannot keep its basic waterways fresh and enjoyable for all. I'm 42 years old, have lived in the city, dedicated a year of service on its behalf in the americorps, and spent many days by way of kayak and paddleboard on the charles. And yet, I've never swam in it. And I swim year round doing cold plunges in South Boston. Let's do right by future generations and clean up this beautiful reservoir of H20! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-339	9/9/2026	Leann	Kosior	Leannckosior@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-340	9/9/2026	Mike	Moros	michaelmoros@comcast.net	Individual		West Medford	MA	The reason they aren't constructing a solution to this problem is that they can't. The population in the Mystic River watershed seems to have always grown to overstress the latest sewage infrastructure. The new reverse syphons in Winchester and Medford (within the current century) behave similarly to the old ones. This is because storms have been more severe and more frequent. The Boston region is enough of a metropolis as it is. New York City also experiences combined sewer overflows, but they have the East River and the lower Hudson River. We have already crowded the wildlife enough as it is. More building, especially in the suburbs, will exacerbate the problem. The best way forward is an education campaign: teach residents of the Mystic River watershed to limit their indoor water use immediately prior to heavy rain. Wait to wash dishes or run the dishwasher. If it is yellow let it mellow; if it is brown flush it down. Don't flush dental floss and other plastic trash down the toilet. Dispose of animal waste in the trash, not down the toilet. Take baths instead of showers; drain the tub when the rain lets up. Estimate when the sewer lines might be free of accumulated storm water during a let up in the rain, if you have to use water during a storm. Keep a bottle full of water for drinking water. Fill it before a storm, especially if you run the water before filling the bottle. It would also be good if it rained less and there were less storms. Though this year has been pretty good. Late-December, January, and February are supposed to be cold and snowy. And there should usually be some snow on the ground the first week in April. Snow melts gradually, reducing flooding in that way; that is, without the wild swings in temperature that we have seen in recent decades. We have to reduce our influence on the weather, which is mainly attributable to the automobile. One person one car is obviously unsustainable. It has been too much of a good thing for a long time. I suppose even one person one car would be OK if there were more carpooling, using the passenger seats. But parked cars can make it brutally cold. We have to find the right balance – snow on the ground in the winter. The first day of spring is March 20. These dates have shifted by about 1 day because of the leap year in 2000. Centuries are usually not leap years, unless they are a multiple of 400. We need an education campaign but with an eye to also limiting electromagnetic radiation from Smart Phones. I live 200 yards away from a 5G transmitter. It isn't fun.	No
E-341	9/9/2026	Samantha	Rothberg	samtastic1@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-342	9/10/2026	Amira	Elfadil	elfadil.amira@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-343	9/10/2026	Meredith	Olsen	meredith.olsen@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I live in an area where our streets stink of waste after each and every rainfall--not once in a while rain--after every rainfall. There used to be some wildlife in the Alewife "Nature Preserve," and there are still two swans who try to live in the pond next to the T station--it's so sad and disgusting (and unhealthy and seemingly illegal) to have to live next to, and on top of, an open sewer. Please, someone help us. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-344	9/10/2026	Molly	Potts	mollycpotts@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-345	9/10/2026	Beryl	Minkle	berylm@mac.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	It is unacceptable for Cambridge, Boston and Somerville to delay or avoid building infrastructure that will fully separate sewage from storm overflows - CSO's - to stop using Alewife Brook and the Mystic Rivers as open sewers. As Cambridge residents we experienced first-hand the awful effects of sewage overflows in our street when we lived at 24 Carver St., Cambridge in 1983. Our street was full of raw sewage during and following a major storm. This is unhealthy, toxic and can not be allowed to go on any longer. We have the technology to build effective sewers and storm overflow systems in our cities. We need more than storage tanks, we need real action now.	No
E-346	9/10/2026	Beryl	Minkle	berylm@mac.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	It is unacceptable for Cambridge, Boston and Somerville to delay or avoid building infrastructure that will fully separate sewage from storm overflows - CSO's - to stop using Alewife Brook and the Mystic Rivers as open sewers. As Cambridge residents we experienced first-hand the awful effects of sewage overflows in our street when we lived at 24 Carver St., Cambridge in 1983. Our street was full of raw sewage during and following a major storm. This is unhealthy, toxic and can not be allowed to go on any longer. We have the technology to build effective sewers and storm overflow systems in our cities. We need more than storage tanks, we need real action now. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No

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E-347	9/10/2026	Maggie	Dockrey	madockrey@gmail.com	Individual		Bridgewater	MA	I walk over the Charles River every day to get to class. I want to see it clean and clear for current and future generations to enjoy. It adds life to the cities that surround it and contains essential ecosystems for the greater Boston Area. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-348	9/10/2026	Kate	Burgess	kburgess5570@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I work with state legislators across the country to help shore up state law as the backstop while federal protections wane. As a citizen of Massachusetts and professional conservationist, I can't express how important a clean and swimmable Charles River is to me and my community. While the federal government wanes, climate change intensifies, and summers get hotter, the Charles River should be a clean and safe refuge for the Boston area. It is as much central to our identity as the Green Monster, clam chowder, and David Ortiz. Let's give the Charles the respect it deserves and clean it up. Beyond that, I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
									I live one block from Alewife Brook. It smells and you can smell it half way down the block. I have neighbors who have gotten sick from the raw sewage flooding into their yards and homes. Are we a 3rd world country? Sometimes it sure smells like it. There is no excuse for letting sewage into our waters. We need a full separation system. Nothing else is acceptable or adequate. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to	

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E-349	9/10/2026	Beth	Sangree	beth.sangree@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-350	9/10/2026	Eric	Mooney	eric.c.mooney@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	My wife and I are fortunate to live along the Alewife Brook and would love to raise a family here. The walking paths and boardwalks that connect to the Mystic River and the Alewife T are very important to us and to our neighbors. Shortly after moving in several years ago, we were shocked to discover that the terrible smells from the Alewife Brook after a rain storm are due to untreated sewage from the regional sewer system in Cambridge and Somerville. I believe, as a community, it is our obligation to make these paths safer for the next generation. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-351	9/11/2026	Grayson	Cohen	gchowa01@gmail.com	Individual		Marlborough	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-352	9/11/2026	Liz	Jochnick	lzjoch@aol.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	This Brook must be saved! It is an outrage that raw sewage is still flowing into it. Please consider this as a prime problem that must be addressed immediately. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-353	9/11/2026	Deane	Coady	deanecoady@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I live very near the Charles River and love it! I want us to respect this gem and to ensure there is no sewage entering the river. Our children and grandchildren and future generations deserve a vibrant livable Charles River watershed. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-354	9/11/2026	Daniel	Churella	djchurella@gmail.com	Individual		Bedford	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-355	9/11/2026	Maiyim	Baron	MaiyimBaron@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	Boston was built around the many water sources and flows here, which are a basic building block of development. But we must stop abusing them. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-356	9/11/2026	Maggie	Galloway	maggiean1@gmail.com	Individual		Allston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-357	9/11/2026	Robert	Miller	bmiller@isgmarketing.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	We have to end combined run off. It is past time to provide a clean Charles River. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-358	9/11/2026	Susan	Kimura	susankimura@yahoo.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I went paddling last year and got sick afterwards. (Yes, I had to sign a waiver because the bacteria level was high.). Please make the river cleaner so we don't have to worry about getting sick. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-359	9/11/2026	Brandon	George	exbc159@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-360	9/11/2026	Talia	Shire	taliarshire@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	I currently live next to the Mystic River in Medford and have lived next to either the Mystic or Alewife Brook in Arlington for the past 17 years. My only child was born in my Arlington apartment next to the Alewife Brook and I am a bike commuter that uses the Alewife Greenway on a regular basis. I never knew raw sewage was being dumped in my neighborhood the entire time I lived in Arlington. I suppose we just got lucky that we didn't get sick. When you have a small child that is naturally inclined to explore the world, you do that. You touch everything and you get dirty. You do not expect the land and water in your "nice" neighborhood to be so polluted. We never knew the city and state we lived in would be ok with our rivers being open sewers. Now we know what a CSO is and we smell the Alewife Brook as we bike along Rt 16 through Somerville and Cambridge. It always smells like a sewer, no matter the weather. It is quite boggling to me that I even need to submit a letter asking for the end of raw sewage dumping into the Mystic, Charles, and Alewife Brook. No river is an acceptable place for raw sewage. CSO's are an environmental catastrophe. If raw sewage was dumping into your basement, that would be an emergency to be dealt with immediately. Well, raw sewage dumped into the river is the same. It is disgusting. It is appalling. It is an emergency. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-361	9/11/2026	Carol	Branton	cbranton120@comcast.net	Individual		Quincy	MA	I canoe in the Charles River with my family and want to share this legacy forever. Please help all enjoy this gift from Mother Nature I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-362	9/11/2026	Diana	Rogalski	me413@icloud.com	Individual		Chicopee	MA	Please don't let this happen. It's just wrong and hurtful to all. Not the solution for this problem. The future of our rivers deserves better. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-363	9/11/2026	Zina	Dubowy	Zippyzina@gmail.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-364	9/11/2026	Bambi	Good	bambigood@gmail.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-365	9/12/2026	Gina	Crandell	ginamcrandell@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I regularly bike on the Esplanade and I hope one day to swim in the Charles. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-366	9/12/2026	Joseph	Eilert	eilerj2@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I sail and kayak in the Charles. I often choose not to bring friends kayaking or stand up paddle boarding because of the river water quality. This is money lost by local companies each time I make this decision. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-367	9/12/2026	Claire	Sharman	csharman1212@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-368	9/12/2026	Olivia	Fischer	ofischerfox@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	As a member of Mothers Out Front, a climate group whose mission is a livable climate for all children, I ask you, how much crap are we leaving our children? Why does Paris have a safe and swimmable Siene River and not Boston? Why are the canals in Copenhagen safe and swimmable and not the River in Boston? We are smart enough to figure out a clean river solution, aren't we? Please stop dumping untreated sewage into the Charles River. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-369	9/12/2026	Hannah	Parker	hjparkerhj@gmail.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	I am writing to ask that you stop using the Charles River as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! My son rows on this river and it is discouraging to know that he could be exposed to high levels of E coli or other sewage contaminants while competing in the sport he loves. My husband kayaks and swim but doesn't feel comfortable doing this in the Charles with the risks of becoming ill. It is time to clean up the Charles so all can enjoy its beauty without incurring health risks. Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-370	9/12/2026	Robert	Thorpe	robertthorpe.ii@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	The Charles River is a phenomenal natural resource, that I've long cherished. From morning walks along its bano during my undergrad, to evenings kayaking now over a decade later. We need to protect it, and end the practice of dumping untreated or undertreated sewage. Not in a decade, not in 5 years. Now. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-371	9/12/2026	Shirlee	Laskarzewski	shirleelaz@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I am writing to ask that you stop using the Charles River as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents everyone from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. There has been so much progress in the past fifty years in cleaning up our rivers and streams. Let's not take steps backwards and erase the advancements we've made in making our environment healthier and much more estheticly pleasing.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-372	9/13/2026	Karen	Campbell	karencampbell4@rcn.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE reject his proposal to allow sewage dumping into the Charles. I love the Charles River and kayak there all the time. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-373	9/13/2026	Tracie	Burns	tracie.burns@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I urge you as a legislative body to work hard to find a resonable solution to solve this urgent matter! We are too advanced of a society and community to have our sewage spilling into the Charles River. Thank you for all you do.	No
E-374	9/13/2026	Mike	Toffel	michael.toffel@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I am writing to ask that you stop using the Charles River as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river pollutes the ecosystem and prevents people from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-375	9/14/2026	Yuna	Sato	yunasato1@gmail.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	I've grown up my whole life knowing that you shouldn't go swimming in the Charles because "it's not clean". I believe that we can and should clean it up for this generation and ones to come, and the best way to do this is to make a long-overdue overhaul on our sewage system and eliminate CSOs. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-376	9/14/2026	Paul	Neumann	chicago_avatar@yahoo.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I run along the Charles River regularly, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-377	9/14/2026	Jonathan	Barkan	comlearn395@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I say “solve the problem!” It is real and the need for a solution urgent. How dare we intentionally foul the waters that help define our urban landscape. Of all the ways that day-to-day life is made more expensive, no doubt fueling corporate profits, this is one big way that our small $ will make a difference for us now and for generations to come. Solve the problem rather than accept it. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-378	9/14/2026	Elizabeth	Paisner	bpais001@gmail.com	Individual		Dover	MA	I've walked the banks of the Charles from Natick to Boston, wherever there is public access and the thought of any more sewage being dumped sickens me. The quality of our waterways is a reflection of the quality of our society and government- please "cut the crap"!! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-379	9/14/2026	Jennie	Rathbun	jhrathbun@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I am a retiree who's taken up kayaking and I love to go out on the Charles. It would be even better if it didn't contain sewage! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-380	9/14/2026	Judith	Nicholas	jalnicholas@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	If we act NOW, MA will save money in the future by not having to deal with the difficulties building up. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars.	No
									I live within sight of the Charles River and daily walk its paths, and frequently kayak its waters. The river is important to me and I want to see it get cleaner. Eliminating CSOs is vital to this goal. Keep the promise of a clean Charles! My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA	

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E-381	9/14/2026	Marcia	Ciro	r87933@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-382	9/14/2026	Nancy	Woods	nancywoods68@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	There is no excuse for allowing sewage to flow into the Charles. I am sure there are other areas that have solved the overflow issue. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-383	9/14/2026	Rachel	Gunther	rachellgunther@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	The Charles River is wonderful and could be so much more. Look at Paris, cities in Switzerland, many cities and nations that have made a decision to bring their rivers back from pollution and sewage. Massacusetts used to be a leader and it's time we get back to our roots and do the right thing. The river is making dogs and humans ill and we can't use the natural resource right at our doorstep. We have an opportunity to do the right thing - invest in the future, invest in the present. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-384	9/14/2026	Jae	Guth	j.lynn.guth@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-385	9/14/2026	Ronda	Jacobson	rondajacobson@icloud.com	Individual		Newton Center	MA	Having grown up in Belmont, the Charles was a treasure to enjoy. Living in Newton, the Charles is my back yard. I certainly thought that by now, swimming in the Charles would be possible. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or under-treated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-386	9/14/2026	Arun	Sannuti	asannuti@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	Seriously? We're going to dump more sewage in the river where people boat, kayak and occasionally fall in. Keep the river clean. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
									I love the Charles River. For my family, it is not simply a body of water running through our community. It is part of our home, our routines, and some of our happiest memories. We live near the river and walk along its paths with our dogs. Two of my three children row on the Charles, and through rowing they have fallen completely in love with the river. Not long after they started, I learned to row myself, and, much to my family's amusement, became equally obsessed. The Charles has become a sanctuary for all of us. That is why it is so upsetting to know that, after a storm, sewage can be discharged into the very river where my children row, where I row, and where so many people in our community walk, run, paddle, fish, and spend time with their families. I find it incredibly difficult to accept that in 2026, we are still treating one of our community's most beloved and heavily used natural resources as an outlet for sewage. MWRA's own data demonstrate that combined sewer overflows contribute to water quality violations in the Charles. These discharges can make the river unsafe for recreation and prevent people from enjoying it when they should be able to. For those of us who use the river regularly, this is not an abstract environmental statistic. It directly affects whether we can safely get on the water. And the Charles deserves better. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make the infrastructure investments necessary to protect this river for decades to come. I understand that eliminating combined sewer overflows entirely comes with an additional cost. But I believe the additional benefits of doing so overwhelmingly justify that investment. Those benefits are not just environmental. They are human. They include safer and more reliable access to the river for the thousands of people who recreate on it. They include the possibility of eventually opening a swimming beach, a remarkable opportunity in a city where access to safe, clean water is so valuable. They mean less pollution entering the river and exposing people to pathogens, and less of the aesthetic impairment that diminishes the experience of being on and around the Charles. Most importantly, they mean treating the Charles like the extraordinary community resource that it is. I strongly urge MWRA to strengthen its plan and select the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-year storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the level of investment we should be making for the future, not simply the level that is easiest or least expensive today.	

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E-387	9/14/2026	Lindsey	Baker	lindsey.e.baker@gma.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Climate change makes this decision even more important. We are already seeing larger, more intense storms, and we cannot build infrastructure based on the assumption that the weather patterns of the past will continue indefinitely. Choosing a lesser level of control may save money in the short term, but it risks leaving ratepayers with a system that will soon be inadequate and require additional investment all over again. I would much rather see us make the difficult, ambitious investment now than look back decades from now and realize that we had the opportunity to protect the Charles for generations and chose a temporary solution instead. My children have learned to love this river. I have learned to love it too. We walk beside it, row on it, and build our family life around it. I want my children, and eventually their children, to be able to experience the Charles as a clean, safe, vibrant river without having to wonder what was discharged into it after the last storm. Please choose the strongest plan. Please invest in the Charles for the long term. No CSOs in the 2050 25-year storm should be the goal. The Charles is worth it.	No
E-388	9/14/2026	Naomi	Bailis	naomibailis@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	Quite simply, allowing sewage to leak into the Mystic River, Alewife Brook and the Charles River is completely unsafe, unacceptable and dangerous to public health, wildlife and is a tremendous blight. The good news is that it is imminnently doable to fix this gross (in every meaning of the word) neglect and harm. Please follow through with the City Council's unanimous vote to greenlight modern updated infrastructure that will eliminate untreated sewage releases in these waterways.	No
E-389	9/14/2026	Mary	Brown	marybugbeebrown@gmail.com	Individual		Natick	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-390	9/14/2026	Larry	Aller	laller7177@gmail.com	Individual		West Newton	MA	My wife and I take our kids paddling on the Charles and it's one of the main outdoor activities our teenager will happily do. They grew up visiting the river at the park a couple miles from our house and watching the ducks and the swans. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-391	9/14/2026	David	Robbins	david.robbins1@att.net	Individual		Wayland	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-392	9/14/2026	Elena	Saporta	esla@earthlink.net	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Please Note: DCR's Memorial Drive Phase III will wreak havoc at great environmental and financial expensd. Re-grading and steepening the Chrles' riverbank significantly increases erosion and the risk of flooding caused by extreme weather events and sea level rise. It needlessly destroys animal habitat and takes away park users' access to the water front. We need to stop trashing our urban rivers. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-394	9/14/2026	Katherine	Dander	kat.dander@yahoo.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-395	9/14/2026	Phillip	Kopita	pkopita@icloud.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-396	9/14/2026	Carole	Enright	carole44brewster@gmail.com	Individual		Acton	MA	I believe the Charles River should be truly swimmable, not just cleaner than it used to be, now is the time ! Surely it's time to "cut the crap" going into the Charles River, once and for all. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-397	9/14/2026	Genna	Shapiro	gennasemail@yahoo.com	Individual		Stoughton	MA	please dont pollute the Charles! its Boston's Major river that's been promised to be cleaned over the years (&it has a LittLe) but couLd do MUCH MORE, by STOP LETTING WASTE/SEWAGE INTO OUR RIVER! Think of aLL.the Fish that have died, the animals that were kiLLed...better yet think of.all the people who won't PUT THEIR TOES IN THE WATER! "LOVE THAT DIRTY WATER. . . . BOSTON YOUR MY HOME" shouLd DEF NOT be a Song that represents Boston, frankLy its embarrassing! so Please DO NOT LET WASTE/SEWAGE INTO BOSTONS MAJOR RUVERWAY! PLEASE I AM BEGGING YOU+!!! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-398	9/14/2026	Danny	Cuff	dannycuff@hotmail.com	Individual		Norwood	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-399	9/14/2026	Mary	Loeken	mary.loeken@joslin.harvard.edu	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	For 25 years, I lived on the bank of the Charles west of Boston, where my family canoed and kayaked. Now, I live in Boston and find it inexcusable that sewage can be dumped into the river. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-400	9/15/2026	Emma	Green	emmagreen148@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	Plz i want to be able to swim in the Charles so so bad. This city would be so much better if people could swim in the Charles. It would feel like fricken Europe man. It would be so great. Plz don't let people put poop in it. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-401	9/15/2026	Katharine	Judy	katharinejudy1@gmail.com	Individual		Allston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-402	9/15/2026	Elizabeth	Plese	elizabethrplese@gmail.com	Individual		Allston	MA	I know it is difficult to change the way things have been. But it is municipalities' job to make changes based on the wellbeing of the people. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-403	9/15/2026	David	Jackson	djackson@jacksonadvisorgroup.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-404	9/15/2026	Serenity	Lai	lai.serenity@gmail.com	Individual		Allston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-405	9/15/2026	Maria	Fedyk	mashka@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I've actually swam in the Charles before, so I feel especially motivated to comment on this proposal. Despite the somewhat dirty water, it was a great experience to be able to go just a little way from my house and cool off on a summer day. But the water quality was pretty clearly (and visibly) dirty. I genuinely believe all of Cambridge would benefit from having a clean, swimmable river right next door. I think a lot of people would love to be able to swim in the Charles, but are just put off by the water quality. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-406	9/15/2026	Kate	Andres	kate.andres@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River and row and around it for most of the year. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-407	9/15/2026	Aubree	Andres	aubree.andres@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-408	9/15/2026	Craig	Lambert	craigalambert@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I have sd[ent many years wwrowing the Chalres for miles and miles as a recreational and competitive rower. I also socialize there as a member of the Cambridge Boat Cliub. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-409	9/15/2026	Alice	Jarrard	ajarrard@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As a swimmer and as a traveler who has seen how even huge cities like Paris have cleaned up their rivers, I urge you to make the Charles an example for the US. Despite the federal inaction and rollbacks, we need to take action now and stop using the Charles as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-410	9/15/2026	Robert	Qua	robertqua@me.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I am a long time Boston resident and I love the Charles River. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-411	9/15/2026	Freedom	Baird	fbaird@pm.me	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Please update our waste water management system to keep sewage from being dumped into the Charles river. Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-412	9/15/2026	Danette	English	danette.english61@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-414	9/15/2026	Emily	Newmann	wmilynewmann@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-415	9/15/2026	Taylor	Kim	taylorbykim@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	Do not condemn our children and environment to decades of unclean water by allowing raw or under treated sewage into our water!!!! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-416	9/15/2026	Rameesha	Aftab	rameesha.aftab@gmail.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-417	9/16/2026	Fedora	Mcmillan	fedoramcmillan@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Our livelihoods are at risk. INCLUDING yours I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-418	9/16/2026	Molly	Richardson	mollyrichardsonn@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester Center	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-419	9/16/2026	Rache	Nardin	rnardin40@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I walk along the Charles River almost every day. The river is a resource for communities nearby and helps make Boston the tourist mecca it is. A clean river enhances this public good. Allowing raw sewage into the river spoils this. Invest in the commons! Yes to a clean and swimmable Charles River! I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-420	9/16/2026	Nadia	Colburn	nadiacolburn@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-421	9/16/2026	Lori	Taylor	lorilynta@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-422	9/16/2026	Michael	Ampe	michael@ampe.org	Individual		Dorchester	MA	Pollution of our local rivers needs to stop!! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-423	9/16/2026	Lisa	Laskin	lisalaskin@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I row five days a week on the Charles River but it is inexcusable that in order to do this, I and every other river user risk coming in contact with raw, untreated sewage. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-424	9/16/2026	Elliot	Tower	elliot@elliottower.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-425	9/16/2026	Lisa	Ceremsak	lataceremsak@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I so value dipping into the Charles River after my rows. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-426	9/16/2026	Beth	Sangree	beth.Sangree@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I live one block from Alewife Brook. The smell of sewage is omnipresent throughout the summer all along the road and bike path which parallel the brook. It's worse after a rain, but it never goes away. It also gets bad the rest of the year after every rain. It's a health hazard, I know neighbors who have gotten very sick from the raw sewage on the bike path and in their yards. We must have full sewage and storm water separation now. No more sewage in our streams! My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-427	9/16/2026	Poet	Larsen	poetlarsen@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-428	9/16/2026	Benjamin	Cook	bencook2000@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I value the Charles River as a place for recreation and enjoyment. I've watched my brother compete in crew races on the Charles, and I enjoy taking walks along the river myself. I want the Charles to remain a clean, healthy, and pleasant place for people to enjoy, and I would not want sewage discharges or sewage odors to become part of that experience. I support stronger efforts to prevent sewage from entering the Charles River and encourage regulators to pursue the highest practical level of protection for the river. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-429	9/16/2026	Arthur	Prokosch	app@pobox.com	Arlington Town Meeting Member, Precinct 4		Arlington	MA	Maintaining current levels of CSO discharge is unacceptable. As an East Arlington resident, the Alewife Brook Greenway is part of my commute to and from work every day. Having that commute path be hazardous to my health multiple times per month is not a way to maintain a public park.	No
E-430	9/17/2026	AnnMarie	Farma	amfarma@gmail.com	Individual		Tewksbury	MA	This is an outrage! Do not allow sewage to be dumped into the Charles River for any reason! I thought the Charles was cleaned up years ago. Stop it now! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-431	9/17/2026	Justin	Carter	justinpcarter93@gmail.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	I frequent the esplanade and other parts of the Charles for sailing, kayaking, and biking, and would be ashamed to know my government is choosing to take such a massive step back and poison a waterway that we have long worked to clean up. This would be a national embarrassment. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-432	9/17/2026	Stan	Lee	stashiu@verzon.net	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-433	9/17/2026	Sarah	White	Sarah.White@messages.clf.org	Individual				I love walking along the Mystic River with my friends. I'm always disgusted when I find out that there's been a CSO and the river is contaminated. Please create a long-term control plan for Boston's rivers that eliminates combined sewer overflows. Dumping sewage directly into the rivers leaves them filthy, contaminated, and unsafe. Our sewer system is long overdue for an update that will keep our rivers free of sewage. Putting it off until 2050 isn't fair to Bostonians or our waterways. We deserve a clean, healthy river that we can safely swim, boat, and fish in. The riverfronts are a jewel of the Boston area, and dumping raw sewage into them for decades is an insult to our home.	No

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E-434	9/17/2026	amanda	dean	asdean75@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-435	9/17/2026	Lisa	O'Neil	lisathescot@yahoo.com	Individual		Norwood	MA	As a ratepayer in an outlying suburb of Boston I do not approve of a $125 per year increase to my water and sewer bill. I chose to live in the suburbs to get away from the high costs of living in the city and I don't think it's fair for the suburbs to have to help pay for the issues that come with living in the city.	No
E-436	9/17/2026	lisa	oneil	lisathescot@yahoo.com	Individual		Norwood	MA	I am writing to let you know that I am against the proposal for the suburbs of Boston to bear part of the costs for the new CSO plan. We are 20 miles away from the cities that the plan benefits. The Charles River does not even go through the town of Norwood. I live in the suburbs because I don't want to have to pay for the high cost of living in the city, and the cost is not having the benefits of city living, which is my choice. Do not force me to have to pay for the costs I was supposed to be able to avoid in the suburbs.	No
E-437	9/17/2026	Stephen	Linder	stephen.linder@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	My name is Dr. Stephen Linder, and I live in West Medford. I moved to West Medford in part to be near the Mystic Lakes. I have been swimming in Mystic Lake since the early 80's. This year was the first year I did not go in the water at all because of the high level of sewage in the water after heavy rains. I could not trust that the water was clean even a week after a heavy rain. It is horrible that a state park with a public beach does not have its water tested more often and in multiple locations. Why should I trust one measurement that the lake is not contaminated when there are so many ingress points for contaminants? Also, when I bike over the Mystic River at Route 60 in the summer it often smells like an open sewer. When I bike in Winchester along the river it stinks too. This occurs even when the test for the lakes shows clean water. With the warming climate, how long will it be before people get typhoid, yellow fever and other contagious diseases like Cyclospora from the river and lakes? I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. The plan should also address storm water catchment. It is inane that water from roofs, driveways, parking lots, etc goes out on the streets and into sewers. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a warming climate and larger rain events. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No
E-438	9/17/2026	Andrew	Mudge	andrewmudge@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-439	9/17/2026	Marilynn	Johnson	marilynnsjohnson@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I am a distance swimmer, a rower, and a lover of the Charles River. During times of good weather, it can be delightful. But during and after storms, it becomes an open sewer because of the continued dumping of untreated sewage from combined overflows. This pollution can make people sick and preclude any chance of being able to open it to public swimming--something we very much need as we face ever longer periods of extreme summer heat. Fixing these combined overflows will require us to invest in our infrastructure, but the long-term benefits will far outweigh the costs. We need the MWRA to strengthen its plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan. This is the only plan worth the investment in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-440	9/18/2026	Julia	Sable	yvashniov@yahoo.com	Individual		Medford	MA	Please invest our resources wisely be eliminating all the remaining CSOs! We will save so much in the long term by preventing the damage from these systems being more frequently overwhelmed as the climate keeps changing. This is too important and urgent for half measures. Clean up the Charles, and know that you are making life better for future generations! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-441	9/18/2026	Shivam	Gandhi	shivam.jgandhi@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-442	9/18/2026	Matthew	Copeland	copeland.matthew@ymail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	As a resident of the West End, an employee of the Back Bay and an avid kayaker, our river water quality is important to me. As someone who interacts with a large number of tourists in my job, people often comment lovingly how clean Boston is - lets continue to impress them by having a waterway that is safe for pets and families to enjoy as often as possible. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-443	9/18/2026	Ian	McCulloch	ianpmcculloch@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	This is a litmus test voting issue for me, and I will hold all state representatives accountable. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-444	9/18/2026	Ella	Elmore	elmoreellagrace@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-445	9/18/2026	Evelyn	Murphy	evelyn@emurphy.us	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-446	9/18/2026	Melissa	Bartick	melissabartick@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	No sewage in the Charles! People sail and windsurf there and often end up in the water. Clean it up please! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-447	9/18/2026	Megan	Muetterties	meganmuetterties@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	Think about how much better the hot summers (and getting hotter) would be if we could swim and enjoy more recreational activities in the river! Think of the economic activity that would happen! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-448	9/18/2026	Ethan	Parab	ethanparab@yahoo.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. I fail to see the utility of perpetuating any practice that favors the short term ease over the long term good, and I will remain vocally opposed as long as this practice is considered the norm such that it informs my voting decisions and the views I voice to peers.	No
E-449	9/18/2026	Simeon	Lichtenstein	sineonllichtenstein@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	The nature of Boston is core to this city. There is no Boston without the beauty that greets us wherever we go around this city. The Charles River is the shining crown of Boston and Cambridge, brining so many people together. From our giant running culture and rowing culture, they rely on the Charles in addition to the thousands who walk, picnic, and laugh there daily. Give the Charles river the love that it gives us I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-450	9/19/2026	Ethan	Rankin	ethan.frederick.rankin@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-451	9/19/2026	Andrew	Miccile	andrew.miccile@gmail.com	Individual		Millis	MA	As a direct descendant of the Puritans who settled this land, 13 generations ago, it is deeply troubling what has become to our beloved waterway here in the Bay State. The Charles used to be a glorious, fresh river that flowed through the land, bringing joy and sustenance along its path. Now it's an ominous sight. It has become a symbol of our shortcomings as a civilization and our turning away from God. The earth is His creation. God loves us so much that He sent His son Jesus Christ to save us from sin. Polluting this waterway is an offense against His love. We have a duty to be good stewards of this land, in the name of Jesus, and for our future generations. We are capable of it, we need to just do it. Gather the manpower, find the leaders, round up the resources, choose our path, and get it done. We can save this nation. It starts with the Charles River. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-452	9/19/2026	Paige	Zaferiou	tarotandteamagic@gmail.com	Individual		Salem	MA	I was born in Boston nearly 40 years ago and for my whole life, I have longed for a clean Charles. My mother would take me sailing on the river but always cautioned me never to touch the water. I could never understand how we let things get so bad “back in the day,” and it is inconceivable to me that in 2026 there should even be a shadow of a thought about allowing sewage into the river. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. As a taxpayer I would gladly pay more to protect our waterways!	No
E-453	9/19/2026	Jennifer	Lowe	jlowe3215@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	Don't dump sewage in the Charles! Thousands and thousands of people enjoy it each year. One small example is on the Esplanade. People boat. Dogs swim. And when I saw people doing the swim race and the annual swim this year in the Charles, I thought to myself "that looks so natural. The river needs people to swim in it. We need a river to swim in to cool off with the ever increasing heat." Having a feces infected river is going to be a cesspool for disease. It's going to harm the animals and plants that live in it or swim on it. Waterways need to be protected, especially with people and concrete encroaching so much. Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-454	9/19/2026	Anna	W.	anna.wadhwa@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As a sailor on the Charles and a student in Boston and Cambridge, improving the water quality of the Charles is incredibly important right now and for years to come. After decades of work in this direction, it is nonsensical to go backwards with this Proposed Draft CSO plan to allow sewer overflows. We demand a sewage-free Charles! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-455	9/19/2026	Thomas	Murnane	tommy.murnane@yahoo.com	Individual		Billerica	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-456	9/19/2026	Samantha	Murphy	samantha.murphy32@gmail.com	Individual		South Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-457	9/19/2026	Brian	OToole	brianotoole1@gmail.com	Individual		Norwood	MA	I fish the Charles from up in millis to downtown Boston and everywhere in between. It's one of our very few fishable waterways in our area, it has come a long way since I was a kid. Why ruin years of hard work? You can see what a joke the Merrimack river is after every rainfall, place is disgusting. Do better. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-458	9/19/2026	Cheryl	Suchors	cherylsuchors@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-459	9/19/2026	Elizabeth	Marra	elizabeth.s.dixon@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I think we should stop having sewage in the Charles. As climate change continues we will have bigger storms and hotter days. People would swim in the river if it was clean!	No
									I live a short walk from the Alewife Brook. My neighbors have endured too many floods laden with sewage. I long for the day when the brook is a clean, healthy waterway for us and for wildlife. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential	

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-460	9/19/2026	Chris	Logan	chrjswlogan@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-461	9/19/2026	Stuart	Rubinow	srubinow@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-462	9/19/2026	Jordan	Tacher	jordantacher@gmail.com	Individual			MA	I oppose the plan. It places a very large financial burden on communities who will see no benefit. That is not fair.	No
E-463	9/20/2026	Aliyah	Lopes	aliyahlopes@gmail.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	It would be so beautiful if we could confidently say there's no dumping sewage in that beautiful river! That view is so lovely, when I have kids one day I want to take them out here and we'll watch people boat and swim in safe water! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-464	9/20/2026	Claire	Wool	arugapalmtree@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Please aim for clean water in the Charles River, free from sewage. Thank you. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-465	9/20/2026	Alisa	Plazonja	alisampbrookline@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	It is absolutely unconscionable that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts – a hub of innovation in our country – would seriously consider continuing to allow sewage to flow into the Charles. Last I checked, it's 2026 not medieval times. As climate change will inevitably bring storms of greater intensity and rainfall that will further stress our sewer systems, we should not strive for anything less than the strictest sewage control standards. As such, a target in the Final Long Term Control Plan of anything less than no combined sewer overflow in 2050 under a 25-year storm scenario would be an embarrassment and an insult to residents. We have the resources and technology to ensure proper sewage control. The MWRA needs to stop kicking the can down the road and make the investments required to put them in place so that we will finally clean up the Charles for once and for all. Just do it!	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-466	9/20/2026	Danya	Kuperstein	dkuperstein@yahoo.com	Individual		Danvers	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-467	9/21/2026	Jane	Dineen	janedineen@gmail.com	Individual		Lovell	ME	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river is disgusting, harmful, and prevents people from enjoying the river. Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations. We have an opportunity to invest in infrastructure to end the practice of dumping sewage in water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at a cost. The benefits justify this cost. Benefits include cleaner, less harmful water, safer and more consistent access to the river, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people, animals sick, and plant life sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in an age where large and intense storms are the norm. Lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, temporary fixes, with any benefits erased by climate change.	No
E-468	9/21/2026	Caitlin	Monaghan	caitlinemonaghan@gmail.com	Arlington Town Meeting Member		Arlington	MA	After a rain, I used to jog right through puddles of what I thought was just an overflowing brook on the Alewife Greenway Bike Path. Imagine my disgust when I learned what it really was. But I got off easy—there are folks in East Arlington whose basements have been flooded with it! I keep thinking about all the pharmaceuticals that are in there. Lots of people with cancer or an autoimmune disease are taking medications that are pure poison for the rest of us. And yet we're having a debate about whether leaving Arlington residents to walk through it is a problem worth fixing! I don't care what it costs—the only answer is elimination of combined sewage overflows!	No
E-469	9/21/2026	Paul	Selker	paul@sparkstreetdigital.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Hi there - Paul Selker here, I live in Arlington and I write to urge you to embrace a solution that goes much farther than the current proposal towards eliminating CSOs (up to a 25-year storm) and completes a sewer separation. As an avid runner, I often run along the Alewife Brook and I've seen CSO flooding firsthand. For myself but also for the kids (including my 2.5-year-old daughter!) families and seniors who live and play near this irreplaceable natural resource, I want to push you to think more boldly and expansively about this important issue. We should aim to end sewer discharges in the Alewife Brook, Charles River and Mystic River, for as long as we possibly can.	No
E-470	9/21/2026	David	Stoff	dstoff@rcn.com	Individual			MA	The attached pdf is a written version of my testimony on 9/17/2026	Yes
									I'm writing to oppose the proposed new CSO plan for Alewife Brook. I and my family run and walk regularly along the Alewife Brook, to commute as well as for recreation, and a proper plan should be developed to prevent the dumping of sewage into the river - for our welfare as well as for the environment for which we should be responsible stewards. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job!	

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-471	9/21/2026	Justin	Crane	jfcrane@gmail.com	Individual			MA	I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-472	9/21/2026	Justin	Crane	jfcrane@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I'm writing to oppose the proposed new CSO plan for Alewife Brook. I and my family run and walk regularly along the Alewife Brook, to commute as well as for recreation, and a proper plan should be developed to prevent the dumping of sewage into the river - for our welfare as well as for the environment for which we should be responsible stewards. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-473	9/21/2026	Ashley	Holtgraver	aholtgraver@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I live near the Alewife Brook. Many people do. I cannot understand the current Sewage plan could make things even worse. The Brook needs help. It regularly smells like sewage near our house. It has flooded raw sewage multiple times. What we need is a comprehensive plan that deals with the Brook, in a climate resilient way - and instead, we get a $340 million plan that is -designed- for 50% -WORSE- sewage volume. This is unacceptable. We need a plan that eliminates CSOs with climate resilient strategies. This current 'plan' is not a plan. It ignores a vast swath of people (and wildlife) who live near the Brook. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Are we doing this or not? My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-474	9/21/2026	Nili	Pearlmutter	nilinaomi@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I live in East Arlington and frequently walk along the Alewife Brook with my dog. It is a little patch of nature that also serves as an important ecosystem for wildlife. Over the years I have seen herons, swans, red-winged blackbirds, turtles, and more. But when there is heavy rain, I know I have to avoid the brook to keep my dog safe - and I worry about all the wildlife that depend on it. I am truly disgusted that in the state of Massachusetts, where we pride ourselves on caring for both people and the world in which we live, we have allowed this health hazard to continue for so long. It is time to make a plan to fix it!	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-475	9/21/2026	Eleonore	Carter	EleonoreCarter321@gmail.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	I agree with the following: I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-476	9/21/2026	Rebecca	McTeigue	r.i.mct.10@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I am disgusted that any sort of plan has been even proposed to worsen the health of the Charles. The people of Boston as well as the animals and plants that will be affected deserve so much more. I don't care if it's cheaper. I don't care about your chance of economic gain. Grow a conscience. Have some humanity. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-477	9/21/2026	Kelt	Wilska	kelt.a.wilska@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I'm a marathon canoe racer and I practice regularly in the Charles, picking up trash when I can. It saddens me to think that Greater Boston has the option to clean up our river and stop dumping sewage in it but instead has proposed to continue business as usual for decades to come. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-478	9/21/2026	Ann	J	jochnick@earthlink.net	Individual				I walk near the Alewife Brook so often. It's heartbreaking to see the very apparent pollution in the brook and the wildlife trying to survive there. It's 2026: we can do better, if we choose to. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. FUNDING: THE PLAN IS CHEAPER IF MWRA PAYS Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
									I walk this path almost every day and see how much it is loved by humans and wildlife! It is imperative to clean the waterways to make it safe for all living beings. It is a true gift to have this path and to keep it clean for all. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing	

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E-479	9/21/2026	Pardis	Parsa	pahdis@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-480	9/22/2026	Molly	Warner	molly.f.shaw@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester Center	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-481	9/22/2026	Tina	Halfpenny	c2halfpenny@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Waste water treatment needs innovation. By not investing in systems and efficiency infrastructure, you compromise our water and ecosystems. You have brilliant people, make the investments needed. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-482	9/22/2026	Wynelle	Evans	evco7@rcn.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I walk and run along the Alewife, and am always struck by what an overlooked resource it is. In its current state it's depressing to look at, noxious to smell, and maddening to think that it doesn't have to be this way. My concerns are as follows: PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. ENVIRONMENT & WILDLIFE River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! SMART URBAN PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADES The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. EQUITY & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.	No
E-483	9/22/2026	David	Danielian	daviddanielian3@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-484	9/22/2026	Katie	Daehn	katie.daehn@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	As an East Arlington resident, traveling by foot or bike over the Alewife Brook at least twice per day with small kids in tow, I am in full alignment with the position and plan outlined by Save the Alewife Brook. CSO's must be eliminated, funded by the MWRA, at a cost of $45/household/year. The concrete lining must then be removed and the Alewife Brook dredged to allow environmental restoration. My family and I love the greenspace and trails along the Alewife Brook. We have seen very large fish, turtles, Great Blue Herons and other animals in the water, though we often smell fresh sewage. I shouldn't have to worry about my kids' health picking up leaves or sticks, or trash as we participate in regular clean-up's, along these public pathways. Dense housing in our neighborhood is increasingly vulnerable, at great financial risk. Sewage floods over the banks of the Brook regularly, and this will increase as sediment continues to build, storms grow in intensity, and the CSO's remain. Addressing these solvable, urgent matters of health and safety will provide the conditions for wildlife to return and the area to thrive. This vibrant neighborhood around East Arlington where city life meets greenery, should be treasured. We would all be better off associating "alewife" with not only the T station, but the fish that historically swam up this stream, and could again.	No
E-485	9/22/2026	Virginia	Rever	krever@comcast.net	Individual		Derry	NH	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-486	9/22/2026	Caroline	Meeks	caroline@meekshome.com	Individual			MA	Public Comment on the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan I strongly support ending the sewage overflow into the Alewife Brook and making the waterway the community asset it deserves to be. We have a beautiful stream that should be a green space and recreational asset and instead sewage is flowing into it making it a health issue! With global warming and more extreme climate we need our natural environment more then ever. We need infrastructure solutions that protect both health and property. Now is not the time to decide that our rivers and streams are not with $45 per household per year. Make the Alewife Brook fishable, wadable, kayackable. Make the paths along it safe in whatever weather. This is a valuable resource.	No
E-487	9/22/2026	Jacob	Morgan	jakepatrick116611@gmail.com	Individual		Allston	MA	Please do not dump sewage in the river. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-488	9/23/2026	Alida	Monaco	alidabmonaco@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-489	9/23/2026	Marcia	Ciro	r87933@gmail.com	Individual			MA	I WANT CLEAN WATERS AROUND BOSTON! Restore our rivers and bays. Do NOT weaken pollution controls -- strengthen them! Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-490	9/23/2026	Isadora	Lape	isatlape@hotmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	The Charles is our city post card, and we need to care for it. In the top of everything, we use it for kayaking and rowing, and thousands people stroll by the river everyday. We cannot kill our river, we need to make things better for our city, not take the easy way, but the sustainable one. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-491	9/23/2026	Sanjay	Vakil	svakil@gmail.com	Individual			MA	Look, I don't think of this as very complicated. We have multiple storms a year during which untreated sewage ends up in East Arlington. In our homes, in our fields, in our waterways. Do better. Tanks aren't the right answer. Fix this nonsense. It's 2026.	No
									I am writing as a neighbor in the region of Alewife Brook Parkway. I also have relevant experience as an Environmental Public Health Specialist who was a member of a team of consultants retained by the City of Cambridge to support development of their Climate Resilience Plan, as well as to launch a pilot within The Port environmental justice (EJ) neighborhood. That pilot engaged residents, including low-income youth and community advocates, to educate one-another about the most pressing climate justice (CJ) impacts that face their neighborhood, most importantly increased frequency and severity of flooding alongside extreme temperature events. These events had already been occurring, with flooding threatening basement apartments and being a risk for increased asthma and other respiratory diseases, conditions that are already elevated within EJ populations. The effort also supported residents as they developed protective community-driven CJ strategies that drew upon their extensive local knowledge in order to identify specific risk factors and vulnerabilities, while also drawing upon the positive attributes, cultures, and assets of their neighborhood. The pilot was nationally recognized for replication by the American Public Health Association and the National Association of City and County Health Officers. I delivered train-the-trainer sessions held at these Association national events. The Alewife region that is the focus for the proposed updated Combined Sewage Overflows (CSOs) Long Term Control Plan is currently subject to flooding with increased future frequency and severity engendered under climate change scenarios. It includes neighborhoods that have been designated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as Environmental Justice Block Groups. Such designations are specified based on the following demographic criteria set forth in An Act Creating a Next Generation Roadmap for MA Climate Policy. According to the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA): 1.the annual median household income is 65 percent or less of the statewide annual median household income 2.minorities make up 40 percent or more of the population 3.25 percent or more of households identify as speaking English less than "very well" 4.minorities make up 25 percent or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150 percent of the statewide annual median household income." The stated goal of MassDEP's Environmental Justice program is to ensure that all people that live in neighborhoods defined as EJ Populations have clean air, water and land. MassDEP strives to ensure that EJ Populations are able to live in and enjoy a clean and healthy environment. This goal includes access to and inclusion in the agency's decision-making action and activities. Given the serious and increasing risks to EJ residents and their neighborhoods, I implore you to act based on these priorities of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Rather than stop-gap actions that have been proposed without the inclusion of residents by the MWRA, adopt the well-informed Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the affected residents' Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. This community-driven plan proactively protects public health, the environment, and vital infrastructure by drawing upon realistic, sustainable, best practices such as eliminating CSOs and river restoration. . I will not repeat the many valid points raised by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. I do want to point out ways that the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan more closely aligns with the Cambridge Climate Preparedness & Resilience Plan (CCPR) to mitigate the risks identified in the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) for the Alewife. Quoted material is from the City of Cambridge November 15, 2017 CCPR Alewife Preparedness Handbook, a companion document to the City's	

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									for the Alewife. Quoted material is from the City of Cambridge November 15, 2017 CCPR Alewife Preparedness Handbook, a companion document to the City's Alewife Preparedness Plan. Alewife was determined to be a priority region due to potential exposures that may harm vulnerable populations, with the CCPR highlighting that: "Residents in the Fresh Pond-Alewife area are at relatively higher risk due to the higher probability, larger extent, and greater depths of flooding in this area." "Cambridge is home to large numbers of people who may be more vulnerable to impacts from climate-driven emergencies. For example, we know that people who are older, in financial stress, or with limited English are up to four times more likely to experience negative physical or mental health impacts from flooding disasters (citation: Lowe D, Ebi KL, Forsberg B. Factors Increasing Vulnerability to Health Effects before, during and after Floods. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2013;10(12):7015-7067. doi:10.3390/ijerph10127015)." "By 2070, storm surge modeling shows that large swaths of the Alewife-Fresh Pond area could be subject to annual probabilities of flooding up to 20 percent or once every five years. Flooding can carry contaminants such as fuel from vehicles and homes into buildings and create conditions for indoor mold growth with negative impacts on indoor air quality." Flooding is also projected to pose risks to buildings and infrastructure." Furthermore: "Cambridge's critical services (e.g. fire stations, ambulance services) and community services (e.g. affordable housing, public schools, daycare and youth centers, pharmacies, and food pantries) provide important support services that need to be operational when climate stressors impact the City. These services provide critical places for residents to connect, therefore impacting public health when in danger. Some of the City's key resources are in the Alewife neighborhood and were identified as most at-risk to extreme heat and flooding in CCVA: • Professional Ambulance Services–this asset was found to be one of the most at-risk as it had the highest risk scores (R4) in both Heat and Inland Flooding in the 2030s scenarios • Tobin Elementary School & Daycare –Flood risks under the 2030 and 2070 climate scenarios" Among Best Practice strategies in the CCPR Alewife Plan is Strategy C1: COMBINED SEWER SEPARATION to continue combined sewer separation in the Alewife area to reduce adverse public-health impacts during flood events and to protect water quality. The plan noted at the time that "the City of Cambridge still has approximately 41 miles of combined sewer. The City also has 12 permitted CSO locations associated with 11 CSO regulator structures... The City's sewer separation projects and stormwater management... collection system may be subject to vulnerability considering predicted increase in heavy precipitation events and flooding from sea level rise and storm surge. The stormwater outfalls associated with pipes greater than 18 inches in diameter are considered critical." The plans notes that the City is committed to "continuing separation efforts to improve water quality in Cambridge, reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows and sanitary sewer backups, reduce flooding and prevent adverse public-health impacts." KEY CONSIDERATIONS under the plan are stated as the following: • Impact: Combined sewer separation projects have been proven effective in improving water quality and reducing street flooding • Wellness: During significant rainfall events, combined sewer overflows can occur and discharge untreated sewage to the Charles River or Alewife Brook. As flooding intensifies, so does the negative public-health impact. This strategy is effective in mitigating adverse health impacts from discharging raw sewage into surface water bodies • Cost: The cost for separating combined sewer systems is substantial because it requires extensive construction. However, many sewer networks in Cambridge are over 150 years old and will need to be replaced regardless of other requirements The CCPR recommends a number of additional proven Best Practice Strategies that can complement (but not eliminate the need for) replacements of CSOs. Among these are the following: These include, but are not limited to the following: Strategy 6: CRITICAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES RESILIENCE, meaning to "increase resilience of critical community facilities to climate shocks, prioritizing those with high vulnerabilities identified in the CCVA." B3 FLOOD PROTECTION FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS Establish a program to support retrofitting of existing buildings and re-developments to be resilient to future flood risks. B5 BUILDING MANAGEMENT FOR FLOOD AND HEAT PROTECTION Develop a program to enable building residents and occupants to effectively manage and operate resilient buildings. B6 SITE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE Implement green infrastructure (GI) at the parcel level to improve water management and reduce heat-island effect. Green infrastructure (GI) and low-impact development (LID) rainwater management strategies improve the environmental conditions by mimicking a site's natural hydrology. They limit the amount of impervious cover on a site, and infiltrate, filter, store, evaporate, or detain rainwater runoff at or close to its source. B7 ADAPTED ZONING, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS Revise zoning to factor in Climate Change risks, such as flooding and extreme heat and adjust building requirements to take into account new constraints such as revised flood elevation. The CCPR for Alewife points to a myriad of advantages for proactive protection related to buildings that should be considered such as: • Impact: o Reduced impact of dislocation of business or residents and economic impacts resulting from loss of housing or business activity	

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									o Reduced lost revenue and tax generation • Cost: o Cost for new construction can range from marginal to high according to projected flood elevation o Cost of repairs, displacement or permanent damage to property • Equitable: o Benefits new residents and new affordable housing units • Wellness: o Reduces risk of environmental damage (e.g. contamination, mold) caused to buildings by substantial or repeated flooding o Reduce risk of spills and contamination from floodwater and debris • Feasibility: o Strategies have been tested in other communities and uses national standards o If flood elevations are higher than 4 feet, it might negatively impact the public realm and be poorly received by stakeholders o Not feasible if zoning or height requirements are not adjusted to allow for limited use of areas below set flood elevations. While building maintenance plans to reduce structural and damage and failure of systems during events are also recommended, these are less likely to be effective than prevention. Consider that "protecting structural elements and electrical systems will require special procedures before and during flood events. After the event, swift removal of waterborne materials is essential. Methods include pumping standing water, hosing down flood deposits or debris, and removing wet or damaged materials before they develop mold." This is complicated and likely to include: "Establishing positive drainage away from the building with a slope greater than 2 percent and high-pressure water supply connections can assist in hosing down debris to catch basins after an event, before deposits harden and require more mechanical means of removal. The ability to maintain power to critical systems is also important." Simply elevating the allowable limits of pollutants in MA waterways will not offer protection. Rather it will allow an inequitable burden to Alewife EJ neighborhoods placing residents at increasing risk over time. The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. Unlike the proposed MWRA CSO Control Plan it is science based, equitable, and sustainable.	
E-492	9/23/2026	Terry	Greene	tagreene1@verizon.net	Individual		Cambridge	MA		No
E-493	9/23/2026	Noah	Tomkins	sqwidward1234@outlook.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-494	9/23/2026	Dominic	Gelfuso	proton5654921@pm.me	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-495	9/23/2026	Diane	Martin	dmartin62886@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	End CSO Sewage Pollution End CSO sewage discharges in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic Rivers for just $45/year As the climate crisis advances, we need to do more to eliminate combined sewage overflows in the Alewife Brook, and all three rivers that receive sewage discharge. I'm writing to ask that you take action to follow through on Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618, which calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households.	No
E-496	9/23/2026	Matthew	De Remer	mderemer@pm.me	Individual		East Arlington	MA	I'm writing again to implore you to resolve the CSO releases to Alewife Brook and other local waterways. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. We owe it to ourselves and future generations to fix this problem that has only gotten worse.	No
E-497	9/23/2026	Jackson	Heights	vcc62093@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-498	9/23/2026	Kristen	Bauer	kristenflippable@gmail.com	Individual			MA	I live near Alewife station and enjoy the Alewife Brook. However, in many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife.	No
E-499	9/23/2026	Audrey	Robert Ramirez	audreymrobert@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods.	No
E-500	9/23/2026	Tony	Dellovo	tonyd72013@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Arlington is my home and the home of my children. Through this CSO Control Plan we not only have an opportunity to clean up Alewife Brook, we have an opportunity to show our children what being responsible adults and community stewards looks like. Let’s make this happen to model for our children how we can come together to make our community healthier and stronger.	No
E-501	9/24/2026	Felipe	Gómez	fdgmez@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-502	9/24/2026	Johanna	Ehrmann	johannaehrmann@comcast.net	Individual		Auburndale	MA	I live right on the river and I want it to be as clean as it can possibly be. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
									Please eliminate CSO pollution. As an adamant enjoyer of public waterways at and near Alewife Brook and Reservation I have experienced first hand the sewage outfall and polluted waters. I would love to enjoy my walks with my dog through the reservation as well as ensure the wildlife and environment remains free and clean of human causes waste and pollution. It's our duty to keep our world clean and it's shameful as the country's leading blue state to be failing in infrastructure like this so badly. Please review the talking points below for a better sewage control system. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding	

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E-503	9/24/2026	H	S	schauthj@gmail.com	Individual			MA	I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces CSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	No
E-504	9/25/2026	Jeremy	Redburn	jredburn@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I've lived in a ton of different cities and towns in and around Boston since moving here in 2003. The one constant throughout that time has been the Charles River. We have an incredible opportunity *right now* to follow the lead of cities like Paris and Copenhagen that have committed to making their waterways a public resource. And it has worked! I was in Paris this past summer and the city has fully embraced the access to the Seine throughout the summer. Yes there are costs, just as there were costs to things like the Big Dig. But they can be transformative for our metro area, and the benefits easily outweigh those costs -- even before you think of the potential economic impacts of a swimmable Charles. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-505	9/25/2026	Deane	Coady	deanecoady@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I don't want the Charles River to end up like the Ipswich River when the sewage overflows. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-506	9/25/2026	Catherine	Donaher	cdonaher782@gmail.net	Individual		Brookline	MA	In what kind of a world do we deliberately go backwards?We came so far in cleaning up the Charles and now you want us to just throw all that away and meekly accept that we cant have a swimmable river. I have participated in all the CRC Swims each summer which have held out the promise of everday day swimming. TEAR UP THIS PLAN and go back to the drawing board. Come up with a plan that everyone will want to support and give our children something to look forward to as the world gets warmer. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-507	9/25/2026	Isabelle	Ruesch	iruesch5@gmail.com	Individual		Brockton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-508	9/25/2026	Christine	Woodward	cwoodward@norwoodma.gov	Town of Norwood Board of Selectmen		Norwood	MA	Attached please find correspondence from the Norwood Board of Selectmen. They request that this be added as public comment regarding the CSO Control Plan.	Yes
E-509	9/25/2026	Sandra	Klemmer	sandyklemm@aol.com	Individual		Boston	MA	Boston is a leader in many things, and has the choice to model action when it comes to our waters & land. Gary Snyder said don't take action because of guilt or fear or righteousness, take action because of love. This matters. Not only do we want the river to thrive for our enjoyment and physical/mental health but we are also the keepers of this land, we have a responsibility to the water creatures and riverside creatures and we have a responsibility to understand the wider interconnectedness of our ecosystem. We have that responsibility. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-510	9/25/2026	Zachary	Siegel	zachary@siegel.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-511	9/25/2026	William	Hornberger	wdhornberger@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Please keep the Charles clean! This is America! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-512	9/25/2026	Jiin	Cruz	number.foal-03@icloud.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I remember when the announcement came around 15 years ago that the Charles was safe to swim. I was filled with excitement and pride that this city had made such a transformation from the abusive practices of the past. Now, every time I run and bike along the river a few times a week, I think about how people still don't swim in it, and how that performative opening of the river served to relieve the administration of pressure to restore this waterway. What used to make me proud makes me feel foolish. I would hope that forward progress in this regard would be a goal of this specific body, and am deeply disappointed that it is not, at least in practice. I love the Charles River, and I would simply ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-513	9/25/2026	Gina	Crandell	ginamcrandell@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I have regularly ridden my bike on the Esplanade on the Charles River for thirty years, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-514	9/25/2026	Kailyn	Laven	kailynlaven@hotmail.com	Individual		Harwhich	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-515	9/25/2026	Alyssa	Mello	alyssamello@hotmail.com	Individual		Salem	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-516	9/26/2026	Laurie	Ellis	p544fis@aol.com	Individual		Walpole	MA	We need to reapir our infrastructure for now and the future. This is not an easy fix but one that should be addressed! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-517	9/26/2026	Judith	Havens	judyhavens1@icloud.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	My family lives within blocks of The Charles River in Brookline. We often bike and walk along the shores. Please do not allow the dumping of sewage during rain storms. We are facing a climate crisis and unless we take action to prevent these sewage runoffs my family is in jeopardy. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-518	9/26/2026	Geri	Lambert	gerimlambert@gmail.com	Individual		Chestnut Hill	MA	This is totally outrageous to continue to have water overflow from storm drains to the Charles River or tributary rivers. France solved this issue. Its not a difficult solution and overall cost per household is a few dollars. Worth the money spent vs. Continued pollution of sewage runoff. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-519	9/26/2026	Cam	Gordon	jcam.gordon@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-520	9/26/2026	David	Johnson	heeepmaster@gmail.com	Individual		Roslindale	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-521	9/27/2026	CASSANDRA	CATO-LOUIS	auroranegra@gmail.com	Individual		Mattapan	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-522	9/27/2026	Emily	Arbetter	emarbetter@gmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	Having been a lifetime Massachusetts resident from Lexington to Salem to currently residing in Arlington, Boston has always been home to me. Growing up as a kid and going to the museum of science learning about how much work has been done over the years to try to preserve and clean the Charles River and then growing up and getting to see progress and the continuation of the Esplanade grow and become even more of a staple to the entire community, it baffles me how we could be taking such ginormous leaps backwards in not recognizing that treating it as a sewage dump has not worked and cannot continue. For this generation to every future and previous generation, we as a community have wanted to better the Charles to make it truly enjoyable and actually hospitable for everyone, including the wildlife and any who come to visit our beautiful state. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-523	9/27/2026	Carol	ROULUSONIS	caroltheSpicyruler@icloud.com	Individual		New Bedford	MA	Why would anyone want to pollute the Charles river after. All the time and money spent cleaning it sounds like a democrat to me I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-524	9/27/2026	Patricia	O'Neil	muffetmayakendra@yahoo.com	Individual		Norwood	MA	I am a resident and taxpayer in the Town of Norwood and am writing to you regarding the MWRA CSO Control Plan. According to the documentation provided for the plan, the area surrounding Cambridge and Somerville and the waterways of Alewife Brook, Upper Mystic River, and Charles River will be the recipients of infrastructure improvements at a cost of $1.3 Billion and should be completed in the 2050's (approximately 23 years). While I agree that we need to have clean, safe water and the watershed areas mentioned above need attention, I disagree with shifting the 60% of the cost to the greater MWRA Regional System. As a result, the taxpayers of the Town of Norwood would be made responsible for an estimated $35 million+ in long-term debt service with NO direct infrastructure improvements. I ask you to please consider the comments submitted by the Norwood Board of Selectmen advocating for a re-evaluation of the funding allocation and a review of lower-cost alternatives. Prices are rising everywhere with no end in sight. Families are struggling to put food on the table for their children. Those living on fixed incomes are struggling to make ends meet. Norwood recently passed two Proposition 2 ½ Overrides, one for Education and the other for Public Safety. Our taxes have increased significantly; at least we received the benefit of increased educational opportunities for our children and increased Public Safety upgrades. Those public safety upgrades were doubly important when viewed in light of the loss of Norwood Hospital, a loss soon to be rectified thanks to our legislative leaders. However, placing an additional tax burden of 35+ million dollars on the Town, without any direct benefit from infrastructure improvements, is unconscionable. Ask yourself this question, would you throw a lavish party and expect everyone in the surrounding area to pay for it?	No
E-525	9/27/2026	Hart	Lust	ventaslustig@yahoo.com	Individual		Dedham	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-526	9/27/2026	thomas	griffin	wetreebostoncwo@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-527	9/27/2026	Ashwin	Suresh Babu	ashwinsb02@gmail.com	Individual		Peabody	MA	Please protect our land and water bodies I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-528	9/27/2026	Richard	Bond	hirambondco01@hotmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-529	9/27/2026	Chloe	Romero	chloe.romero13@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-530	9/28/2026	Stephen	Watts	stphnwatts@gmail.com	Individual		Hanscom AFB	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-531	9/28/2026	Melodi	ANahtar	melodi.anahtar@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-532	9/28/2026	Clara	Venditto	clara.venditto@gmail.com	Individual		Hanscom AFB	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-533	9/28/2026	Julia	Page	page.julia.e@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	We live right by the Esplanade and enjoy seeing people out enjoying the river - kayaking, sailing, and walking by the river. As an infectious diseases doctor, I'm aware of the concerns from dumping sewage into the river. Cleaning the waters so that people can enjoy them is a priority! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-534	9/28/2026	Dorothy	Ogara	doto@solidobject.com	Individual		Rumford	RI	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
									Please do not accept this current MWRA proposal for Cambridge and Somerville as it does not adequately address the problem: instead it spreads the problem to new locations, prolongs the problem, passes the buck to future residents and continues to dump sewage in our sensitive waterways. As you know, Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please commit to eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. This is only slightly more than the current plan is estimated to cost. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. This CSO is the worst offender in the system and has the least amount of financial investment to address. While this area does not contain the cache of the Charles it is equally important to our longevity and sustainability. And, the state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. The Brook is a small tributary so any sewage has an outsized environmental and health impact. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. Let's be on the forefront of environmentally sustainable solutions! There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will not suffice. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MRTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage	

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-535	9/28/2026	Nicole	Barna	nicoleannebarna@gmail.com	Individual			MA	Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility (or build an appropriate, green, cutting edge treatment facility at Alewife where the issue occurs!!) A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever? I urge you to show real environmental leadership which is critical now that the federal government is removing common sense environmental protections. Set an audacious goal! No more CSOs! Full sewer separation! Effective stormwater management, reclaim and restore polluted waterways and ensure that our lived environment is ready for increased population and the changing climate!! Massachusetts can do this and be the leader! It is time for MA Dep, MWRA and the statehouse (along with Cambridge, Somerville and the other towns in our watershed) to step up!! CUT the CRAP!!	No
E-536	9/28/2026	Danielle	Metzger	danielle.a.metzger@gmail.com	Individual			MA	In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. I am one of the homeowners on Sunnyside Avenue, one of the aforementioned homes that experiences flooding because of the sewage overflow. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to help my family, my neighbors, and my community. People have gotten sick. This must end. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods.	No
E-537	9/29/2026	Nora	OConnor	noracatherineoconnor@gmail.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	Growing up paddling in the waterways of the Charles River watershed, I have been looking forward to increased water quality for a long time! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-538	9/29/2026	Seth	Lloyd	slloyd@mit.edu	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I have been running by the Charles and canoeing on it for more than fifty years. Let me swim in it before I die! I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-539	9/29/2026	Matt	Rotman	mrotman32@outlook.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I want to be able to jump in the Charles on a hot summer day. Especially as summer's getting hotter, what better way to cool people off than the giant river running through our city. Also building better infrastructure that caters to the needs of our future as well is something worth fighting for. Don't you wamt your kids to have it better off than you did? I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-540	9/29/2026	Victoria	Loehle	vlpoet@icloud.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I am a rower and a runner. I love the Mystic River, the Charles River, and all the wildlife these rivers bring to our cities. I am writing to ask that you stop using these rivers as open sewers. Dumping untreated and under-treated sewage into the rivers prevents people like myself from enjoying them. Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows cause water quality violations in the Charles River; sewage discharges make the water unsafe for swimming and boating… which happens anyway! (Rowing and sailing are water sports; we practice in the rain, even when the rain causes sewage discharges… and sometimes we capsize…) We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to improve our cities' infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. The many benefits of sewage-free rivers include: - Safer and more consistent access to the water; - Potential to open a swimming beach on the Charles; - Less pollution dumped where it can make people, pets, and wildlife sick; - Reduced aesthetic impairment. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional price; however, the benefits will absolutely justify and outweigh the cost. I ask that you strength the CSO control plan to achieve the highest level of control under consideration or better: at minimum no CSOs in the 2050 25-year storm! We know the future holds more people and more storms. Therefore, we need to invest in infrastructure that can handle more sewage and more stormwater, not just when the construction for this project ends, but until the construction for a future project begins. The CSO control plan must include green infrastructure: More street trees, more native plant gardens, more porous surfaces instead of asphalt and concrete. Most of Boston and Cambridge used to be salt marsh; this means our native species are really good at trapping soil (preventing erosion) and draining water (preventing flooding). Marsh and swamp species are also really good at filtering out contaminants (improving water quality). Even better, live plants can maintain and repair themselves with nothing but sunlight and rain! No human effort required! Let's use green infrastructure to reduce the burden on the pipes and water treatment facilities, and thus save everyone a bit of money. Most importantly, the CSO control plan must be implemented to last. We need to invest in infrastructure, green and traditional, that will function as intended for a generation or more. According to Table 12-5 in the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan, the construction won't be completed for up to 25 years from now. We can't be planning for a 2050 typical year and expecting the system to function well in 2080 (just a generation after construction ends). We need to be planning for a 2080 typical year—better than the 2050 25-year storm plan! Such long-term planning is the only planning that puts ratepayer dollars to good use. I don't want us to invest over a billion dollars in a bandaid. I want to fund a long-term solution that results in sewage-free rivers. Please include green infrastructure, and please plan for this system to work as intended—not just in 2050, but until the next time our cities come together to improve the sewage and stormwater infrastructure. Your children and grandchildren want sewage-free rivers. You have the opportunity to gift them that. Please do it.	No
E-541	9/29/2026	WILLIAM	FOWKES	wrfowkes@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester Center	MA	I just had a child, and I want her to grow up in a healthier world than I did. I know that this send unlikely given the value systems of our world and the control that corporations have on our government. But I still have this dream and I think ti's a dream worth having, of any dream is. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-542	9/29/2026	Reesa	Sheryl	Reesa.sheryl@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-543	9/29/2026	Shaian	Aghasoltan	shaiansoltanii@gmail.com	Individual		Holden	MA	I have lived in this state my entire life, and have always felt that I lived in a truly special place. When we were young, we were only able to travel locally, and thus we spent many of our weekends near the Charles, constantly being surrounded by its beauty. The Charles River is deserves to be clean, not just for our enjoyment, but for the health of all people living around it, and the surrounding ecosystems that make our city clean. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-544	9/29/2026	Linden	Jenkins	lightprevails@duck.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I live in Cambridge MA and I walk along the Charles every day. About a month ago I went kayaking on the Charles in Watertown but the river stank and there was no pleasure but only danger from the stink. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-545	9/29/2026	Alexandra	Zelony-Cramer	alexzelonycramer@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-546	9/30/2026	Emily	Murphy	e.rosamund.murphy@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-547	9/30/2026	helen	snively	hmsnively@aol.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Of course we need full sewer separation. But I want to echo the more interesting suggestion of living infrastructure in the form of a Miyawaki forest on that now useless piece of land to the north of Alewife Brook Parkway. I walked there recently; it's ugly! The ground is so compacted that nothing grows there but sparse crabgrass. Water cannot infiltrate that ground so it all floods into the Alewife like a big catch basin. That cannot possibly help with flooding. And the DRC has to pay staff to mow it—so it's an expense How much better to have a mini forest there. Of course it'd be more attractive, a cooler area for neighbors to walk in as summers get hotter. It would absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen, and thus improve air quality. And—which the whole Alewife area needs-it would absorb stormwater and reduce flooding. Exactly what it cannot do now. Please, let us make a Miyawaki!	No
E-548	9/30/2026	Jennifer	Reynolds	jmreynolds1@gmail.com	Individual		Beverly	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-549	9/30/2026	Barbara	Halliday	bobbie.halliday@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	My mother was in The Boston Globe when the Charles River was closed to swimming in 1949. It has a lament in our family ever since that we can't use a beautiful and amazing resource for recreation. With the Earth getting hotter by the year, the water is going to get worse if nothing is done to clean up the river. Clean up the river so future generations can use a beautiful resource! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-550	9/30/2026	Ashley	Maher	amaher@town.arlington.ma.us	Individual	Town of Arlington, MA Select Board	Arlington	MA	The Town of Arlington Select Board submits this letter in response to the invitation for public comment regarding its Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan for the Alewife Brook, Upper Mystic River and Charles River. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. A hard copy has been sent in the mail.	Yes

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-551	9/30/2026	Nancy	Egger	eggerboston@verizon.net	Individual		Medford	MA	The Charles river is a great resource and we should not be treating it as open sewer and dumping untreated or under treated sewage into it. The goal should be clean, swimmable water. There needs to be infrastructure investment to stop this from continuing. I understand it will cost more but in the long run the value is so much greater. I am asking the MWRA to strengthen their plan. No CSOs in the 2050 25 year plan should be the Final long term control plan for the Charles River. This is a great opportunity to do the right thing and benefit current and future generations. Thank you Nancy Egger I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-552	9/30/2026	Sean	Lynn-Jones	sean.lynn-jones@outlook.com	Individual	Brookline GreenSpace Alliance		MA	The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (BGSA) strongly urges the MWRA to adopt a new and better long-term plan to control sewage discharges into the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook. The current plan, dated April 30, 2026, and submitted to the state and federal environmental agencies on June 2, does not do enough to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs). The Charles River Watershed is a vital part of the ecosystem of Eastern Massachusetts. The BGSA is an advocate for the health of that regional system. We also recognize that Brookline is a member community of the MWRA and therefore affects and is affected by the MWRA's policies, plans, and decisions. Thanks to the leadership of the MWRA since the 1980s, great progress has been made in cleaning up Boston Harbor and reducing pollution in the Charles River and its tributaries. Instead of abandoning or scaling back these efforts, it is now time to finish the job by eliminating sewage inflows into the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife Brook and making them safe for swimming, boating, and other recreational activities. For the sake of the environment, public health, and the regional economy, we ask the MWRA to revise the current draft long-term plan so that it does not allow sewage discharges during large rainstorms. Due to climate change, the region will most likely have many intense rainstorms and rainy years during the coming decades. The MWRA should adopt a robust plan that anticipates these changes and eliminates the CSOs that dump sewage into the Charles and other waterways after heavy rain. Doing anything less would mean reneging on long-standing commitments to clean up the Charles and Greater Boston's other rivers and failing to prepare for the future effects of climate change. The BGSA realizes that the Charles River and other waterways are also contaminated by stormwater runoff, and that problem needs to be addressed by communities in the watershed. The MWRA, however, has responsibility for sewage flows, and the MWRA needs to act to eliminate pollution from CSOs.	Yes
E-553	9/30/2026	Rachel	Massey	massey12@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	MA	I am very concerned about the lack of warnings and signage about the sewage in the water, especially for immigrant families who are not following these issues online. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-554	9/30/2026	Jessica	Hamerly	jessica.hamerly@gmail.com	Individual			MA	Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-555	9/30/2026	Zweli	Miller	zwelimiler@gmail.com	Individual		Roxbury	MA	My daughter sails on the Charles river all summer. She should not have to worry about contracting disease when learning to sail. Recreation on the river provides meaningful opportunities for students and campers and adults. The Charles river is an international destination for rowing events. We clearly have the means to disallow municipalities form dumping contaminants. Why would we continue to risk the health of the river and the health of our communities by allowing dumping? Please make the Charles finally and completely free from toxic overflows. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-556	9/30/2026	David	Johnson	heeepmaster@gmail.com	Individual		Roslindale	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-557	9/30/2026	Marcie	Ha	marciejh@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I've been looking forward to the river to finally be safe for the population to enjoy. I spend countless days by the Charles, as do many, and see it as a public resource. It should not be further polluted. Given the increase in every other living expense recently, I am more than happy tp put a small percentage of that into improving wastewater treatment to conserve the Charles. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-558	10/1/2026	Amelia	Fordyce	ameliafordyce112@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-559	10/1/2026	Stephen	Konetchy	stevek.1@icloud.com	Individual		Norwood	MA	I am writing as a resident and taxpayer of Norwood, Massachusetts, to express my strong opposition to the proposed $1.3 billion Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan, particularly the proposed allocation of 60% of the project costs to the broader MWRA regional system. I emphatically disagree with imposing such a substantial financial burden on Norwood ratepayers for infrastructure improvements located primarily in Cambridge and Somerville, from which our community will receive no direct local infrastructure improvements. According to the estimates presented by the Norwood Board of Selectmen, Norwood's share of the proposed financing would amount to approximately $36 million over the debt-service period. This is an extraordinary obligation to impose on a community that has no combined sewer overflow facilities of its own and will receive little direct benefit from the proposed construction. I recognize the importance of protecting our regional waterways and addressing environmental concerns associated with combined sewer overflows. However, environmental responsibility must be accompanied by fiscal responsibility and an equitable distribution of costs among the communities involved. Of particular concern is the dramatic escalation in the project's estimated cost. The October 2025 draft contemplated an expenditure of approximately $870 million. The April 2026 proposal increased that figure to $1.3 billion—an increase exceeding $400 million in just six months. Compounding this increase is a revised cost-sharing arrangement that, according to the Norwood Board of Selectmen, would place nearly 90% of the additional financial burden on MWRA wastewater communities, while Cambridge and Somerville would experience comparatively modest increases. I find this allocation fundamentally inequitable and unacceptable. Norwood residents already bear the costs of maintaining our own municipal infrastructure, funding essential public services, and meeting our existing obligations to the MWRA. Adding tens of millions of dollars in debt service for improvements outside our community places further pressure on local water and sewer rates and, ultimately, on the residents and businesses who must pay them. Furthermore, I am concerned that committing such substantial regional resources to this project could compromise the MWRA's ability to fund other critical capital improvements that directly benefit all member communities, including the continued reliable operation of the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. I respectfully urge the MWRA Board of Directors to reconsider the current proposal and give serious consideration to the following: 1.Reevaluate the previously proposed $870 million CSO Control Plan and other less costly alternatives, with particular attention to the additional environmental benefits achieved relative to their substantially higher costs. 2.Renegotiate the proposed cost-sharing arrangement with Cambridge and Somerville to ensure that the communities receiving the most direct infrastructure benefits assume a more equitable share of the financial responsibility. 3.Reject any further expansion of the project that would increase the already substantial financial obligations imposed on Norwood and other regional ratepayers without clearly demonstrated and proportionate benefits. Norwood has been a longstanding member of the MWRA and has consistently fulfilled its financial obligations. That membership, however, should not be interpreted as an open-ended commitment to subsidize disproportionately expensive infrastructure projects benefiting other municipalities. The principle of regional cooperation should not come at the expense of fairness to individual member communities. I strongly support the concerns expressed by the Norwood Board of Selectmen in its September 2026 correspondence and urge the MWRA Board to take those concerns seriously before committing Norwood ratepayers to decades of additional financial obligations. I emphatically oppose the proposed cost allocation and request that these objections be entered into the official public comment record for the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. Thank you for your consideration.	No
E-560	10/1/2026	Tom	Balazs	tom123online@gmail.com	Individual		Burlington	MA	I've been lucky enough to sail with Community Boating on the Charles, and I've come to really love the river. CBI is a vital resource that gives thousands of people access to sailing and the Charles. I'm asking MWRA to stop using the river as an open sewer. Combined sewer overflows make the Charles less safe for sailing, swimming, and other recreation. We have a rare opportunity to make the infrastructure investment needed to fix this for the long term. I recognize that eliminating CSOs costs more, but the benefits of a cleaner, safer Charles justify that investment. Please adopt the strongest option under consideration: no CSOs during the 2050 25-year storm as the target for the Final Long-Term Control Plan. With climate change bringing more intense storms, spending ratepayer money on a lesser solution that may soon prove inadequate doesn't make sense. I sail on the Charles, I value it, and I want people to be able to safely enjoy it for decades to come.	No
E-561	10/1/2026	Juan	Martinez	juancarlosmartinez617@gmail.com	Individual		Revere	MA	It undermines the region's future. The Charles is central to the economic and civic identity of Cambridge, Somerville, and Boston. A dependably clean river supports recreation, property values, tourism, and the kind of quality of life that attracts residents and employers. Normalizing sewage discharges sends the opposite message. It wastes what has already been paid for. Billions in public money bought a 98% reduction in overflows. Locking in the remaining discharges for decades squanders the return on that investment. I urge regulators to reject this draft and require a plan that eliminates discharges to the Charles on a substantially shorter timeline, with enforceable interim milestones and full public reporting. Respectfully, Juan Martinez I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-562	10/1/2026	James	Cerone	jtcerone@gmail.com	Individual		Wakefield	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-563	10/1/2026	Sue	Bartlett	suedevin@verizon.net	Individual	Norwood Town Meeting member	Norwood	MA	I am a Norwood resident, a homeowner, and a member of Norwood's Town Meeting. I am writing to share my concerns about the Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan. I understand why reducing combined sewer overflows into the Charles River, Mystic River and Alewife Brook is important. I always support cleaner waterways and protecting public health. My concern is not with that admirable goal, but with the amount of the cost that could ultimately be passed along to communities like Norwood. The proposed plan is estimated to cost approximately $1.3 billion. The projects themselves are concentrated in the Cambridge, Somerville and Boston areas, while a substantial portion of the cost would be paid through the broader MWRA wastewater system. The Draft Plan estimates the recommended projects at approximately $340 million for Alewife Brook, $260 million for the Upper Mystic River and $690 million for the Charles River. Norwood officials have estimated that the proposed allocation could ultimately result in approximately $36 million in additional debt-service costs to Norwood ratepayers – that represents an enormous additional burden for a community our size to absorb. And this proposal would require Norwood residents to help pay for these projects for decades, even though the new infrastructure would not be located in our community. I understand that Norwood is part of a regional system, and I do not expect every dollar we pay to the MWRA to directly benefit Norwood – that is part of belonging to a regional water and sewer system. But I do believe there should be a reasonable relationship between who receives the direct benefits of a major capital project and who is responsible for paying for it. Norwood also has its own significant water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure needs. Our community has experienced serious stormwater and drainage problems for decades, particularly in the Meadow Brook watershed, and the Town has been studying and planning major drainage improvements in that area of Town. Those improvements will also require substantial capital investment from our community. As a Norwood homeowner, I know that those local infrastructure costs will ultimately have to be paid by Norwood taxpayers and ratepayers. That makes it especially difficult to think about tens of millions of dollars in additional long-term costs for CSO projects located elsewhere. Norwood residents should be able to invest in the infrastructure problems affecting our own neighborhoods while still contributing a reasonable share toward truly regional MWRA needs. We need to strike a fair balance between this proposed regional responsibility and the substantial local infrastructure obligations that communities like Norwood are already facing. I was also concerned to learn that lower-cost alternatives had previously been evaluated, but were not selected for the Draft Recommended Plan. Before committing ratepayers throughout the region to a $1.3 billion plan, I hope the MWRA, Cambridge and Somerville will take another careful look at the alternatives and determine whether the important environmental objectives can be achieved at a lower overall cost. If the current plan does move forward, I strongly encourage the parties to reconsider how the costs are divided. The Draft Plan itself states that the cost-sharing structure used for its financial analysis is provisional and that the actual cost allocation will be subject to future negotiation. I hope that negotiation gives serious consideration to the impact on communities such as Norwood. I do not oppose the environmental goals of this project. I simply believe that protecting our waterways, making responsible infrastructure investments and treating ratepayers fairly should all be factored into the final decision. Thank you for giving residents the opportunity to comment.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-564	10/1/2026	Anita	Bapooji Ryan	abapooji@hotmail.com	Individual		Hingham	MA	Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	No
E-565	10/1/2026	Michaela	Bitterman	michaelatherese89@gmail.com	Individual		Auburndale	MA	My children and I visit Auburndale Cove Park regularly, and they are always trying to walk right up to the edge of the River. While I feel fine when they do this with other bodies of water, the untreated sewage dumped into the Charles means I have to teach them that going to the water's edge is dirty or not safe. We have come so far cleaning up the river! Please keep the momentum going and stop the untreated sewage from being dumped into our beautiful and beloved river. Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-566	10/2/2026	Naomi	Dworkin	naomidworkin@gmail.com	Individual		Belmont	MA	I am writing to express my strong disagreement with efforts to approve and fund a plan that does not fix or even address the overflow allowances of untreated sewage discharges into the Alewife Brook. In fact, the plan will allow for an increase in these discharges! As a retired physician, I cannot believe we are even having this debate in 2026 in the state of Massachusetts. I grew up in northern NJ, and everyone says that area is 'so polluted', but we never had an issue like this in our cities and towns that I ever knew of. The fact that this discharge flows through densely populated areas, recreational areas including bike trails and swim beaches, and social justice areas, makes it even more egregious. The grossly inadequate response to this issue has gone on for years and must change. Even if it can't all be fixed at once for financial reasons, it is unconscionable that some kind of meaningful progress is not being considered. Thank you for your attention to this pressing health and safety problem. Sincerely, Naomi Dworkin, Belmont MA, on the Arlington border	No
E-567	10/2/2026	Rick	Rabin	rick.rabin@masscosh.org	Individual		Arlington	MA	We need a plan that provides virtual Elimination of CSOs in our rivers; and is a climate resilient strategy of sewer separation with green stormwater infrastructure, which scales with increase in reainfall.	No
E-568	10/2/2026	Resa	Blatman	resablatman@gmail.com	Individual			MA	Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-569	10/2/2026	Luke	Schkeryantz	lukeschkeryantz@gmail.com	Individual			MA	I'm sure you will see all of these many times but I have included the text below because it's important. However the key is that we do not let sewage into the rivers. Right now is the cheapest it will ever be to prevent sewage overflow. We cannot go down a path which doesn't prevent this because in 10 years it might not be economically feasible to do this right. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. 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Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. 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At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	No
E-570	10/2/2026	Naomi	Bailis	naomibailis@gmail.com	Individual			MA	The updated CSO plan will be like putting a bandaid on a gunshot wound. It is short arming the communities who live and recreate along Alewife Brook as it does precious little to ameliorate the outflow of raw sewage that already does will most certainly in the future overtop its banks. The current plan does almost nothing to address the effects of climate change that will most certainly affect Alewife Brook and the communities that adjoin it. Do the right thing please. Create a plan that will genuinely address the effects of overflow sewage now and address the overflows of the near future as climate change is here and not in the future. Create a plan that will be fully resilient to climate change and the kind of storms that climate change causes. Zero sewage outflow must be the goal. Anything less is making the statement that these communities don't matter and Alewife Brook doesn't matter. Governor Healey, I have voted for you. I am watching. If you want to keep me as your constituent please do better.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-571	10/2/2026	Nolan	DiDonato	nolandidonato1@gmail.com	Individual		Charlestown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-572	10/2/2026	Desi	Trainor	Dtra92@gmail.com	Individual		Newton	MA	To have a proposal to eliminate this on going practice would make more sense that to let this discussing practice continue . Infrastructure money must be available to assist with this project from the fed government and local Mass money I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-573	10/3/2026	Gina	Sonder	gina.sonder@gm.slc.edu	Individual		Arlington	MA	MassDEP and EPA; The current Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan does not adequately account for the predicted increase in severe weather. The Draft CSO Plan for Alewife Brook watershed is undersized for future storms. It does not address the watershed as a whole, and the possibility of mitigation through the preservation (ei: the Belmont Uplands) and creation of additional wetlands (ie: Alewife Stormwater Wetland.) The Control Plan must continue to be a mutli-pronged-mitigation strategy. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. In the current design, a single common 2050 5-year storm will still discharge 15.6 million gallons of untreated sewage and stormwater into Alewife Brook. According to MWRA's Unified Typical Year Model, a 5-year storm under baseline conditions today discharges 10.53 million gallons into the Brook. The Draft Plan therefore results in Alewife Brook receiving nearly 50% more CSO volume in a common future 5-year storm than it receives today. The Draft Plan does not keep up with climate change. MWRA's own baseline for a 2050 5-year storm at Alewife Brook is 20.9 million gallons. The Plan proposes to have the capacity to store 5.3 million gallons, capturing only one quarter of the volume and leaving 15.6 million gallons of sewage and stormwater into the Alewife Brook. HOW THE 15.6 MILLION GALLON FIGURE IS DERIVED PDF (https://savethealewifebrook.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/The-Draft-ULTCP-is-not-Resilient-to-Climate-Change.pdf) CSO Plan does not keep up with Climate Change at Alewife Brook Please consider mitigation through sewer separation, wetland protection, restoration, and increased capture capacity.	Yes
E-574	10/3/2026	Sean	Dooley	spdoolz1+votervoice@gmail.com	Individual		Brighton	MA	I'm writing as a Boston resident who kayaks on the Charles River and walks along it regularly, to ask that the Final Long Term Control Plan adopt a stronger level of CSO control than the draft recommends. As a kayaker, I'm in direct contact with the water, and the river is considered unsafe for 48 hours after each overflow. Those closures come right after storms, often when people most want to be out on the river. On my walks, I value seeing a healthy river with fish and birds. Sewage overflows can work against that by adding nutrients that fuel algae blooms, lowering oxygen for fish, and carrying trash and contaminants that harm wildlife. I appreciate that the draft plans for heavier rainfall and would end overflows in a typical 2050 year. But the draft would still allow overflows into the Charles during larger storms, and storms of that size are becoming more frequent. I ask that MWRA: 1. Adopt the highest level of control the cost analysis shows to be affordable, ideally no CSOs in the 2050 25-year storm. 2. Present more clearly how household cost and expected overflows compare across each level of control, and how much post-storm bacteria comes from CSOs versus stormwater. 3. Include enforceable interim milestones and public reporting, given that past targets have not been fully met. 4. Protect lower-income ratepayers through rate relief rather than a weaker plan. As a Boston ratepayer whose sewer bill helps fund MWRA, I'm willing to pay my share for a stronger plan. Infrastructure built now will serve the region for generations. It should be built for the storms we'll actually face.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-575	10/3/2026	Denis	Kalthofer	deniskalthofer@aol.com	Individual		Medford	MA	The current updated CSO plan does not address future storms as the climate changes. I don't see how you possibly can separate the residential and street sewage systems virtually. The only solution is to take the hit now and actually separate the two systems. The cost of doing it later is just going to get worse.	No
E-576	10/3/2026	Pamela	Osborne-Williams	pamelaosbornewilliams@gmail.com	Individual		Waltham	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-577	10/3/2026	Kate	Schell	cschell316@yahoo.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	I love the Charles River, the Mystic River and the Alewife Brook. I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the waterways cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River, Mystic River & Alewife Brook. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-578	10/3/2026	Anne	Linders	anneglinders@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I'm a local Somerville resident that lives right by the Alewife Brook. I run along the Brook, and would like to see the Alewife Brook, and in turn the Charles River, be free from sewage. This simply will not stand. Any amount of sewage in the waterways is too much. I want to kayak down these waterways, but my friends are too afraid of being exposed to sewage and other contaminants. Do the right thing, and take sewage out of our waterways!! The locals call the Alewife Brook "The Poopy Creek". Don't turn the Charles River into "the poopy river" and keep sewage out of the Charles! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-579	10/4/2026	Susannah	Ellis	sussie.girl@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-580	10/4/2026	Milea	Priebe	miles.priebe@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-581	10/4/2026	Sandra	Panzarella	slpanzarella@gmail.com	Individual		Bronx	NY	This is how we keep our country clean . Where are ones who want, keep America clean? I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-582	10/4/2026	Hanna	Van Belle	hanna@data-rich.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent	No
E-583	10/4/2026	Shannon	Fay	shannonfay09@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I am writing in support of a clean and healthy Charles River, and the rejection of any measure that allows dumping sewage into the Charles. I and thousands of Bostonians and visitors walk along the Charles each day. We do NOT want to see, smell, or know that there is sewage floating along next to us. A healthy waterway , free of sewage and pollutants, is key to public health, access to healthy outdoor areas for exercise and leisure, and for the many living creatures and nature that rely on the water Charles River provides. It is unimaginable that in 2026 and beyond, there could even be a consideration for dumping sewage water into a waterway. It's disgusting, unhealthy, and a risk to people, animals, and the soil around the Charles. Please reject this measure. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-584	10/4/2026	Marcia	Ciro	r87933@gmail.com	Individual		Watertown	MA	I am a concerned citizen living near the Charles River in Watertown and have been following the Save the Alewife Brook's and CRWA's campaign for a cleaner Charles River. We were promised a clean river years ago -- DO NOT BACK DOWN ON THIS PROMISE. I walk on the paths by the river and frequently kayak it. I CARE about this river. Fix the CSO plan so that it eliminates sewerage outfalls!	No
E-585	10/4/2026	Bridget	Ulian	bridget.ulian@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I run by, sail on, kayak on, and walk by the Charles nearly every day. Boston, as one New York transplant told me, would be the best city in the US if only the Charles were swimmable. Dumping sewage into the Charles only pushes this goal, for the good of all Boston, Cambridge, and greater Boston residents, back by decades. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-586	10/4/2026	Jane	Dineen	janedineen@gmail.com	Individual		Lovell	ME	What!? No way. Disgusting, we shouldn't need to live with this. I love the Charles River; Please don't use it— and the ocean it runs into—as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people from enjoying the river and destroys the ecosystem. Your data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations. We have an opportunity to invest in infrastructure and end the practice of dumping sewage in water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at a cost; however, the benefits justify the cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution that can make people sick, less aesthetic impairment, a healthy river, and healthy life in the river and on its shores. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-587	10/4/2026	Dylan	Strickland	dylansstrickland@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-588	10/5/2026	Amara	Good	amaragood@gmail.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-589	10/5/2026	Gould	Susan	sgould@challiance.org	Individual			MA	IS THERE ANYBODY LISTENING ? DOES ANYBODY CARE? WHO IS WATCHING THE WATCHMEN IT IS JUST NOT FAIR. Why try not TRY to fix the mess that is happening now AND BEWARE Before you step in ____ maybe then you will care.	No
E-590	10/5/2026	ted	schantz	ted.schantz@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	The proposed plan is unworkable because the proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. We are already seeing a rapid increase in the effects of climate change and the federal government's head in the sand attitude - let not copy their short sighted attitude towards addressing climate changes impacts on water and sanitation infrastructure. Don't let your legacy include a bridge to nowhere that just brings us back quickly to where we are today	No
E-591	10/5/2026	Yem	Lip	ylip@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG	Malden Engineering	City of Malden	Malden	MA	Please see attached comments from Mayor Christenson pertaining to Updated CSO Control Plan.	Yes
E-592	10/6/2026	Jeannean	Socha	sabrinaspellmen78@gmail.com	Individual		Boston	MA	I think we should be dumping more sewage in too the Charles river. In fact too save money close the treated sewage plant dump all the sewage into the Charles river. I know alot of people that feel the same. In fact we hava a petion out close sewage plants in Boston Cambridge dump all the raw sewage i'n the Charles river I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-593	10/6/2026	Rachel	Nardin	rnardin40@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	As a Cambridge resident, I support keeping sewage out of the Charles river. However, Cambridgeport has very little pleasant frontage on the Charles—mostly narrow pedestrian paths above the river and abutted by the traffic of Memorial Dr. Rendering several acres of Magazine Beach unusable and unsightly would be a huge loss to the community. Please consider alternative plans for the proposed storage tank (placing it underground, making several smaller tanks dispersed in various areas so as to minimize the sacrifice of Magazine Beach, using the parking lot as the placement for the tank). Wildlife and human life need green space and replacing a large chunk of Magazine beach with a large, fenced industrial object would be a short sighted plan.	No
E-594	10/6/2026	Isabelle	Ruesch	iruesch5@gmail.com	Individual		Brockton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-595	10/6/2026	David	Lemmel	dlemmel1@gmail.com	Individual		Winthrop	MA	As a 58 year old I grew up with the Super Fund Charles River. It was rare to see people touching the water then. Now as a Boston Public school PE teacher I sail, windsurf, paddle board, and take my students to canoe for those first time on the Charles. We definitely cannot turn back now! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-596	10/6/2026	Hilary	Flores-Hebert	hhebert01@gmail.com	Individual		Revere	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-597	10/6/2026	Fritz	Holznagel	fritzholz@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	Thanks for letting me comment on the updated CSO Control Plan for Somerville and Cambridge. A lot of hard work has clearly gone into this plan, and I know that much of it is driven by legal requirements beyond our cities' control. That said: I'm stunned that we're planning to pay over a BILLION dollars -- a quarter-billion dollars in Somerville alone -- for CSO work that affects only a tiny portion of the real problem. The report itself says that these planned changes "will not result in water quality improvements that allow for more days of swimmable or fishable waters." That seems to be because the contribution of sewage to the problem is swamped (so to speak) by stormwater overflow, which won't be fixed by this plan. The executive summary puts that in bold lettering: the influence of other sources, mainly stormwater and upstream sources, continue to be the primary cause of water quality impacts during most storm events with or without CSOs. So this seems like a colossal expenditure for very little return. Could this huge amount of money not be better spent in mitigating stormwater through urban design and other measures? Or might it not be better spent on other critical climate change problems our cities will face in the coming decades? I'm passionate about good water and air quality in our communities, and I'm willing to be taxed to make it happen. But this plan, while well-meant, seems to devote a huge amount of our available resources to fix one of the tiniest parts of our current and future problems.	No

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E-598	10/6/2026	Lisa	Stapleton	Lmstape@aol.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-599	10/6/2026	Edward	Grund	quampro@gmail.com	Individual		Stow	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-600	10/6/2026	Ben	Mazzotta	ben.mazzotta@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	The CSO Plan to install a multi-acre storage tank on public park land is an abomination that must be stopped. The public park at Magazine Beach is an immensely valuable public asset. It is a wetland, a community asset, and a shared public space. No politician would dare to suggest that the land be taken for commercial purposes such as residential or commercial development. I am horrified that the CSO Control Plan proposes to take several acres of public park land for a storm water control facility that amounts to a giant, industrial tank fenced off from the public. Why? Because this is the least costly approach. If you value the opportunity cost of the public land at zero, of course building on the park land appears to be the most cost effective solution. The land proposed for taking is far too valuable to assign to this use. If a 2+ acre site is needed for the tank, then the plan should propose to obtain that at market rates and not by simply taking green space away from residents of the Commonwealth. This is the wrong facility at the wrong site. Build the tunnel or find a different site for the tank. This is not the way.	No
E-601	10/6/2026	Schuyler	King	schuylerking97@gmail.com	Individual		Brookline	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-602	10/7/2026	WILLIAM	HARROW	billy.harrow@gmail.com	Individual		Roslindaale	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-603	10/7/2026	Spenser	Johnson	spenserjohnson56@gmail.com	Individual		Jamaica Plain	MA	I want to be able to swim in the river. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-604	10/7/2026	Peter	Lubetsky	peterlubetsky@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	Are you seriously trying to steal magazine beach from us? Hundreds of people use that space to play sports on every week. If you move forward there will be civil disobedience to stop or stall this project, it will be like the inner belt round two.	No
E-605	10/7/2026	Adriana	Prat	agprat@hotmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	While as a resident of Cambridge, I recognize the need to resolve combined sewer overflow control for the city, the proposal that was has been recently presented must not take place. In looking into the various details of the MWRA proposal, it is clear that this plans as described would I effectively destroy Magazine Beach, which has been restored after so many years and become the much needed natural habitat in Cambridge where vegetation, people and wild life converge. As a passionate environmental activist, I appreciate that climate change is being considered but killing part of a natural ecosystem is not the solution either. A project that would take away acres of our beloved park and make big chunks of it inaccessible for years is not acceptable in our community. Thank you very much for your attention on this critical matter,	No
E-606	10/7/2026	Renee	Scott	rts02143@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-607	10/7/2026	Nick	Palermo	nick@greaterbostonpca.com	Director of Public Affairs	Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association	Braintree	MA	Please find attached our comments regarding the Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan Public Comment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. We appreciate your consideration and look forward to continuing the conversation.	Yes
E-608	10/7/2026	Taylor	Bernice	btaylor@cambridgema.gov	Administrative Assistant, L2	City of Cambridge	Cambridge	MA	FYI – attached is a Policy Order regarding Combined Sewer Overflow Planning, that was adopted by the Cambridge City Council at the City Council meeting held on Monday, October 5, 2026.	Yes
E-609	10/7/2026	Aoife	Kelly	akelly@walpole-ma.gov	Director of Administrative Services	Town Administrator's Office (Walpole)	Walpole	MA	On behalf of the Walpole Select Board please find attached our comments and concerns regarding the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. Thank you for considering the Town of Walpole's perspective.	Yes
E-610	10/7/2026	Renee	Coakley	reneecoak@aol.com	Individual		Boston	MA	As a 25-year resident of Boston, I appreciate the many neighborhoods that make this city lively. The Charles River is a key part of the city and a cleaner river is important for so many reasons. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of taxpayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

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E-611	10/7/2026	Ilona	Fried	ilona2@gmail.com	Individual		Needham Heights	MA	I fear for the wildlife that will be impacted by this plan; nature needs our support. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-612	10/7/2026	Kathryn	Sievers	soxsiren@hotmail.com	Individual		Arlington	MA	We need to stop treating our waterways like trash cans. My family likes to sail and we like to take care of the earth, and we like to make sure animals we share our planet with have a chance to live healthy lives. Please reject the plan to dump crap into the river. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-613	10/7/2026	Ida	Depina	freddbar245@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	MA	I hear some absolute madmen in movies and shows, sometimes even in real life, saying that they swim in that rank, dirty, feces ridden, murky river; honestly it's really sad how my first response to that is disgust. There's no reason that our most iconic river should have waste be pumped into it day after day. People admire the river's view, but can't enjoy walking their dogs by it as it could be dangerous for them and their pet's health if they get in it and no one can fish from the river for the same reason. We're one of the greatest cities in America, but for some reason we can't even manage to properly manage our most beloved river? I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-614	10/7/2026	Connolly	Mike	Mike.Connolly@mahouse.gov	State Representative	26th Middlesex District	Boston	MA	See attached pdf	Yes
E-615	10/8/2026	Tyhgita	Cespedes	tyhthedancer@icloud.com			East Boston	MA	It is imperative we do not contaminate water in our community at this time more than ever! The costs will outweigh any profits if this is not heeded. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-616	10/8/2026	Alysha	Dohallow	alysha.dohallow@gmail.com			Roslindale	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-617	10/8/2026	Rachel	Elevathingal	rach.thingal@gmail.com			Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-618	10/8/2026	Sophia	MacKinnon	sophia@betterfutureproject.org			Dedham	MA	CSO's are a problem cities have been dealing with for a long time due to outdated infrastructure. Why continue to invest in them? I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-619	10/8/2026	STEPHEN	BRODY	stbbrody@aol.com			Norwood	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-620	10/8/2026	Laura	Saylor	jwantotoemaillaura@yahoo.com			Arlington	MA	Thank you for taking time to solicit public opinion abou the plan to control CSO's at Alewife. This has been a historically polluted area and it is time we change history! I live in Arlington- just a block from the Alewife Brook, and I have three children who has spent countless hours playing near and walking/biking around the Alewife reservation. My kids were frustrated and sad when they were young when I had to tell them again and again that they could not play in the water so near our house because it was so polluted. In spite of these precautions, many women in our neighborhood have gotten cancer and we wonder if it's from chemicals buried in the ground long ago that have been resurfaced with flooding (we have an open investigation with the MA Department of Environmental Protection, and Department of Health). For the last hundred years humans have been making destructive decisions in our neighborhood that harm public health and inhibit children's capabilities to play freely and safely. It's time we turn that tide around. My children love nature and wish we could see fish in the brook again as there used to be….the very reason Alewife is named Alewife. Thank you for doing what's best for our health!	No
E-621	10/8/2026	Aesclinn	Donohue	aesclinn.donohue@gmail.com			Jamaica Plain	MA	As a resident of the Boston area for the last 8+ years, it's important to me that not only do we plan for a clean, safe environment today, but also for the future. A future which will involve more, not fewer, heavy rain events. Let's come up with a plan that meets the moment and sets us up for the future, not one that pretends that today's best case scenario average is likely to play out long term. I would rather see upfront investment now in a truly clean Charles River than temporary cost savings for a world where this body of water is increasingly unusable and contributes to public health concerns. I'm joining my voice with the Charles River Watershed Association to ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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E-622	10/8/2026	Marian	Ferro	attila5@comcast.net			Watertown	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-623	10/8/2026	Michelle	Schou	athousandshells@gmail.com			Cambridgeport	MA	I am a Cambridge resident and live in Cambridgeport. I also work as a nurse in Cambridge. I am very concerned about the updated plans that were at first a conservative disruption of Magazine beach parks area. The first plans indicated no security fencing and little disruption of Magazine park. Now there is plans to utilize 8 acres! Along with permanent fencing. The park has been 16 years in improvement and it is heavily utilized as a much needed green space. I think this can be better thoughtfully thought out to create minimal impact on Magazine beach green space.	No
E-624	10/9/2026	Harold	Schaut	schauthj@gmail.com			Boston	MA	I walk near and around the Charles River often. Be it to decompress after a stressful day after work, to get my dog out and enjoy the smells and sounds of nature, or show friends from out of town the beauty of the city . Please work to ban all sewer outflows into the Charles and fix the outdated system to create a cleaner river to be around. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change	No
E-625	10/9/2026	Norm	Rosen	inorm99@yahoo.com			Boxborough	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-626	10/9/2026	Julianne	Giannetto	jgiannetto1@gmail.com			Gloucester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-627	10/9/2026	Alan	Palm	alan@betterfutureproject.org			Belmont	MA	Fresh clean water is one of the most valuable resources we have, the benefits of a clean river will compound over time making for a healthier ecosystem and community. We will not regret making the necessary investments to keep raw sewage out of the Charles. It is our duty to take on difficult tasks to leave our environment better than we found it. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-628	10/9/2026	Mohan	Hathi	mohanh123456@gmail.com			Cambridge	MA	This is such an important issue. Please listen to us and protect the Charles. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-629	10/9/2026	Monik	Shepherd	shepmosu@gmail.com			Brighton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-630	10/9/2026	James	Kim	jikim@post.harvard.edu			Brookline	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-631	10/9/2026	Brennan	Clark	brennanstclark@gmail.com			Cambridge	MA	I think that your acts here are shameful and against the public interest. You should reevaluate the public you serve. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-632	10/9/2026	Mary	McManus	mmcmanus007@gmail.com			Canton	MA	I used to love kayaking on the Charles River, but no more. The amount of sewerage in the over is truly disgusting. This beautiful natural resource is being destroyed. Please stop this now! I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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E-633	10/9/2026	Amelia	Ray	ameliaray88@gmail.com			Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-634	10/10/2026	Joanne	Dargan-Johnson	jmdargan59@gmail.com			Brookline	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. Healey's SHIELD executive order clearly states her executive powers Modernize the DOW and a shift towards a National Security Defense Ecosystem. This sets a president to put the defense ecosystem as a priority over Massachusetts states domestic ecosystem. The push to re-direct Massachusetts residents domestic ecosystem towards a defense ecosystem could be irreversible and violates MA States Constitutional Rights, in particular amendment 10. The defense ecosystem is already privileged with National Federal 1.7 trillion we pay and the 17-million state funds that Healey's giving towards the defense ecosystem via SHIELD executive orders could be used for teachers, students, hospitals, fixing the sewage over spilling into our rivers, oceans and neighboring states water like Connecticut. That's a catastrophic health issue that has environmental and could permanently affect drinking water. Healey only reports 17-million state funding in the SHIELD project but the Davey's agency working hand-in-hand with the Governor's administration to execute the economic growth, regional competitiveness, and international investments targeted by the Mass Wins initiative reported that the SHIELD Innovation Initiative within the Mass Wins Act reports the state allocates $100 million specifically for SHIELD, an initiative dedicated to defense sector innovation and security. Either 17-million or 100-million state funding should prioritize sanitary conditions an FIX THE SEWAGE HAZARD! Neighboring states lawsuits could cost Massachusetts more than just fixing a health hazard. Healey's executive powers to shift towards requiring commercial viability preconditioned to National Defense Ecosystem neglects local, state, & federal grants for domestic ecosystem. Local, state and federal grants should support a worldly occupational curriculum. Books not bombs. Education is about more than war technology. But Healey's putting most all financial funds into the Defense ecosystem. Without Congressional oversight her SHIELD executive order order the Modernize the Department of War. The annual defense spending is alarming! Bleeding Massachusetts domestic ecosystem and the residents who pay for it and who are left with trillions of debt deserve better. Davey's agency works hand-in-hand with the Governor's administration to execute the economic growth, regional competitiveness, and international investments targeted by the Mass Wins initiative. Healey needs to prioritize SEWAGE literally flooding our states.	
E-635	10/10/2026	Brenda	Martinez	bosbrendam@gmail.com			Wayland	MA	Please consider a cleaner and long term solution for the Charles. It's used by families for all sort of water activities. It be nice to be able to visit and put your hand in the water without worrying what bacteria is growing or you could potential go home with. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-636	10/10/2026	Kiran	Khosla	kkhosla97@gmail.com			Boston	MA	The Charles River is integrate to the Boston identity. It is how we recreate-- we look out while walking, running, biking, picnicing, and we see the river flow. The Charles River is key to our wellness. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-637	10/10/2026	Madeleine	de Foras	madeleinedeforas@gmail.com			Chestnut Hill	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-638	10/10/2026	Jeannean	Socha	sabrinaspellman78@gmail.com			Boston	MA	I think we need too shut down all are treated sewage plants in state. It Will save state millions of dollars. We can add police funding for schoosl fire department emts more money for housing. Roads. Transit. Transit police. Dump raw sewage all of it in charles river thank You. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
									According to MWRA's executive director, eliminating combined sewer overflow sewage pollution in the Alewife, Mystic, and Charles would cost MWRA's households just $45 more per year than the current plan. $45 a year is less than mwras annual sewer rate increase. The money is there. ------ Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed.	

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-639	10/11/2026	Aaron	Miller	aaronscottmiller@gmail.com					I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	No
E-640	10/11/2026	Yvonne	Fraser	ms.yvonne.fraser@gmail.com					I have heard about CSO sewage discharges in Alewife and Charles River. I would pay an extra $45 a year so this wouldn't happen. Please consider! We need to take care of nature as she provides so much for us.	No
E-641	10/11/2026	Madeline	Florio	madelineflorio@gmail.com			Boston	MA	and how do you serve it? Our lives are livable because of the harmonu of our natural environments. When we are careless with natural resources, it is not only them but also we who will suffer. You deserve healthy, swimmable, drinkable water. So do I. As policymakers I implore you to think of the lives touched by your decisions. The fish deserve livable homes, the birds deserve drinkable rivers, and the people deserve to live in harmony with nature. Please ensure that we cut the crap.	No
E-642	10/11/2026	Miriam	Komaromy	mkomaromy1@gmail.com			Roslindale	MA	All of life on this planet depends on clean water. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-643	10/11/2026	Catherine	Gibbons	cmgccg@gmail.com			Worcester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-644	10/11/2026	Alfred	Wilson	alfwilson33@gmail.com			Marblehead	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-645	10/11/2026	Ezra	Ellis	ezraellis314@gmail.com			Brighton	MA	I live right across from the Charles river, and the stench of sewage overflow makes enjoying sitting or walking on that stretch of the river often unbareable. When I moved into my current apartment, I looked forward to frequent kayaking on the river. Now, it is simply too dangerous to do that as someone who is immunocompromised. I have had neighbors dogs die from illness after drinking the water. The Charles river is a key part of the identity of what makes the greater Boston area the greater Boston area. It defines our sky line, our Fourth of July fire works, the head of the Charles, and both Cambridge and Boston hospitals as well as numerous college campuses overlooking these waters. We host children's events like movie nights, playgrounds that allow ice cream trucks, and splash pads and pools overlooking the water. It is disgusting that after the duck boat roll over my first thought was wondering if individuals would be harmed not from the collision but from contact with the water! I used to live at alewife, and know the problem of the sewage overflow in those areas too and had neighbors whose dogs died. It's absolutely disgusting we are treating our water ways as toilets. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-646	10/12/2026	Vivian	Girard	vivian81260@gmail.com			Dorchester	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-647	10/12/2026	Lois	Josimovich	loiswrite@gmail.com			Belmont	MA	I'm writing to strongly oppose the MWRA's draft updated CSO Long-Term Control Plan. Instead, I urge you in the strongest terms to immediately adopt much better available plans to stop harmful CSO discharges entirely--with best outcomes for community health and environmental welfare well into the future. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. **Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years.** MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. **People have gotten sick. This must end.** River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm! Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! **The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed.** I 100% support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. We MUST finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. **Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure.** I ask you to strongly reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Additionally and importantly: Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving Alewife an open sewer forever?	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-648	10/12/2026	Raquel	Lopez	raq0304@gmail.com			Shrewsbury	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-649	10/13/2026	George	Richmond	nanmrichmond2@gmail.com			North Easton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-650	10/13/2026	Kirsty	Bennett	kirsty1@gmail.com			Arlington	MA	I believe that we need to be realistic about climate change, not cross our fingers and hope for the best. We can't be a world class location if a major artery and wildlife lifeline that cuts through communities of thousands is filled with raw sewage. I think we can do better, not kick the can down the road and hope someone in the future will fix it. We are the ones we have been waiting for.	No
E-651	10/13/2026	Kirsty	Bennett	kirsty1@gmail.com			Arlington	MA	I believe that we need to be realistic about climate change, not cross our fingers and hope for the best. We can't be a world class location if a major artery and wildlife lifeline that cuts through communities of thousands is filled with raw sewage. I think we can do better, not kick the can down the road and hope someone in the future will fix it. We are the ones we have been waiting for.	No
E-652	10/13/2026	Caraline	Levy	meycasa@gmail.com			Cambridge	MA	I am writing as a Cambridgeport resident to express strong objections to the draft CSO proposal for Magazine Beach Park. While I support clean water goals for the Charles River, building a 75-foot-deep holding tank and staging area that permanently fences off 2.3 acres and shuts down 6+ acres for eight years is an unacceptable destruction of our parkland. I urge the project team to address the following prior to finalizing any plan: Evaluate Upstream & Decentralized Alternatives: Relying on a single mega-tank at the river edge concentrates severe disruption in a heavily used neighborhood park. MWRA must evaluate distributed, smaller holding facilities, green infrastructure, and micro-tunneling under upstream industrial or paved areas to intercept storm flows higher up the basin. Assess Less Destructive On-Site Footprints: If storage near the river is proven essential, it should not take the path of least resistance by consuming active recreational fields. The team must analyze placing facilities under existing parking lots or roadway footprints near the BU Bridge, or burying structures deep enough to allow full soil restoration and unrestricted public surface use above. Protect Winter Recreation & Park Access: Magazine Beach is a vital sanctuary for active and passive recreation, including winter cross-country skiing along open fields and the Paul Dudley White Path. An 8-year industrial construction zone, 24/7 mining, and heavy truck traffic will destroy this open space and eliminate essential winter recreation. Account for Cumulative Infrastructure Impacts: Combining an 8-year sewer construction project with DCR's work on the Reid Rotary and Memorial Drive corridor will cause unprecedented, continuous disruption to traffic, air quality, safety, and daily life in Cambridgeport. Address Rates & Equity: Projecting steep, multi-decade water and sewer rate hikes that hit lower- and middle-income residents hardest—while simultaneously stripping away their neighborhood park—is inequitable. I request that MWRA and the City of Cambridge re-evaluate the screening process and present alternatives that preserve Magazine Beach Park as functional open green space.	No
E-653	10/13/2026	Richard	Clifford	rclifford5778@comcast.net			Milton	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-654	10/13/2026	David	Guiry	davidguiry12@gmail.com			Middleton	MA	I mean come on man is mister burns Simpson activities. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-655	10/13/2026	Henriette	Lazaridis	3_whistle_boxier@icloud.com			Cambridge	MA	I am a rower who has spent 35 years on the Charles, noting days when the waer is unsafe because of the sewer overflows. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-656	10/13/2026	DAVID	POTTLE	vacpot@verizon.net			Burlington	MA	Over the past four decades, MWRA's ratepayers have funded significant infrastructure improvements to substantially reduce the frequency, duration and volume of combined sewer overflows from MWRA's and its member communities' sewer systems. MWRA has to date spent more than $1.5B on CSO control, which, on a per capita basis, may be more than any other major sewer services provider has spent on CSO control in the United States. Under its Draft Updated CSO Control Plan, MWRA is now proposing to nearly double its CSO control spending - by an estimated $1.3B - for the purpose of only incrementally reducing CSOs and, importantly, only marginally improving receiving water quality. Any proposed government spending must be evaluated in the context of all public needs. In this case, it should be self-evident even to a casual observer that spending $1.3B for limited further reductions in local intermittent combined sewer overflows with only limited improvements to be realized in receiving water quality will provide substantially fewer benefits to the public than would a similar level of investment (regardless of state funding mechanism) in other necessary services such as health care, housing, drinking water, education, transportation and public safety - and these types of services benefit significantly more people across many more communities on a daily basis. To be clear, no one would argue reducing CSOs isn't important, and no one would argue those affected by occasional precipitation related discharges shouldn't seek sewer system improvements, but MWRA's spending for CSO control has already exceeded the point of greatly diminishing returns and there are many other needs its ratepayers must fund. As such, on a dollars to be spent for benefits to be provided basis, MWRA's Draft Updated CSO Control Plan must be considered a flawed proposal. MWRA's Draft Updated CSO Control Plan does not represent the best use of limited ratepayer monies and should not be advanced in its $1.3B form. MWRA would better serve its member communities by partnering with other major sewer service providers on the national level to more aggressively seek meaningful financial assistance in its efforts to address the costly (and, for all practical purposes, federally unfunded) CSO control mandates, to ensure regulatory consistency in the interpretation and enforcement of those mandates, and, as applicable, to seek regulatory relief where strict and very expensive compliance provides relatively little benefit. Also, MWRA would more equitably serve its member communities by requiring greater financial participation in its CSO control efforts by the member communities that have combined sewers. For their part, all of MWRA's sewer member communities would better serve operation of the regional sewer system by redoubling their efforts to have property owners remove and redirect sump pump and drainage discharges. Wastewater flows from the separate sewer communities consistently rise when it rains, providing clear indication many such connections to the sewer system exist and these connections should be identified and permanently removed. Finally, if the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is seriously concerned with environmental justice, it would better serve its citizens by ensuring major capital investments by its various agencies and authorities are prioritized more toward projects that environmentally benefit lower income communities, such as MassDOT replacing the Tobin Bridge with a tunnel, rather than MWRA providing intermittently slightly better receiving water quality for higher income residents living near parklands.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-657	10/13/2026	Michael	Epstein	mfepstein@gmail.com			Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-658	10/13/2026	Hazen	Emerson	hazene10@gmail.com			Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-659	10/13/2026	Jesse	Gordon	jgordon@randolph-ma.gov	.	Town of Randolph	Randolph	MA	I'm opposed to Randolph funding the Cambridge-Somerville CSO project — and to the watershed groups, I think you should be opposed too! I oppose Randolph contributing through the MWRA, on equity grounds. I do support Somerville and Cambridge conducting their CSO projects, on the environmental grounds cited in the watershed group letter below. But the wealthy cities of Somerville and Cambridge should not burden Randolph and other environmental justice communities with this cost. It is literally a redistribution TO wealthier communities FROM less-wealthy communities! The MWRA is a fine organization, but they have NOT helped Randolph financially with our water needs! We share a reservoir with two other MWRA communities, Braintree and Holbrook (I.e. we do not use MWRA water). Those three towns must pay millions to clean up PFAS infiltrating our reservoir (a half million a year, for many decades). It would be great if MWRA charged all the other communities to pay for our PFAS cleanup — but they're not going to! Those three towns, and most of the South Shore MWRA communities, are in the Neponset watershed and/or the Weymouth Fore watershed. The MWRA should exclude those communities, and charge only the communities in the Charles watershed and the Mystic watershed. Or charge less to communities in other watersheds. Furthermore, our tri-town area should be excluded because we are not part of the MWRA Water Communities. The example the watershed groups cite below benefitted "Canton, Westwood, Norwood, Dedham, and Stoughton" — all our South Shore neighbors — and all are MWRA water communities! Our three towns are excluded from your list because we have funded our own water supply for decades— without any help from MWRA, as my PFAS example illustrates. You pose this question: "Is the Distribution of CSO Control Costs Equitable?" — the answer is "no". To be equitable, the CSO cost distribution should include two factors: 1) is the MWRA member an MWRA Water community? 2) is the MWRA member in the Charles watershed or Mystic watershed? If the answer is "no" to both, the equitable cost share is zero. I'm looking at the MWRA Water Community map, and the vast majority of towns DO meet one of those two criteria. I advocate that THOSE communities share the CSO cost. I believe the Town of Randolph has already sent the MWRA a letter saying much the same as this letter — and we voted last week to send a letter from the Town Council too. The vote was unanimous that it is inequitable to charge Randolph. You can view the discussion and vote, at http://108.20.229.83/internetchannel/show/3564?channel=2 from 1:43 to 1:51, including my comments on inequity. I have worked with both the NepRWA (most recently on signage along the Neponset Greenway) and the Charles watershed group (when I lived in Cambridge and Waltham). I would be happy to address both groups in person to try to persuade you to support a more equitable cost-sharing such as I propose above. An alternative equitable cost-sharing would be this: —The tri-towns pay a share of the CSO project, and the MWRA funds our PFAS cleanup. In other words, make our three towns a beneficiary of MWRA water projects, and then it's equitable that we contribute to MWRA CSO projects. Our estimate of PFAS cleanup might cost $500,000 per year, for "GAC Filter Recharging". That goes on for decades because PFAS is leaching slowly out of a Superfund site in Holbrook, and the EPA has declined to further clean up the PFAS. Our Town Manager reports that the MWRA's proposed CSO cost share for Randolph is a minimum of $25 million over 30 years— that is a comparable cost to our PFAS. I would advocate FOR Randolph participating in the CSO in exchange for the MWRA permanently funding our tri-town PFAS cleanup.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-660	10/13/2026	Jessica	King	jessicabking@gmail.com			Somerville	MA	Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. E. coli counts run nearly 1,000 times above EPA's safe-contact level, and residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms, and other pathogens. People have gotten sick. This must end. River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits wildlife biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration. Restoring the river could also provide needed flood storage. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. Let's invest in a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. There is public parkland available for Green Stormwater Infrastructure, to support wildlife. Complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes and some of West Somerville. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure like storage tanks or a tunnel on Alewife parkland. That is not a park amenity. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. I support the Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. It eliminates CSOs, reduces SSOs, reduces flooding, improves water quality, and can be funded by MWRA. Cambridge's Alewife MBTA outfall (CAM401A) discharges roughly 70% of Alewife sewage and is the worst in the MWRA system. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Finish sewer separation in North Cambridge and re-route Somerville's combined sewage to an existing treatment facility. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife MBTA garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Sewage floodwater reaches the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Unhoused residents living near the outfalls are especially exposed. Continuing CSO discharges here is an equity failure as well as a public health failure. Reject MWRA's proposed Water Quality Standard revision. A downgrade rolls back decades of progress and locks in four times more sewage by 2050 under climate change. Alewife Brook is Class B: safe for human contact, healthy fish, no untreated sewage. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy; how can the state justify leaving a Alewife an open sewer forever?	No
E-661	10/14/2026	Robert	Ellsworth	streamlineusa@gmail.com			Cambridge	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-662	10/14/2026	Linda	Orel	lindajorel@yahoo.com			Sharon	MA	I'm reaching out as a resident of Sharon, MA, which has greatly benefited from invstments made by the MWRA in drinking water redundancy improvements to the Southern Extra High System that provided emergency needs for Sharon. This system illustrates the benefits of a shared, regional infrastructure system, where all MWRA communities are asked to pay. With that, all MWRA communities should contribute to the cost of a full cleanup of CSOs on the Charles and Mystic Rivers, as required under the federal Clean Water Act. I urge you to adopt a 25-year level of control to ensure all residents and visitors to the Greater Boston area can enjoy swimmable and fishable rivers and the opportunity to create jobs by stimulating the outdoor recreation industry surrounding our rivers. Thank you for your consideration.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-663	10/14/2026	Patricia	Jehlen	Patricia.Jehlen@masenate.gov		Massachusetts Senate	Boston	MA	Please find my attached recent comments regarding the draft updated CSO Long Term Control Plan.	Yes
E-664	10/14/2026	Naomi	Bailis	naomibailis@gmail.com					Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 calls on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Please eliminate CSO sewage pollution: no discharges except in a storm that occurs roughly every 25 years. MWRA's cost to end sewage discharges in all three rivers (Alewife, Charles, & Mystic) is only $45 more per year to households. In many rainstorms, sewage floods over the banks of Alewife Brook and into the Alewife Reservation park and path - and into nearby yards and homes in larger storms. The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take that into account. The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that would continue the dumping of sewage into the Brook in many years when the Brook floods. Sewage at Alewife Brook is discharged untreated. 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At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on Alewife public parkland. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The draft plan is 99.9% tanks and only 0.1% sewer separation, still dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage in a 5-year storm. Separation cuts CSOs, SSOs, basement backups, and adds regional sewer capacity. It is the climate-resilient path. Half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, half the CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. Half the work is done. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals of the first long-term plan and finish the job! The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. 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E-665	10/14/2026	Ansel	Miller	hogwoggles@gmail.com			Arlington	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-666	10/14/2026	Albert	Santoro	Rudder42@gmail.com			Brookline	MA	Obey the laws, stop sending human waste into our rivers and streams. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-667	10/15/2026	Simone	Gohsman	simm1442@gmail.com			Somerville	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-668	10/15/2026	Deb	Olken				Cambridge	MA	The proposed CSO Long Term Control Plan fails to take into accont that in many rainstorms - as recently as October 11, 2026 - sewage flood overrun the banks of the Alewife Brook into the Alewife Reservation park and into nearby yards and homes. Sewage at Alewife Brook has had e. Coli counts nearly 1,000 times higher than EPA safe-contact level. Residents are exposed to live norovirus, intestinal worms and other pathogens. The proposed tanks and tunnel are undersized even for a 2-year storm and cannot be expanded once built. As climate change drives more intense storms, this rigid concrete infrastructure will be overwhelmed and outdated once constructed. Cambridge and Somerville sewage outfalls are in violation of the Boston Harbor court case. Sewer separation must be carried out in the Sherman Street neighborhood and Somerville's combined sewage must be re-routed to an existing treatment facility. The Sherman Street CSO storage tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation. A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents to harmful to aerosolized bacteria. Cambridge has not guaranteed that a backup generator will be available during a major storm with power outages to keep the tank's odor control system running. The Alewife MBTA site includes the outfall pipe responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges. Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a top priority in its redevelopment. Cambridge and Somerville should not shoulder the cost alone. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve exactly this problem. At roughly $45 per household per year across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of South Boston, Dorchester and Quincy. How can the state justify leaving the Alewife Brook as an open sewer? The state must consider the public health impacts and reject a plan that will continue dumping sewage into Alewife Brook. Sewer separation is the climate-resilient answer.	No
E-669	10/15/2026	Taylor	McGregor	taymcg12@gmail.com			Boston	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Email **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
E-670	10/15/2026	Heather	Hoffman	heather.m.hoffman.1957@gmail.com			Cambridge	MA	As cities like Camridge, Somerville and Boston aim to add tens of thousands of new residents, it cannot be the case that we think it okay for them to live in an environment where dumping raw sewage in the Charles River on a regular basis is no big deal. None of us deserve that. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-671	10/15/2026	Sandra	Pepin	sandralynnpepin@gmail.com			Norwell	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change. PLEASE stop the sewage dumping!	No
E-672	10/15/2026	Juan	Molierr	nemomoliere@gmail.com			Boston	MA	I fish in the Charles in Boston and this plan would ruin my hobby. I don't like it. Also the stench would be unpleasant. I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No
E-673	10/15/2026	Bart	Pisha	bartpisha@yahoo.com			Cambridge	MA	I do NOT support proposal to locate a sewage storage tank and associated infrastructure in Magazine Beach park. This park is beautiful, historically important and a neighborhood jewel. This project would, at the very least, disrupt park access, and the eventual outcome is uncertain. NO!	No
E-674	10/15/2026	Stephen	Wei	stephen.e.wei@gmail.com			Medford	MA	I love the Charles River, and I am writing to ask that you stop using it as an open sewer. Dumping untreated or undertreated sewage into the river prevents people like myself from enjoying the river! Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; they also make the river unsafe for swimming and boating. We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the disgusting practice of dumping sewage in our beloved and heavily recreated water bodies. Ending combined sewer overflows comes at an additional cost; however, the additional benefits absolutely justify this cost. Benefits include safer and more consistent access to the river, including the potential to open a swimming beach, less pollution dumped in the river where it will make people sick, and less aesthetic impairment. I ask that MWRA strengthen their plan and achieve the highest level of control under consideration: no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River. This is the only plan worth investing in in the age of climate change, where large and intense storms are the norm. All the lesser plans represent a poor use of ratepayer dollars, as they will be a temporary fix and any long-term benefits will be quickly erased by climate change.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Plan Engage **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/ Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
P-1	5/12/2026	Sean	Bye	sean.g.bye@proton.me	Individual	0	Dorchester	MA	The proposed plan does not go far or fast enough. We should seek to eliminate ALL sewage discharge into our waterways, not based on current conditions, but conditions that are likely in the future due to climate change and rising sea levels. The city of Paris successfully overhauled its antiquated sewage system to make the Seine swimmable again. Massahcusetts, a wealthy and progressive state, should be to commit to our residents and to our ecosystem that we will stop poisoning our own waterways.	No
P-2	5/13/2026	Charlene	Smith	charlenesmithwriter@gmail.com	Individual	0	Needham	MA	I walk along the Charles, row in it, picnic next to it, I am opposed to ANY sewage being pumped into it. I am astonished that the authors of this plan are 'proud' of something that taints our waterways, is a hazard to human health & every creature that lives in our near our beloved waterways. NO SEWAGE must flow into any waterway. Fix this.	No
P-3	5/13/2026	Carolyn	Monaco	carolyn.monaco@gmail.com	Individual	0	Watertown	MA	You must STOP sewage from dumping into the Charles River starting in the near-term (not waiting until 2050). The Charles is one of our best and iconic landmarks that defines Boston and its environs. (It's like the Seine to Paris!) Wouldn't it be great if I could walk 2 blocks to the Charles and let my dog swim--and take a dip myself? We are so far from this goal. Please reverse your plans. Create progress. Make the Charles work for all the people as the great and mighty resource that it can be.	No
P-4	5/15/2026	Mike	MacGillivray	mike.macgillivray@gmail.com	Individual	0	Belmont	MA	Please prioritize a pkan that does not allow sewage overflow to get into the waterways.	No
P-5	5/28/2026	Veronica	Agne	veronica.agne@gmail.com	Individual	0	Boston	MA	I implore you to do away with the proposal to allow sewage overflow into the Charles during heavy rain events. The people of Massachusetts deserve swimable, fishable waters for years to come. Set a proper example and don't culminate years of work in an incomplete solution.	No
P-6	6/2/2026	Claudia	Paredes	cparedes125@gmail.com	Individual	0	Medford	MA	My name is Claudia. I grew up in Cambridge and now live in Medford where I am raising a family. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, it is unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook.	No
P-7	6/3/2026	Rachel	Greenberger	rachel.greenberger@gmail.com	Individual	n/a	Belmont	MA	A resident of Belmont (formerly Cambridge and Somerville, both), I write to express deep concerns about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. The health of the Mystic River watershed is of vital importance to all our communities. It is unacceptable that MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan to allow ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. This plan is a half-measure and we cannot afford to take half-measures. We need to eliminate CSO for the good of us all	No
P-8	6/11/2026	Nathan	Catlett	catlett.n@northeastern.edu	Individual	0	Boston	Massachusetts	I am disappointed to see that the Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan is not adopting maximum CSO control. I urge the project team to reconsider the priorities of this proposal and to invest in fully separating the sewage system. Table 11-3 in the draft shows that fully separating the sewage system is projected to cost each household only $72 annually. It is our moral imperative to invest this small amount of money into substantially improving the environment for coming generations.	No
P-9	6/18/2026	Mathilde	Bernard Funde	Mathilde.bernard33@gmail.com	Individual	0	Medford	MA	My name is Mathilde Bernard Funderburk. I live in Medford. I am very concerned by the CSO control plan updates proposed here. I paddle often on the mystic river and live on it. We have a dock on the river. It is inexcusable that in order to do these activities, I risk coming in contact with raw, untreated sewage. This plan is a half-measure. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Plan Engage **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/ Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
P-10	6/18/2026	Marcia	Ciro	r87933@gmail.com	Individual	0	Watertown	Massachusetts	We need, and want, cleaner rivers. This will not be achieved by allowing sewerage to go into them. There is no reason for this not to be fixed. Spend the money. Our health and the health of the environment depends on it.	No
P-11	6/18/2026	Madeline	Clark	madelinerclark23@gmail.com	Individual	0	Woburn	MA	I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I volunteer with efforts to monitor the river herring migration up the watershed, and the fact that both the herring and volunteers could be exposed to raw sewage is inexcusable. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. Our rivers and cities deserve CSO elimination	No
P-12	6/18/2026	Peter	Geraghty	pmgeraghty@gmail.com	Individual	0	Boston	MA	I live in Charlestown and regularly take walks along the mystic with my family. We would love the opportunity to fish, kayak, and swim in the river. Unfortunately, I don't feel comfortable doing this because of the CSO. This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No
P-13	6/18/2026	Patricia Michelle	Holcomb	spikeholcomb@gmail.com	Individual		Medford	Massachusetts	Hi, I am a Medford resident. I live about four blocks from the Mystic River and walk along it every day. My dog drinks from the river. I paddle my kayak in it during the summer. I want to see it cleaned up. There is no excuse for raw sewage in our waterways when we have the technology and the resources to do better. This plan ain't it. CSOs can and should be eliminated completely. Do better.	No
P-14	6/18/2026	michelle	mindick	michellemindick@gmail.com	Individual	0	Woburn	Ma	Do not dump sewage into the Mystic. Every year our local swimming spots get closed early/mid summer due to unsafe water and then we have very few places to cool down during heatwaves. With climate change these hot summer temps are only going to get worse and the last thing we need is nasty unclean water where people go fishing, swimming, kayaking. Find solutions that keep our community safe and clean.	No
P-15	6/18/2026	Susan	Davis	sgd1208@mac.com	Individual	0	Brighton	MA	Please do not allow dumping of sewage in the Mystic, Alewife or Charles. It's clearly harmful to wildlife and humans who use the rivers for recreation. Our waterways have drastically improved in the past decades. Don't drag us back to the past.	No
P-16	6/18/2026	Patrick	Ferragamo	pferraga@gmail.com	Individual	Citizen	Medford	MA	I thought our MWRA water bill contained sewerage use, so if we dump in river, will rate go down? Thanks, Pat	No
P-17	6/18/2026	Susanne	Zimmermann	suezimmermann22@gmail.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	I live in East Arlington and walk and run along the Mystic River and Alewife Greenway nearly every day. The waterways are a treasure - I have seen herons, turtles, an otter, and even a bald eagle in addition to ducks, geese, swans and their babies. I want future generations to be able to enjoy this amazing resource. It's unacceptable that the proposed plan allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I know we can do better and eliminate nearly all CSOs.	No

Draft Updated CSO Control Plan - Comments Received via Plan Engage **Updated** **10/15/2026**

Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/ Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
P-18	6/18/2026	Lois	Grossman	Lgrossm2@gmail.com	Individual	0	Medford	MA	I live on the Mystic River and value it greatly for its abundance of wildlife, both plant and animal. For this reason, I have been attending meetings and hearings related to the sewer overflow issues. I am appalled at the shortsightedness often shown by the plans the cities and state have put forth. Yes, it will be costly to repair our infrastructure. Yes, it will be disruptive to repair our infrastructure. But it will be even more costly to undo the damage when the sewage overflows.	No
P-19	6/18/2026	Kimberly	Provo	0	Individual	0	Woburn	MA	I strongly support efforts to reduce and eliminate CSO's in the Mystic River and Charles River watersheds. Residents should be able to enjoy clean safe waterways for recreation, fishing and other uses without concern about sewage contamination. As climate change brings more frequent and intense storms, these overflows are likely to become an even greater problem. I am deeply concerned about the draft updated CSO control plan especially when there are plans that would affordable eliminate CSO's.	No
P-20	6/18/2026	Harwood	Wolfson	hwolfson22@gmail.com	Individual	0	Roxbury	MA	Our watersheds are fragile ecosystems that must be protected at all costs. This half-measure does not do enough to protect our local wildlife and all those of us who live and play along the Mystic Watershed. Progressive cities like Somerville and Cambridge should be able to do better.	No
P-21	6/18/2026	Noah	Siegel	noah@noahs.icu	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	My name is Noah and I live in somerville, approximately a 5 minute walk from the mystic reservation. I am concerned about the updated plan. I care deeply about the health of the watershed, the flora and fauna in it, and the people that use it. I do not believe in a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I run in the mystic reservation. I paddle on the mystic river. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination	No
P-22	6/18/2026	Susan	Fuller	susandarcy@hotmail.com	Individual	N/A	Medford	MA	I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook . I live near the rivers and can smell the sewage at times. It is unhealthy for everyone. I don't want to be anywhere near the waterways. This water is a treasure.	No
P-23	6/18/2026	Lauren	Rodan		Individual	0	Medford	MA	I am a Medford resident. Walking the Mystic River is essential to my healing and recovery from a car accident — it's peaceful and a great physical challenge. Raw sewage in the water during my walks is unacceptable. I oppose the Draft CSO Control Plan: it's a half-measure offering minimal protection in a changing climate. You've proven CSO elimination is possible and affordable. Our rivers and communities deserve full elimination, not partial fixes.	No
P-24	6/18/2026	Julia	Novina	julianovina@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Medford	MA	See attached letter.	Yes
P-25	6/18/2026	Stefanie	Alberto	0	Individual	0	Malden	MA	I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook.You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No
P-26	6/19/2026	Sarah	Clader	sarah.clader@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. It is unacceptable that MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I should not have to risk coming in contact with raw, untreated sewage in order to enjoy the Mystic. Our rivers and communities deserve CSO elimination.	No
P-27	6/19/2026	Damon	Weinstein	damonweinstein@gmail.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	Hello, My name is Damon Weinstein. I live in East Arlington MA, where I run several times each week along the Alewife Brook Parkway, along the Mystic River and down to the lower Mystic lake. I have seen so many birds of prey, big snapping turtles,	No
P-28	6/19/2026	Stu	Bassler	stuart_bassler@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Belmont	MA	Hello, My name is Stuart Bassler. I live in Belmont. I find it unacceptable that any rules should allow dumping of sewage into our rivers. These rivers are a vital	No
P-29	6/20/2026	Ben	Klass	ben_klass@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Watertown	Massachusetts	watershed. Virtually eliminating sewage discharge is possible and affordable. Priority should be given to making our waterways as clean as possible.	No
P-30	6/22/2026	Mary	Catanese	marycatherinecatanese@gmail.com	Individual		Charlestown	Massachusetts	Hello, My name is Mary Catanese, and I have lived and now work in the City of Somerville and reside in nearby Charlestown.	No
P-31	6/23/2026	Theodore	Sharpe	cso@lindasharpe.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	Boston Harbor cleanup. You're welcome. However, also throughout that entire time, Cambridge and Somerville have been disposing of their sewage onto my neighbors properties. This must stop. Fairness dictates that the entire greater boston area help us to pay for storm/sewer separation.	No
P-32	6/24/2026	Brian	Eastwood	iambeastwood@gmail.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	I'm writing to express deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. I care about the health of the Mystic River watershed and find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I frequently run on the Alewife Brook greenway, and it's inexcusable that I risk continuing to come in contact with raw, untreated sewage. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.	No
P-33	6/25/2026	Stephen	Knowlton	sknowl2791@aol.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	I am writing regarding the Draft Updated CSO Plan. I live near the Mystic River and Alewife Brook, and frequently walk and bike along them. While I understand that fully stopping CSOs is an expensive proposition, I feel strongly that it must be the goal. I agreed with Mayor Wilson's recent editorial in the Boston Globe sketching out ways we could proceed which would establish equitable funding. Thank you for your attention.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/ Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
P-34	6/25/2026	Jeremy	Hallam-Baker	HALLAMBAKER1@GMAIL.COM	Proponent	Mystic River Watershed Association	Medford	MA	I am writing this to implore the MWRA and riverside cities to minimize sewage pollution in the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife waterways. The current plan condones chemical and biological pollution in the rivershed, threatening wildlife and humans alike. Ergo, I firmly believe that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville should pursue the affordable plans to eleminate CSOs.	No
P-35	6/26/2026	Anna Krista	Sykes	aksykes@gmail.com	Individual	Cambridge resident	Cambridge	MA	The proposed plan provides only minimal control in a future climate, even though we know that stronger plans—plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs—are both possible and affordable. We cannot afford to keep taking half-measures while our rivers remain unsafe, while swimming remains out of reach, and while wildlife and public health continue to suffer.	No
P-36	6/28/2026	Julia	Rice	juliahelenrice@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	I am opposed to any plan which continues to allow CSOs on the Mystic River, Charles River, and Alewife Brook. It is long past time to commit the money and effort to remove all CSOs along waterways in Massachusetts. It is a technical infrastructure problem which can be overcome. The harm of continuing pollution and unsafe water cannot be undone. Please commit to funding full removal of CSOs along the Mystic, Charles, and Alewife Brook.	No
P-37	6/28/2026	Barbara	Englesberg	benglesber@aol.com	Individual	also member of Mothers Out Front	Cambridge	Massachusetts	I live in N. Cambridge and am a member of Mothers Out Front. I'm writing to oppose the Draft Updated CSO Long Term Control Plan. I spend a lot of time outdoors on my bike and walking along the Alewife Brook and am very concerned about climate change causing bigger storms, which will cause more overflows from CSO's. This plan provides minimal control in a future climate. Wee can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and cities deserve CSO elimination, despite the costs incurred. Since	No
P-38	7/1/2026	Marina	Freytsis	marina.freytsis@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	I am a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed and I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan, which allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. As an avid triathlete, I regularly swim in Mystic Lake and have to worry about getting sick while exercising. Our rivers, cities, and health deserve CSO elimination.	No
P-39	7/2/2026	Aidan	Becker	albecker888@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	Please for the love of God stop the sewage overflow into the Mystic. I am a proud member of Somerville High Rowing, one of the many YOUTH teams on the Mystic that have to deal with dangerously polluted water far too often because of this. It is horrid that the City of Somerville is endorsing this plan to continue polluting the river with raw sewage putting YOUR high school youth and constituents at risk. Why are you choosing to fail us while Malden is revitalizing their portion of the Mystic?	No
P-40	7/3/2026	Callie	Chapman	calliechapman@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	MA	Dear project teams, I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. We all want clean water and should make every effort to protect and preserve that as a value in our society. Thank you	No
P-41	7/3/2026	Timothy	Kuruvilla	Timothy.kuruvilla@proton.me	Individual	0	MEDFORD	MA	Sewage should not be in our bodies of water. As an employee of a company working on the Mystic this really impacts me. Unhealthy and bad for the environment.	No
P-42	7/5/2026	David	Graff	DaveAGraff@gmail.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	I'm strongly against the current proposed plan, and any plan that allows sewage overflow in our waterways. A little more cost is worth it for the health and safety of our wildlife and communities.	No
P-43	7/5/2026	Cadence	Bayley	cadencebayley@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	Hi, I'm a Somerville resident who enjoys recreation in our local rivers. I am writing against the draft plan. I strongly urge the team to rewrite the plan to not allow any additional CSO (combined sewage overflows) in the Mystic River, Charles River, and Alewife Brook. Thank you, Cadence Bayley	No
P-44	7/5/2026	Katelyn	Neuman	0	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	Reject the draft plan! No additional CSO is acceptable in the Mystic, Charles Rivers, and Alewife Brook!	No
P-45	7/6/2026	Jessie	Standafer Boll	Jessiestandafer@gmail.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	Mystic watershed needs to be clean for all to enjoy. As our summer climate gets hotter, residents need places to cool down and enjoy the natural water resources the town has to offer. No more sewage dumping.	No
P-46	7/8/2026	Christine	DiBuono	Cdibuono@gmail.com	Individual	individual	Somerville	MA	I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen and I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. Please put an end to sewage pollution is unacceptable in the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. My daughter works at Paddle Boston and we all paddleboard on the river and we want clean water. Sincerely, Christine	No
P-47	7/9/2026	every	one all	0	Individual	0	arlington	ma	PLEASE STOP DUMPING WASTE IN ARLINGTON WATERS, YARDS, HOMES, BROOKS, RIVERS, LAKES, BASEMENTS, ETC.	No
P-48	7/10/2026	Jennifer	Wade	jenwade54@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	Massachusetts	My neighborhood is responsible for the largest share of CSO discharges in Cambridge, and I find it baffling that this plan calls for NO sewer separation in my area! Let's actually fix the problem once and for all through sewer separation and Green Stormwater Infrastructure and not depend on inadequate band-aid measures like tanks and tunnels.	No
P-49	7/11/2026	Gwen	T	gwentrue75@gmail.com	Individual	0	Boston	MA	My name is Gwen and I live in West Roxbury, very near the Charles. Untreated sewage is a public health threat and all of our sewage should be treated at the modern, effective Deer Island treatment plant, not dumped in the river where it will make people and animals sick. I ask that you select the highest level of control, no CSOs in the 2050 25-yr storm as the target for the Final Long Term Control Plan for the Charles River.	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/ Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
P-50	7/13/2026	Emilio	Lopez	emilio@soptechint.com	Individual	SOP Technologies	Coral Gables	FL	To improve NMC #6 and #7 in the Draft CSO Plan, please consider at-source inlet filters, such as what SOP Technologies offers. Several municipalities save money with inlet screens at curb and grate inlets because source control at inlets allows for more cost efficient debris removal with street sweeping, and decreases flooding due to clogged drainage pipes. I hope the municipality will invite them to give a presentation on how the screens can complement other efforts for debris capture.	Yes
P-51	7/13/2026	Joseph	LaFond	jlafond1732@gmail.com	Individual	0	Chelsea	MA	My Name is Joe LaFond, and I live in Chelsea. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. As a resident Chelsea, a marginalized, environmental justice community that is already disproportionately impacted by	Yes
P-52	7/18/2026	Olivia	Cooke	oliviacooke21@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	It's long past time to end sewage discharges into the Charles River. The Charles should be completely swimmable and fishable, not just some of the time. It's a disgrace that we're still allowing sewage into one of New England's most iconic rivers. We've made tremendous progress—now finish the job. Clean water is a basic expectation, not a luxury. No more excuses. Keep sewage out of the Charles for good.	No
P-53	7/20/2026	Peter	Fiore	fiorepe@hotmail.com	Individual	Peter Fiore	Arlington	MA	I regularly walk through Kendall Square, Cambridge for my work. The substantial new construction in Kendall Square and the new increased tax revenue that will follow exposes the falsehood of the City of Cambridge pleading they can't afford to fix their CSO's. Somerville can also afford to fix their CSO's with their tax revenue.	No
P-54	7/21/2026	Jeremy	Green	greenjeremyy@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	While it's true that dealing with CSOs is not a magic bullet to achieve perfectly swimmable and clean rivers, it's simply common sense to do everything we can to keep sewage out of our waterways, and it's clear there is abundant public support for that goal. The additional cost for the highest possible level of control is minimal relative to the overall price, especially when considering the long-term timeframe. Failing to act comprehensively now will only result in more costs down the line!	No
P-55	7/23/2026	Eric	Reuss	ereuss@gmail.com	Individual	0	Arlington	Massachusetts	See attached PDF.	Yes
P-56	7/26/2026	Benji	Hoog	bhoog@u.rochester.edu	Individual		Somerville	MA	I've been living in Somerville since I moved to the Boston area a few years ago. As a runner and outdoors enthusiast, I'm somewhere along the Mystic River almost every afternoon or evening. But I usually steer friends away from the Alewife reservation area since while it's pretty and has nice running and cycling paths, it smells. Sometimes there's sewage and even waste visible. This area needs to be cleaned if prior work in that area is to be fully appreciated.	No
P-57	7/27/2026	Regina	Raz	raz.regina@gmail.com	Individual	0	Watertown	MA	I oppose the proposed CSO plan because it lowers the long-term goal from eliminating sewage overflows to eliminating them only in a modeled "2050 Typical Year." Larger storms will still cause CSOs, even as climate change increases extreme rainfall. Please require clear milestones, periodic reassessment, and a commitment to pursue stronger protections if conditions or technology improve.	Yes
P-58	7/29/2026	Jasiah	Ortega	Jayortega821@gmail.com	Individual		Dorchester	Massachusetts	Comment Letter was uploaded.	Yes
P-59	7/29/2026	Christine	Derse	derselowry@verizon.net	Individual	not applicable	Reading	Massachusetts	I have serious concerns about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. As someone who values our area waters, and as a kayaker in Massachusetts, I want to see our waterways kept clean for all to enjoy.	No
P-60	7/30/2026	Ellen	Slater	sterling.slater@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	The plan is.a significant investment of skill and effort. I trust that the outcome of it if implemented would be a significant reduction in the CSO flowing sewage to our waterways. The public comment is outraged that any sewage flow will be planned for. This concern must be responded to with a dedicated response. If the decision to tolerate/plan for any overflow is built into the plan, why so and what alternatives do we have? Composting toilets; is there encouragement/credit/funds to install?	No
P-61	8/2/2026	Robert	Chekaluk	hunt4redbean@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Chestnut Hill	MA	I strongly urge the MWRA to adopt an updated LTCP that remediates CSOs in all but a 25-year storm. As a member of the local rowing community, I am a frequent user of the Charles River, and am frequently exposed to Charles River water. Our rivers are a wonderful asset to Greater Boston and we deserve a clean river. The additional costs are bearable and are worth it to achieve this goal.	No
P-62	8/12/2026	Robert	Donnelly	robertdonnelly6@gmail.com	Individual	0	Norwoord	Massachusetts	MWRA communities outside of CSO areas are facing a challenge in funding basic town services. Municipalities like Norwood, an MWRA water and wastewater community, have its own capital improvement needs especially regarding stormwater infrastucture improvements. To ask Norwood ratepayers to pay miilons of additional dollars for the debt service for this plan is unacceptable. Revisions are needed to make the plan financially sustainable. It does not benefit Norwood in any way. It is inequitable.	No
P-63	8/17/2026	Katy	Roscoe	karoscoe15@gmail.com	Individual	0	Chelsea	MA	I am a concerned citizen who cares deeply for the health of the Mystic River watershed. I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. This plan is weak and does not solve the problem - real solutions are affordable and attainable and with more extreme weather events in our near future, we cannot afford half measures like this plan. Eliminate CSOs now!	No
P-64	8/20/2026	Anthony	Ketchel	ajk5241@gmail.com	Individual	0	Norwood	MA	The financial burden on Norwood and surrounding communities is outrageous. The Town of Norwood is already faced with deficit spending and our reserve fund is nearly depleted which is going to result in another prop 2 1/2 override for the next budget cycle. The citizens of Norwood are absolutely fed up with this type of nonsense.	No
P-65	8/20/2026	Clark	Frazier	cfrphoto@hotmail.com	Individual	0	Hingham	Massachusetts	The cities of Cambridge and Somerville should agree to create a storm water utility to regulate and set fees for impervious surfaces on all property. It should maintain the existing storm water system. Fees should fund new storm water infrastructure to eliminate combined sewer overflows. Goals for cleaning up the Charles River and Alewife should not be reduced. The storm water utilities should pay MRWA for combined flow. Sewer ratepayers should not pay to treat excessive stormwater flow.	No
P-66	8/21/2026	Ann	Haywood-Baxt	ann_haywood@hotmail.com	Individual	Citizen	Somerville	MA	My child rows on the Mystic and the reality of children and adults exposed to raw sewage is not acceptable. We need a better plan.	No

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P-67	8/21/2026	Tara	Checko	tchecko120@gmail.com	Individual	NA	Arlington	MA	Hello, my name is Tara Checko, and I am an Arlington resident. I am concerned about combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the Mystic watershed. I have kayaked on the rivers around Medford and encountered sewage in the water. I also see how heavily the Upper Mystic is used for swimming on hot summer days. As summers become hotter, people need safe, accessible places to swim. The rivers and the Mystic should be clean and swimmable for everyone. The current CSO plan is not enough—we need a commitment	No
P-68	8/31/2026	Jim	Recht	jimrecht@gmail.com	Individual	Climate Code Blue	Somerville	MA	As a homeowner and resident of Somerville, and as a community physician decades of experience treating illnesses caused and exacerbated by water pollution, I want our city governments and state agencies to eliminate CSO completely and as quickly as possible! No excuses! Thank you for your consideration.	No
P-69	9/3/2026	Susanne	Zimmermann	suezimmermann22@gmail.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	As an East Arlington resident who uses the Alewife Brook Greenway almost daily, I support the plan to reduce CSO's into the brook and river. I am also writing in support of the proposal by the Ocean River Institute for the Alewife Living Forest, which will further improve the ability of the adjacent land to absorb and store water after heavy rain events. Planting more trees will also provide shade and habitat for animals and birds and reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Thank you.	No
P-70	9/4/2026	Rob	Moir	rob@oceanriver.org	Individual	Ocean River Institute, Inc	Cambridge	MA	I fully support the proposed gray infrastructure. With much still to be done, I also support evaluating an Alewife Living Forest to pick up where gray infrastructure leaves off. A forested leach field could be piloted on 60,000+ square feet of mowed Cambridge upland along Alewife Brook. A pumping station could pretreat, lift and regulate CSO water entering the forest. About 25,000 native trees and shrubs could provide treatment, habitat and other public benefits.	No
P-71	9/9/2026	Jonas	Davulis	Jonas8201@outlook.com	Individual	Bio4Climate	Dorchester	MA	I live in Dorchester and have enjoyed boating and fishing on the Charles and its natural beauty. As an aspiring ecological landscaper, I support living infrastructure composed of native plants. Deep-rooted native perennials can help capture stormwater, improve soil, and support insects, birds, and other wildlife while complementing needed gray infrastructure. Please see my attached letter, "City Meadows as Critical Living Infrastructure," for my full comment.	No
P-72	9/9/2026	I.	Engle	1ieengle@gmail.com	Individual	Ocean River Institute	Tularosa	New Mexico	Cambridge, Somerville, and the MWRA, please pilot Living Forest Infrastructure at Alewife Brook. I speak for the birds, fungi, trees, salamanders, pollinators, and soil—or simply for a neighborhood where rainwater need not become stormwater rushing to the sea. Together, we can make Alewife Brook a demonstration of how forests and conventional infrastructure can work together to deliver cleaner water, richer habitat, and more resilient communities.	No
P-73	9/9/2026	Tracey	Dare	traceydare1@hotmail.com	Individual	Ocean River Institute	Miami	FL	I envision a greener Alewife watershed where nature has space to thrive We should prioritize creating landscapes that can absorb and retain rainwater rather than sending it rushing away as stormwater. A healthier watershed means a healthier, more resilient neighborhood for both people and wildlife. I hope decision-makers will embrace a vision that puts ecological restoration and long-term sustainability at the heart of the Alewife's future.	No
P-74	9/9/2026	Janet	Heinle	janetheinle@yahoo.com	Individual	Ocean River Institute	Santa Monica	CA	Together, we can make Alewife Brook a national model for nature-based stormwater management—demonstrating how forests and conventional infrastructure can work together to build healthier, more resilient communities.	No
P-75	9/10/2026	Liam	Pelosky	liampelosky@gmail.com	Individual	0	Watertown	Massachusetts	We do not want ANY sewage overflow in our beautiful Charles (Massachusetts) River. Please finish the job properly and let us move forward with a swimable, accessible and greener waterfront for all!	No
P-76	9/10/2026	Helen	Snively	hmsnively@aol.com	Individual	Biodiversity for a Livable Climate	Cambridge	MA	Please make the strongest CSO control plan you possibly can. You've heard more detail from others.. I simply endorse their plea for strong control.	No
P-77	9/13/2026	Sasha	Lauterbach	sasha.lauterbach@comcast.net	Individual	Cambridge resident	Cambridge	MA	Thank you for your work and for reaching out for comments and feedback. Your information stating that the city of Cambridge is working with Somerville and the MWRA to contain storm water and protect rivers and waterways in our communities is not accurate: Cambridge's new zoning ordinance and its permitting processes for new construction disregard the city's own ordinances concerning the containment of storm water. Please see attached statement.	No
P-78	9/16/2026	Caroline	Westrick	carolinew928@gmail.com	Individual	0	Medford	MA	As one of many people who row on both the Mystic and Charles Rivers, I am firmly in favor of ENDING CSO overflows. Friends have gotten eye infections after being splashed with river water and infected blisters from rowing with hands wet from the river. I do not want to live in fear of a teammate taking a bad stroke and ruining my health! We have an opportunity to make our water, the actual vitality of our city, much cleaner and safer for all- let's not squander this chance.	No
P-79	9/16/2026	Janine	Hart-Hueber	harthueber@gmail.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	I live in East Arlington and my family has been here since 1969. Why is it we still have sewage coming out of Alewife Brook? It's time for the cities and agencies to take responsibility for this major health hazard. It's 2026! Time to clean up this stench and mess! I should be able to take a walk in my neighborhood after a rainstorm and not worry about being exposed to sewage on the walkway and street! Fix the problem so my grandkids don't have to grow up smelling the stench too!	No
P-80	9/16/2026	Steve	Schnapp	schnappintosh@gmail.com	Individual	0	Medford	Massachusetts	My name is Steve Schnapp. My wife and I have lived in Medford since 2011. Before that we lived in N. Cambridge for 35 years. I am writing to express my dismay over the draft Updated CSO Control Plan, which would allow for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River & Alewife Brook. As a decades long cyclist & walker on the paths along Alewife Brook, I have too often encountered raw sewerage after flooding rains. This is unacceptable.	No
P-81	9/16/2026	Damon	Weinstein	damonweinstein@gmail.com	Individual	Self	Arlington	MA	The need to set an example for making responsible choices is greater now than ever. Let's solve the sewage dumping into watersheds problem with hearty conviction and thoroughness - for a lasting payback. When is the right time to do the right thing? Now!	No
P-82	9/17/2026	Oivind	Brockmeier	obrockmeier@gmail.com	Individual	0	Medford	MA	My name is Oivind Brockmeier, and I live in Medford, right next to the Mystic River. I'm writing to express concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. It's unacceptable that MWRA would allow ongoing sewage releases into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. I walk my dogs along the river daily and paddle on it regularly — untreated sewage is a direct health risk to me and my community. This plan is a half-measure with minimal control in a future climate. You've shown CSO el	No
P-83	9/18/2026	Max	Lonetto	lonettomb@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	Massachusetts	I have lived near the Alewife Brook, a body of water that consistently reeks of human waste, for the past fourteen years. I find the idea that any proposed plan might not include complete sewer separation utterly intolerable, and clearly thought up by people who didn't have to live with the daily consequences of this lack of imagination.	No

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P-84	9/19/2026	Alida	Castillo	alida.castillo@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	A regional problem requires regional funding MWRA should not make Cambridge & Somerville pay the cost of hundreds of millions of $. MWRA was created in 1984 to solve this problem. At about $45/household/yr across the MWRA system, ending CSOs in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic is affordable. MWRA is using Alewife Brk as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. Using our money, MWRA cleaned up the beaches of So Boston & Quincy; how can the state justify leaving Alewife an open sewer?	No
P-85	9/20/2026	Allison	Smith	al.marie.smith@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	In addition to the much needed CSO plan, I support evaluating living forest infrastructure that could pick up where gray infrastructure leaves off. An Alewife Living Forest could provide many benefits. I personally would like it to provide habitat for migratory birds, for much needed pollinators and insects, and to help regulate our local climate. Every tree in Somerville is so appreciated and needed.	No
P-86	9/20/2026	Colin	Meade	0	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	We are a city surrounded by water, but access is strained by year of neglect. Your own data demonstrates that combined sewer overflows in the Charles cause water quality violations; and make the river unsafe. Larger, older cities have cleaned up their sewage system, this is something we can fix! We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our infrastructure and end the practice of dumping sewage in our waterways. Please reconsider your plan. Do not defer this hard work to the future.	No
P-87	9/24/2026	Andrew	Smith	0	Individual	0	Norwood	MA	Norwood water rate payers should not have to shoulder the costs of projects that provide zero direct benefit. Reevaluate the funding source or reduce the scope of the project.	No
P-88	9/24/2026	Miranda	Sheinbaum	miranda@csndc.com	Neighborhood Development Corporation	Codman Square NDC	Dorchester	MA	See attachment.	Yes
P-89	9/24/2026	Cole	Graham	0	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	Please see attached file for comment.	Yes
P-90	9/26/2026	Siobhan	Billings Pearce	siobp@live.com	Individual	0	EAST BOSTON	MA	Comment attached. Thank you!	Yes
P-91	9/28/2026	Brendan	Bernard	brendodb@gmail.com	Individual	0	Melrose	MA	This comment field does not allow me to put my words in as it is limited. Please reference the attached letter. -Brendan Bernard	Yes
P-92	9/28/2026	Keith	Nastasia	knastasia@stoughton-ma.gov	Municipality	town of Stoughton	Stoughton	MA	The proposed financial obligation for communities will cause major financial problems as this will adversely affect rates. Why isn't the targeted areas with CSO being looked into instead of spreading the costs to all communities.	No
P-93	9/29/2026	Nicole	Deren	nicolederen@hotmail.com	Individual		Norwood	Massachusetts	I ask that you re-evaluate the funding allocation and a review of lower-cost plans. Residents of Norwood, Massachusetts, and surrounding communities should not be subjected to additional tax increases to fund a project that does not directly alter, improve, or address the infrastructure within their respective communities. Any regional funding mechanism should carefully consider the direct and proportional benefits received by each community.	No
P-94	9/30/2026	Sydney	Singer	0	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	Hi, I'm Sydney a resident of Somerville who lives along the mystic river. We as citizens deserve clean rivers. My family and my daughter fishes almost daily on the river with her friends. There are areas that smell so bad and I don't want her around there when we hear of the overflow. Also after a recent trip to Zurich seeing the community and joy of access to clean rivers made me realize how much we are missing out on and deserve to have clean rivers especially as summers get hotter.	No
P-95	9/30/2026	Briana	Thomas	briana@thomases.me	Individual	0	Norwood	MA	I support the MWRA plan's environmental goals, including reducing overflows and improving regional water quality. However, costs should be allocated fairly. Towns that do not contribute to or directly benefit from the combined sewer systems being upgraded should not be required to bear those costs. Infrastructure improvements should be funded primarily by the municipalities responsible for and benefiting from the systems.	No
P-96	9/30/2026	Randy	Gioia	rgioia@mac.com	Individual	0	Newton	Massachusetts	My wife and I are in favor of the plan that will eliminate CSOs. We know many of our friends also favor this and all are willing to spend the extra money to make it work.	No
P-97	9/30/2026	Thomas	Pounds	tpounds4@comcast.net	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	Please see attached.	No
P-98	10/1/2026	Stephen	Konetchy	stevek.1@icloud.com	Individual	0	Norwood	MA	I've attached my comments.	No
P-99	10/2/2026	Patrick	Sullivan	sullivanph@comcast.net	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	Yes, I support a much-needed CSO plan. In addition, I support planting a living forest by the Alewife. This would serve as a natural mechanism for absorbing excess runoff. It would both reduce waterway pollution and promote more natural forest growth, thereby reducing CO2. A win-win for all.	No
P-100	10/2/2026	Corine	Bickley		Individual	0	Somerville	MA	An Alewife Living Forest is a wonderful idea!! I love the four old trees on my property in Somerville, where I have lived for 40 years. I also have a wildflower garden and several small trees, too. Any CSO infrastructure that supports forests is great. Thank you.	No
P-101	10/2/2026	Jane	Sturtevant	0	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	Help manage CSOs. I support the proposed plan and ask that you also pilot a high-density forest by Alewife Brook. This living forest could improve air and water quality and be visually pleasing.	No
P-102	10/2/2026	Carol	Giesecke	0	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	I support the living forest infrastructure on Alewife Brook because we are all trying to reduce the amount of heat in the coming years. Forests are just more fun! I love shade!	No
P-103	10/2/2026	Susanna	Schroeder	0	Individual	0	Medford	MA	I support the Alewife Living Forest pilot initiative. Trees produce great quantities of oxygen and prevent erosion to preserve our waterway.	No
P-104	10/2/2026	Cheyenne	McCarter	0	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	I support the Alewife Living Forest pilot initiative. New England forests have a sweet, soulful aroma. I once lived in Olympia, Washington, and was thinking of staying there until I visited a friend in Massachusetts. While walking these woods, I was reminded of New England forests' unique essence. I realized the forests are part of who I am. I chose to be here, where I may smell the soul of this place. I moved back to Cambridge 40 years ago.	No
P-105	10/2/2026	Roland	Axelson	rgaxelson@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	Please know I wholly support creating an Alewife Living Forest to manage CSO water, along with the much-needed proposed gray infrastructure. I support the proposed pilot forest because we know that a forest absorbs water, prevents flooding, and emits oxygen, enabling living beings, human and nonhuman, to flourish. I walk the Alewife path daily behind where I live to enjoy the beauty of nature flourishing here. This action will preserve and protect our sacred earth.	No
P-106	10/2/2026	Tracey	Dare	0	Individual	0	Miami	Florida	I envision a greener Alewife watershed where nature is given the space to thrive and where birds, pollinators, trees, fungi, salamanders, and healthy soils are valued as essential parts of the community. We should prioritize restoring natural habitats, protecting wetlands, increasing native plantings, and creating landscapes that can absorb and retain rainwater rather than sending it rushing away as stormwater. A healthier watershed means a healthier, more resilient neighborhood4people&wildlife	No

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P-107	10/2/2026	Janet	Henle	janetheinle@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Santa Monica	CA	Together, we can make Alewife Brook a national model for nature-based stormwater management—demonstrating how forests and conventional infrastructure can work together to build healthier, more resilient communities.	No
P-108	10/2/2026	James	Kronberg	toyymaker@aol.com	Individual	0	Aiken	South Carolina	Unlike conventional infrastructure that gradually wears out, this living infrastructure would become more effective as the ecosystem matures. Yes - less maintenance required, no need for electricity to keep it running, and once established, it will provide habitat, draw in CO2, and provide oxygen. Looks like a win-win-win-win to me!	No
P-109	10/2/2026	Jan	Jones	jan@metrostation.com	Individual	0	El Cerrito	CA	A forested leach field seems like a great idea! Biologically sound. Please help make this a reality. Thanks,	No
P-110	10/2/2026	Mark	Schroeder	taqdeermachen@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Spring Grove	MN	A living aqua system to curb sewage pollution, an ecosystem designed to clean and prevent water wastage. We want this, please.	No
P-111	10/2/2026	Sister Veronica	Blake		Individual	0	Port Huron	MI	A Living Forest would assist the Alewife watershed by providing habitat for wildlife and a natural system that would slow down water flow, which would protect neighborhoods and natural ecosystems.	No
P-112	10/2/2026	Linda	Murphy	linda56k@verizon.net	Individual	0	Hyattsville	MD	A living forest would help stop Alewife Sewage Flooding because when water infiltrates the soil, fungi, bacteria, plant roots, and soil animals would continue the work begun in the engineered filters. The forest would transpire water back to the atmosphere, build organic-rich soils, increase infiltration, and expand the site's biological capacity year after year. The forest would also help protect the local community, bring shade, reduce pollution from cars and trucks, and clean the air.	No
P-113	10/2/2026	William	Gleason	gleadosik@verizon.net	Individual	0	Harrisville	PA	All streams should have a forested buffer in addition to the existing forested floodplain. These will help buffer from flooding impacts and filter water as it recharges the groundwater.	No
P-114	10/2/2026	Eric	Nylen	enylen@gmail.com	Individual	0	Santa Cruz	CA	Although not designed for raw sewage exposure, the Miyawaki method of reforestation should be considered to augment current weaknesses in managing sewage spills.	No
P-115	10/2/2026	Robert	Stevens	rstevensphoto@gmail.com	Individual	0	Saint Louis	MO	An amazing opportunity to bring a more natural outdoor experience within walking distance of many people. Letting the land grow wild in controlled plots is the way to go. The animals will choose to stay because they can fit in. All will benefit from a healthier environment than a manicured, chemical-controlled monoculture.	No
P-116	10/2/2026	Ken	Rosen	krosen13@me.com	Individual	0	Beverly Hills	CA	An inch of rain is capable of producing roughly 2 million gallons of combined sewage and stormwater overflow. We can beneficially utilize some of this water by cleaning it and returning it to a landscape that we create.	No
P-117	10/2/2026	Bonnie	Monte	bmonte@shakespearenj.org	Individual	0	Madison	WI	Any treatment system that utilizes nature as its primary infrastructure to prevent sewage flooding is a great thing! Letting the Alewife Brook Forest Infrastructure to function as a major part of the treatment system is a MUST DO!	No
P-118	10/2/2026	Nancy	Hoffman	nhoffman775@gmail.com	Individual	0	Sparks	NV	As a birdwatcher, I know how important maintaining a sustainable watershed. I know bird populations are plummeting as open spaces disappear. Creating a new watershed is ALWAYS a winner! I support this effort.	No
P-119	10/2/2026	Linda	Carroll		Individual	0	Spokane	Washington	As a former resident of Cambridge, I know that planting a forest in the Alewife watershed will green the area, provide a gradual processing of water rather than run-off, filter and cleanse water, increase air oxygen levels, and create wildlife habitat. It is a multi-win project.	No
P-120	10/2/2026	Tim	Schmitt	timmschmitt@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Arlington	MA	As a wastewater professional, I support this idea. We need as many options for treating CSOs as we can get.	No
P-121	10/2/2026	Theresa	Kardos	terrykardos@aol.com	Individual	0	Cortlandt Manor	NY	As an environmental educator and field biologist as well as a parent and grandparent who cares deeply about healthy environments for future generations, I am writing to comment about the environmental situation at Alewife Brook. The forest would cool surrounding neighborhoods, filter air pollution, muffle traffic noise from Alewife Brook Parkway, and create habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. The area would also become more climate-resilient.	No
P-122	10/2/2026	Louise	Quiqley	chuckgyver@aceweb.com	Individual	0	Braintree	MA	As crazy weather increases, using a living forest to mitigate flooding around Alewife Brook is a win-win. It would increase biodiversity and native habitat while improving the lives of residents who would experience less flooding and improving the cleanliness of the river.	No
P-123	10/2/2026	Rebecca	Canright		Individual	0	Northampton	MA	Hi there. As a young person, I care a lot about protecting our environment. I hope that we can work together to implement a truly sustainable and living watershed system to protect our local wildlife and human communities. This can be a solution-oriented process that helps restore ecological health. Let's make this alewife watershed restoration a forward-thinking model for our nation, and help it spread. Thank you for your time and consideration! Have a great day, Rebecca	No
P-124	10/5/2026	Kathleen	Evans	kathleen.t.evans@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	It seems that this plan is enormously costly and complicated, but does not actually make the waterways healthier or reduce the projected levels of E.coli in those waterways. Has the team considered a series of less-costly alternative approaches (stormwater gardens, buried catch basins on in tree boxes or on private land, etc.) to deal with the stormwater management? It seems wasteful to spend SO much money that really only aims at one facet of the problem.	No
P-125	10/6/2026	Dirk	Hentschel	dirk.hentschel@gmail.com	Individual	Enter Company Name	Cambridge	Massachusetts	see file	No
P-126	10/6/2026	Sarah	Levy	larah.sevy@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	As a neighbor to Magazine Beach, I strongly object to the proposed plan to use several acres of this precious community resource for a fenced off massive sewer overflow tank. Of course this diversion is necessary to protect the Charles however MWRA must go back to the drawing board and come up with a more creative solution that reduces the impact on the community. Bury the tank deeper, leave the fences off, distribute smaller tanks to less obtrusive areas. We can find a better solution!	No
P-127	10/6/2026	Vanessa	Azzone	azzone@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	Magazine Beach is a gem in Cambridge. it is a beautiful park and recreational area that it is enjoyed by residents and visitors for so many months in a year. the close by school Morse and MLK and various afterschool and summer camps use it for many recreational programs and it is the envy of neighbor town. this will be totally gone and ruin and the residents should be able to vote on such a disruptive project.Why can't the Magazine Beach storage tank be buried deeper in the ground or elsewhere?	No
P-128	10/6/2026	Dirk	Hentschel	dhentschel@bwh.harvard.edu	Individual	Enter Company Name	Cambridge	Massachusetts	The BU bridge tank location takes away the only meaningful recreational riverbank area for Cambridge port and adjacent residents. 1. Has the city evaluated any measures to reduce pollution at the source? 2. Have any alternative dispersed/multi-location collections sites been explored? 3. Are there other construction plans using a tank that is sufficiently deep such that the baseball and soccer fields are still useable? 4. Has the city devoted any thought on aligning construction with eversour	No

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Comment Number	Date (UTC)	First Name	Last Name	Contact Email	Affiliation	Organization/ Agency	City	State	Comment	Attachment
P-129	10/6/2026	Fritz	Holznagel	FritzHolz@gmail.com	Individual		Somerville	Massachusetts	I'm all for clean water, and willing to be taxed for it. But I'm baffled by why we should pay over a BILLION dollars for CSO improvements that affect only a tiny portion of the problem -- changes the report itself says "will not result in water quality improvements that allow for more days of swimmable or fishable waters." This seems like a huge expenditure for very little return. Could this huge amount of money not be better spent in mitigating stormwater, or on other climate change measures?	No
P-130	10/6/2026	Judith	Nathans	judith.nathans@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	As a longtime resident of this area (30 years in lower Cambridgeport) I am shocked from what I have read about the presentation, which I was unable to attend. What a terrible plan. Noone can say that sewer overflows need to be addressed...but is this the only way? The impact on this amazing green functional space is unacceptable. This cannot go forward as planned...do better. Does it need more funding to keep a park accessible? Our community deserves real answers and alternatives.	No
P-131	10/7/2026	Benjamin	Mazzotta		Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	To whom it may concern, This plan is an abomination. It destroys valuable public park land that has been used intensively for generations. Cambridge is one of the most densely populated cities in the country, and no comparable green space can replace the asset that will be taken. The plan will rob the community of a beloved park for decades to come. There are other ways to reduce the cost of sewer remediation without abolishing our parks. Bad decision.	No
P-132	10/7/2026	Peter	Lubetsky	peterlubetsky@gmail.com	Individual	0	CAMBRIDGE	MA	Hell no are you out of your damn minds? You are trying to take an important community resource from us, and the Charles is doing pretty well as it is. I feel like you have declared war on our neighborhood.	No
P-133	10/7/2026	Pearce	Buxton	pearcebuxton@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	Massachusetts	I believe that the current "Updated CSO Control Plan" is inadequate to help the Charles River become a safe and healthy body of water - the plan is simply symptomatic relief. Eliminating CSOs is the most effective way to address the threat of un- or under-treated sewage pollution, and this feat of engineering has already been done elsewhere like in West Springfield, MA. Furthermore, it feels ironic that a metro area known for its ingenuity relies on such outdated infrastructure.	No
P-134	10/7/2026	Susanne	Swalley	seswalley@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	I am writing to oppose the proposed CSO storage tank at Magazine Beach Park in Cambridge. My child played soccer on the Magazine Beach field because it was one of the few large open fields available in the neighborhood, and I would hate for kids in the future to not have the same opportunities that mine had. Thank you for considering my comment. Susanne	No
P-135	10/7/2026	Kathy	Kosinski	kskosinski@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	Massachusetts	This proposal appears to be very poorly thought out with no consideration for neighborhood needs or alternative designs.. Cambridgeport is not going to give up this prime recreational space used by thousands of kids and families when it appears that there are alternatives. For instance, why not bury the tank substantially deeper so that the ground above can be used? Why can't there be several, smaller tanks spread out more broadly? I strongly urge MWRA to reconsider this ill-conceived plan	No
P-136	10/7/2026	Steven	Morr-Wineman	steven.wineman@gmail.com	Individual	0	CAMBRIDGE	Massachusetts	I am writing to strongly oppose the draft proposal for stopping raw sewerage from running into the Charles River which would make inaccessible the entire sports area in Magazine Beach Park. While I support the goal of eliminating sewerage runoff, I urge you to find an alternative approach which would not come at the expense of an important neighborhood resource.	No
P-137	10/7/2026	Carol	Wagner	carol@craftedbycarol.com	Individual	0	Salem	MA	Asking good questions is a good start. I love the out of the box planning that looked for a more common sense solution. Great job! Share and spread the idea!	No
P-138	10/7/2026	Gloria	Shen	gloshen@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Ashville	NC	Strenuous efforts to keep water clean with green infrastructure alongside gray just makes sense. Trees do so much for us. They are industrial-sized air filters, air conditioners, and soil purifiers, and they help prevent erosion by binding soil to slopes. The answer to cleaner water, thriving biodiversity, and community resilience is in our trees, and a forest in this situation is truly a solution that must be explored in the final CSO plan.	No
P-139	10/7/2026	Rebecca	Berlant	rsberlant@aol.com	Individual	0	Brooklyn	NY	Cities across the country are searching for affordable, nature-based ways to manage stormwater in a changing climate. Alewife Brook can help show what is possible. A living infrastructure would become more effective as the ecosystem matures. And, the Alewife Greenway would become healthier and more beautiful for everyone.	No
P-140	10/7/2026	Sonya	Curry	scurry3371@gmail.com	Individual	0	Highland	CA	Cities across the country are searching for affordable, nature-based ways to manage stormwater in a changing climate. Alewife Brook can help show what is possible. Unlike conventional infrastructure that gradually wears out, this living infrastructure would become more effective as the ecosystem matured.	No
P-141	10/8/2026	Kathi	Ward	kathi.ward@gmail.com	Individual	0	St. Petersburg	FL	Eliminate mowing and create a natural forest that, instead of adding the noise and pollution of mowers, absorbs surrounding noise and creates an environment that requires little to no maintenance, supports birds, insects, and small rodents, and limits flooding.	No
P-142	10/8/2026	Andrew	Hefner	ach.k9rescue@gmail.com	Individual	0	Durham	NC	Forests and wetlands are proven to be the most effective way to contain flooding and prevent contaminated floodwaters from spreading into reservoirs and groundwater aquifers. They are cost-effective and beneficial for any community where they are implemented. So why wouldn't you?	No
P-143	10/8/2026	Eric	Pash	epash@innovascript.com	Individual	0	Indiana	PA	Go Green! Forests and conventional infrastructure can work together to build healthier, more resilient communities.	No
P-144	10/8/2026	William	Lotus	beachono56@gmail.com	Individual	0	Vero Beach	FL	Scientific research shows that green spaces provide mental and emotional benefits to adults. They give children opportunities to explore nature and develop creative play away from directed activities. These benefits add to the many free environmental services that living forests provide.	No
P-145	10/8/2026	Jaime	Reyes	jmreyes70@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	Magazine Beach park provides much needed open field park space that is not widely available in the Cambridgeport area. The proposal to reduce this space and park would be highly detrimental. I strongly support an alternative that at minimum maintains the available park space.	No
P-146	10/8/2026	Mariana	Wittich	wittich7@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Columbus	MO	I think this would be the perfect complement to the traditional leach bed. Trees and plants would not only slow runoff and filter water, but also offer many additional benefits, such as cleaner air, cooler temperatures, and carbon storage. They would also help offset the nationwide loss of forest habitat. It would also be good for recreation and community. I truly hope this proposal becomes a reality and serves as a model that benefits both humans and nature.	No

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P-147	10/8/2026	Heide	Coppotelli	goodshepherd@comporium.net	Individual	0	Cedar Mountain	NC	I am writing because I support a greener Alewife watershed. We humans need the birds, fungi, trees, salamanders, pollinators, soil—and a neighborhood where rainwater need not become stormwater rushing to the sea. We need Nature for our deepest well-being. Together, we can make Alewife Brook a demonstration of how forests and conventional infrastructure can work together to deliver cleaner water, richer habitat, and more resilient communities. Saner humans, too.	No
P-148	10/8/2026	Michael	Brandes	beani24329@aol.com	Individual	0	White Plains	NY	I am writing to demand a cleaner, safer, and greener future for the Alewife Brook watershed. For too long, residents have faced the health and environmental risks posed by raw sewage backups and polluted waterways. We need long-term restoration, not temporary containment. I urge you to support the "Living Forest" initiative to plant thousands of native trees that naturally absorb floodwaters.	No
P-149	10/8/2026	Greg	Paxton	gregpaxton2001@yahoo.com	Individual	0	New York	NY	I am writing to urge you to pilot Living Forest Infrastructure along Alewife Brook. Living forest infrastructure is needed as a green way to reduce CSO releases into our watershed and to maintain natural habitat for the animals that thrive in that ecosystem. The forest would cool surrounding neighborhoods, filter air pollution, muffle traffic noise from Alewife Brook Parkway, and create habitat for pollinators, birds, and other wildlife. Alewife Greenway would become healthier and more beautiful	No
P-150	10/8/2026	Elaine	Donovan	donovaneb2@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cedar Rapids	IA	I grew up in Arlington and walked along Alewife Brook every day to school. The stench was unbelievable because Arthur D. Little dumped its waste into the brook. When I got older, I was shocked to hear that the brook was teeming with thousands of alewives. How sad that we list a treasure. I am 79 years old and can think of nothing more important than preserving the watershed, especially in these times.	No
P-151	10/8/2026	Julie	Bernstein	julie.bernstein@alum.mit.edu	Individual	0	Dover	MA	The idea of planting a living forest to soak up excessive rain is wonderful. It takes a resource that would be wasted and converts it into the best carbon sink that we have on Earth: our trees. Replacing the grass with native plants will likely help pollinators. Studies demonstrate how trees reduce temperatures during hot summers so this is yet another reason to plant a living forest.	No
P-152	10/8/2026	Susan	Shelkrot	sshelkrot@gmail.com	Individual		Cambridge	MA	I'm deeply concerned about the proposed plan and urge you to consider less disruptive options. Magazine beach is the only Cambridge side riverfront area that provides access to the river with functional and aesthetic experience similar to Boston's esplanade. We love it and use it! Why design one gigantic tank vs multiple smaller facilities, including in more “upstream” areas or Goose Park? Why not bury deeper in the ground to allow recreation on the surface and minimize fencing?	No
P-153	10/8/2026	Chris	Templeman	christempleman@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	This project is too expensive and does not provide any material water quality benefit. We need a new plan that focuses on water quality. Somerville cannot afford this. We have a new school to build. That has clear return on investment. We educate kids. This has no benefit. If we want to clean the water, clean the water. Don't just go through an exercise to hit one number. Make a new plan that affects CSOs and clean water that we can complete in 5 years.	No
P-154	10/8/2026	Linda	Relson	lrelson@gmail.com	Individual	0	Watertown	MA	Hi, Please invest in our rivers and the health of our water. We should eliminate CSOs, and design for the inevitable climate change. It would also be really helpful to consider the management of invasive plant species in public spaces along the river that will spread to neighboring regions if gone unmanaged.	No
P-155	10/8/2026	Joan	Raitano	duffy72297@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Queens	NY	I live in Nassau County, which is near Queens, NY, where I was born. Lately, the news has been constantly about flooding in Queens villages like Flushing and Rosedale. We need pilot programs like yours to succeed because we need ideas for Long Island, where many areas flood every time it rains. If your area in Massachusetts takes an environmental leadership role, hopefully you can share what you learn with other parts of the country.	No
P-156	10/8/2026	Lois	Josimovich	loiswrite@gmail.com	Individual	0	Belmont	MA	I strongly support this innovative proposal as part of the urgently needed project to end sewage overflowing into the Alewife area. This unacceptable and dangerous pollution of the brook, the land around it and local neighborhoods must stop as soon as possible, and the Living Forest is a wonderful idea.	No
P-157	10/8/2026	Kathy	Bradley	khayb55@aol.com	Individual	0	Lugoff	SC	Cities across the country are searching for affordable, nature-based ways to manage stormwater in a changing climate. Alewife Brook can help show what is possible. Unlike conventional infrastructure that gradually wears out, this living infrastructure would become more effective as the ecosystem matured. This project can provide a blueprint for the country and the world. Let's do it!	No
P-158	10/8/2026	Rose Marie	Wilson	rmwilson32@gmail.com	Individual	0	Uniondale	NY	I think allowing the mowed areas to be replaced by a native forest processing gray water is a smart idea. It would provide habitat for native wildlife, filter the water, provide shade and help cool the environment and provide a noise buffer from the nearby highway. Local authorities would have less acreage to mow and could spend that time and energy on other landscaped local areas. It's a win for all.	No
P-159	10/8/2026	Joan	Raitano	duffy72297@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Seaford	NY	. I think the Living Forest Infrastructure pilot program is a good idea because it will supplement and enhance traditional water treatment programs. The Miyawaki forest will grow and improve over time, slowing water from torrential downpours. I live on Long Island, and I hope your pilot program is approved and is successful, so our leaders can follow your example. Plus, planting trees helps cool the air, which matters in this age of global warming, and provides habitat for wildlife.	No
P-160	10/8/2026	Priscilla	Drake	babyduck50@netzero.com	Individual	0	Penn Van	NY	I would like a greener Alewife watershed to become. Speak for the birds, fungi, trees, salamanders, pollinators, soil—or simply for a neighborhood where rainwater need not become stormwater rushing away to the sea.	No
P-161	10/8/2026	Deanne	Cody	deanecoady@gmail.com	Individual	0	Brookline	MA	I’d love to see this pilot project take “root”! I’m in neighboring Brookline, where we also need nature-based ways to slow rainwater and sink it into the ground rather than directing it out to Boston Harbor, where it’s not needed. We’re in a serious drought, with many more projected.	No
P-162	10/8/2026	Brian	Gingras	briangin54@comcast.net	Individual	0	Braintree	MA	Living Forest Infrastructure requires no repairs, as many man-made structures do. Thus it is cost-free.	No
P-163	10/8/2026	Karralena	Castaway	castawaykarralena@gmail.com	Individual	0	Caribou	ME	Living forests have many benefits for people and the environment, including cleaning pollution from air and prevention of soil loss and erosion while acting as filters when near areas where high concentrations of waste matter may be present, especially in seasons when large amounts of rainfall could lead to flooding in low lying areas.	No

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P-164	10/8/2026	Andrea	Harmer	ajw1@lehigh.edu	Individual	0	Trexlertown	PA	My family of young adults and I just visited this area. When I read about the sewage problem from recent, intense storms, it made me sad to think this area could be polluted. I'm so glad to hear you have identified a natural way to help clean up the Alewife Greenway because this area is so important historically and is to beautiful to spend time in. Thank you for your efforts! Best regards, Andrea & family	No
P-165	10/8/2026	Paulina	Mastryukov	paulina.mastryukov@yahoo.com	Individual	0	Philadelphia	PA	Now more than ever we need to come together and create a better world. One where our wildlife is able to have the best chance and to create more sustainable ways for cities to function. Please pilot Living Forest Infrastructure at Alewife Brook.	No
P-166	10/8/2026	Juanita	Rinas	synergy6z@icloud.com	Individual	0	Eugene	OR	Please have Cambridge, Somerville, and the MWRA to pilot Living Forest Infrastructure at Alewife Brook, this will help solve the Alewife sewage flooding situation there and make a more livable situation for the stakeholders in the region.	No
P-167	10/8/2026	Tracy	Revett	climbnyogi@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	Please make a Living Forest part of the Alewife Brook planning process. The land around the Alewife Brook could become more resilient if trees and plantings are increased in the area. The air quality is also poor with the repeated sewage outflows and trees can help bring animals and birds back to the area. Thank you for your consideration.	No
P-168	10/8/2026	Diana	Bain	dbain@gmavt.net	Individual	0	Bridgport	VT	Please pilot Living Forest Infrastructure at Alewife Brook to mitigate part of the damage done by stormwater-caused sewage overflow. This would reduce the impact on people and wildlife alike. It would also create a ecosystem that would increase its effects over time.	No
P-169	10/8/2026	Carol	Masuda	sunsetcat17@hotmail.com	Individual	0	Tucson	AZ	Please pilot the living forest infrastructure at Alewife Brook. This would provide habitat for all types of wildlife as well as save the planet from climate change. We need our rainwater.	No
P-170	10/8/2026	Helen	Gilchrist	gilhegirl@gmail.com	Individual	0	Olympia	WA	Please support Living Forest Infrastructure at Alewife Brook. If we can create a system that is more climate-friendly and improves water quality, then perhaps this system can be implemented in more areas.	No
P-171	10/8/2026	Max	Salt	zelkovapress@gmail.com	Individual	0	Coventry	RI	Creating a swath of vegetation-rich land around Alewife Brook would help absorb and clean the run-off from heavy rains, which are becoming more frequent because of climate change. This linear forest would also enhance the beauty and appeal of the area, especially for the residents, who are living in a dense urban environment lacking the calming, cooling natural aesthetics this forest would bring.	No
P-172	10/8/2026	Hugh	Lippincott	hlippincott@comcast.net	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	The living forest is a natural way to absorb extra water & "nutrients". Please consider designing this addition to the rain/storm water handing of Cambridge & Somerville CSO. Hopefully this rain water will also feed the greening efforts to add trees to the cities.	No
P-173	10/8/2026	Laurie	Markoff	Laurie.Markoff@gmail.com	Individual	0	Holliston	MA	This is a brilliant idea. We need to develop ways to restore the habitats that we have degraded for our own use. This will restore habitat for plants and birds, increase biodiversity, and improve the quality of water and air and also the visual landscape. Let's do this!	No
P-174	10/8/2026	Trish	Stevens	777aquila@gmail.com	Press	0	Troy	ME	To stop Alewife sewage flooding, we need a forested leach field. A portion of the overflow could be screened and biologically filtered before being distributed underground. As in a conventional leach field, soil would provide further treatment — but here, the treatment area would support thousands of native trees and shrubs.	No
P-175	10/8/2026	Caroline	Jones	cajones.mit@gmail.com	Individual	Citizen	Cambridge	MA	I hope that the plan can be more ambitious. We need to invest in our rivers, eliminate CSOs, and design ambitiously in the face of intensifying climate change. Clean water benefits everyone.	No
P-176	10/8/2026	Samantha	Larivee	Slarivee0922@gmail.com	Individual	0	Boston	Massachusetts	The people and wildlife of Boston and its neighbors on the Charles deserve clean water. I am writing to ask that you stop using the Charles as an open sewer, preventing people like myself from swimming or boating on our public waterways that all should have the right to access. I ask that MWRA take alternate measures, though they may cost more in the short term, to deal with excess sewage in an environmentally responsible way that does not put our community's health at risk.	No
P-177	10/9/2026	Chris	Templeman	christempleman@gmail.com	Individual	0	Somerville	MA	I think the Plan may be using New York City's 10% GSI goal in a much narrower way than NYC did. Both NYC and Philadelphia use public and private land for GSI. NYC's cost case put only 20% in public ROW and 54% on private sites. Why does our Plan cite these cities but test only public ROW? Shouldn't we also model and price GSI on private land before deciding how much tunnel is needed?	No
P-178	10/10/2026	Jared	Elenbaas	jaredelenbaas@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	Please see the attached file. My family loves Magazine beach for its green space and we used it multiple times per day. We humbly request a significant investment in the green spaces of Cambridgeport if this plan moves forward.	Yes
P-179	10/11/2026	Robert	Katz	Klamsauce@aol.com	Individual	Why are you covering on Boston Cambridge Somerville,Newton, Boston, and its.neihbohoods You are only covering northern communities how about Newton, Waltham, Brookline, etc	Framingham	MA	I've asked my questions in a prior field. These communities also border on THE CHARLES RIVER	No
P-180	10/11/2026	Juan Carlos	Serna	jserna@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	As a Cambridge resident living near Magazine Beach, I oppose the recommended plan to build the 10.1-million-gallon CSO storage tank beneath Magazine Beach Park. The plan itself states that "most of Magazine Beach Park will not be accessible to the public during the construction" — a construction period of 5 to 10 years — and that the project leaves permanent above-ground structures and a permanent loss of park space. A decade without one of Cambridgeport's most-used parks, followed by a permane	No

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P-181	10/11/2026	Erin	Blaisdell	eblaisdell3@gmail.com	Individual	0	Abington	MA	I urge MWRA to reject the 2050 CSO timeline and tighten nutrient limits. Waiting risks public health via toxic algae blooms. Overflows dump pathogens, causing fish kills, decimating wildlife, and triggering shellfishing closures that damage our fisheries economy. Designing for a "typical year" ignores intense climate storms. Boston needs accelerated infrastructure action to protect health, wildlife, and jobs.	No
P-182	10/11/2026	Venkatesh	Srinivasa	vesr007@gmail.com	Individual	0	Norwood	MA	From what was informed by our town, our bill will go up, without any benefits. The project cost should be borne by communities benefitting from it.	No
P-183	10/12/2026	Jessica	O'Leary	jessica_oleary@hotmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	Magazine Beach land is a neighborhood good- used by residents for walking, running, soccer, picnics, groups and individuals. Permanent removal of 2.3 acres for a sewer tank that isn't even going to wholly address the overflow problem is not acceptable. There has to be some other solution that is BETTER than the tank that only slightly improves overflow while also not removing beautiful waterfront recreation area. Please don't ruin our park and please provide a better solution!	No
P-184	10/13/2026	Joanne	Cullinane	cullinanejoanne@gmail.com	Individual	Arlington resident and town meeting member. Separate the sewer and stormwater lines completely. Hands off magazine park.	Arlington	MA	Separate the sewer and storm water lines completely. Storage tanks are not the answer. Hands off magazine park. Do better. Make a real plan - a plan to separate the pipes and end CSOs.	No
P-185	10/13/2026	Pankaj	Mehta	pankajmehta@protonmail.com	Individual	0	cambridge	ma	I am outraged by the idea that we will loose 2.3 acres of public park in Magazine Beach Park in the current proposal. I am equally outraged that we let sewer water go untreated. Please follow Rep. Connolly's lead and find a solution that protects our river and our public parks. The idea we cannot do both is completely ludicrous.	No
P-186	10/13/2026	Quent	Dickmann	john.q.dickmann@gmail.com	Individual	0	Cambridge	MA	It would be helpful if you shared with us why this facility is necessary. Is the current cottage farm facility not big enough? This new tank is extremely disruptive to neighborhood life	No
P-187	10/13/2026	Kerry	Kougias	kerry.kougias@kerry.com	Individual	0	Norwood	MA	I do not want to pay for anyone else's water. It does not benefit the town of Norwood so the town should not have to pay 60% for the project.	No

Attachments from Updated CSO Control Plan Public Comments

Comment Number: E-47
Date: 6/18/2026
Name: L.L. Grace
Email: l.l.grace3000@gmail.com



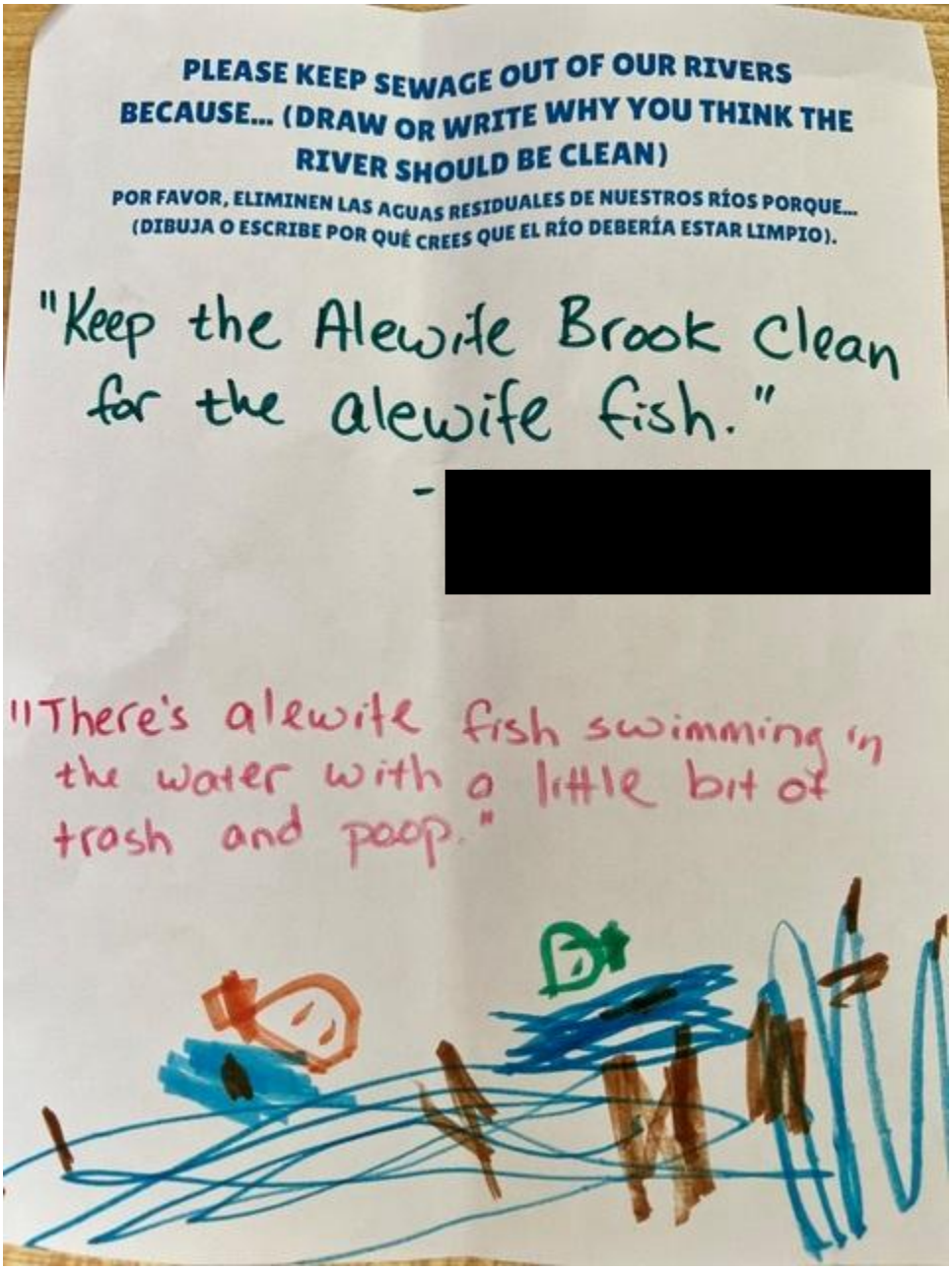


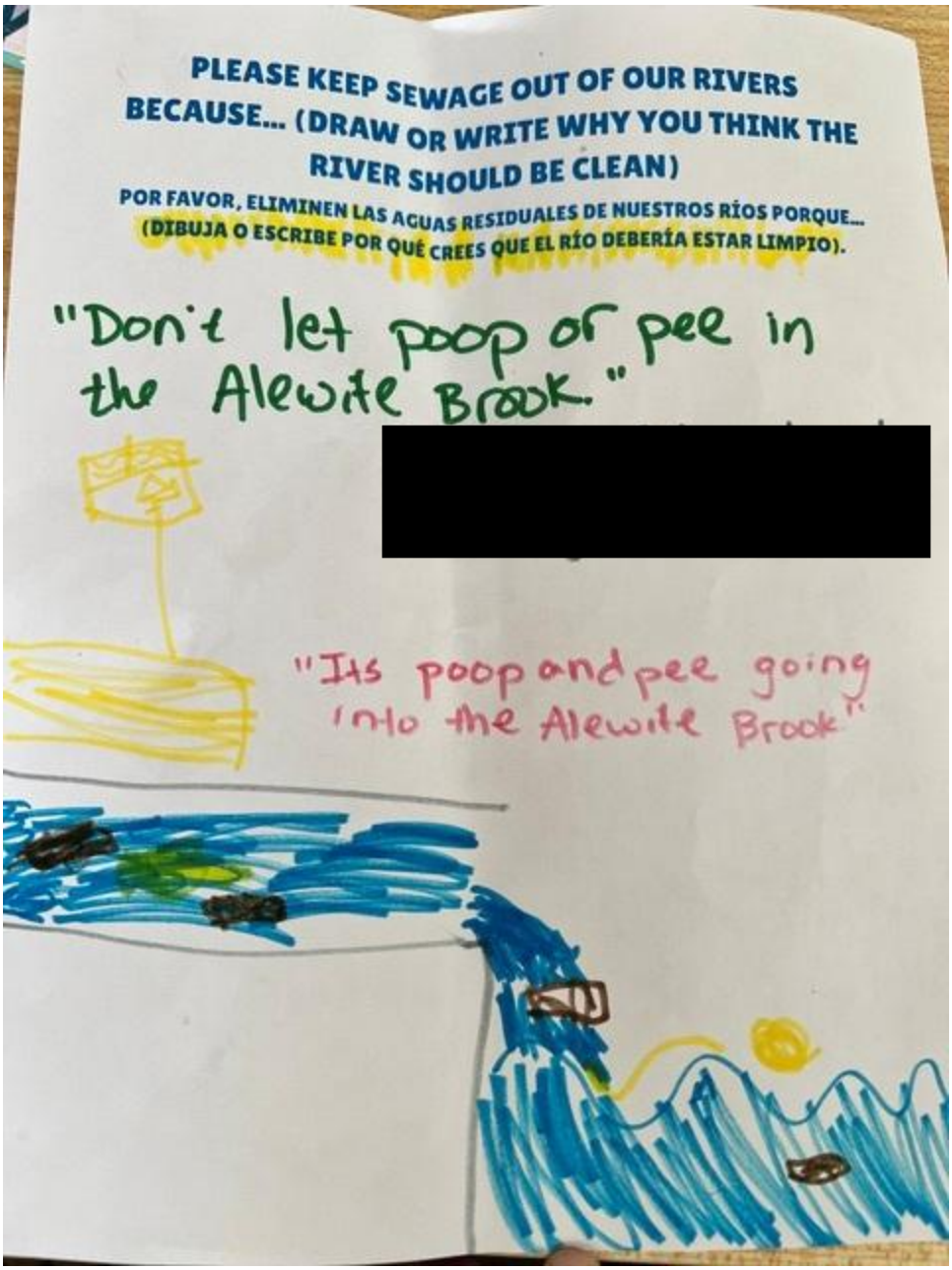






Comment Number: E-120
Date: 7/8/2026
Name: Kayla Celani
Email: kayla.celani@gmail.com




PLEASE KEEP SEWAGE OUT OF OUR RIVERS BECAUSE... (DRAW OR WRITE WHY YOU THINK THE RIVER SHOULD BE CLEAN)
POR FAVOR, ELIMINEN LAS AGUAS RESIDUALES DE NUESTROS RÍOS PORQUE... (DIBUJA O ESCRIBE POR QUÉ CREES QUE EL RÍO DEBERÍA ESTAR LIMPIO).
"Don't let poop or pee in the Alewife Brook."
[redacted]
"Its poop and pee going into the Alewife Brook"

Comment Number: P-24
Date: 6/18/2026
Name: Julia Novina
Email: julianovina@yahoo.com

Attached letter begins on the following page.

To: MWRA
Attn: Draft Updated CSO Control Plan
[redacted]
Chelsea, MA 02150

June 18, 2026

My name is Julia Novina. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan.

For the last 17 years, I have lived near the Mystic River and Mystic Lake (5 years in East Arlington, the last 12 in West Medford, in a house across the street from the river). I *fell in love* with this area because of the river and lake. I am a lifelong swimmer for whom being in the water is critical to my physical and mental well-being; I swim regularly in the Upper Mystic Lake, with a wetsuit to extend the swimming season beyond summer to include late spring and early fall. I own a paddleboard and paddle occasionally on the river. I own a dog and we walk along the Mystic River and Alewife Brook twice a day, *every day*, *all year round*. I can see the river from my house and see first-hand that every summer, the river is teeming with human activity: fishing, boating, kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding. All the above happens on the lake, too, plus swimming & sailing. It is *deeply* upsetting and simply inexcusable that I and my dog and all these people, their pets and wildlife regularly risk coming in contact with raw, untreated sewage when being at, in or on the water.

As one of many concerned citizens whose health & well-being is connected to the health & well-being of the Mystic River watershed, I find it *utterly unacceptable* that MWRA, Cambridge and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. How on earth can that be OK? We know better now than when such practices began last century. We know waterways are not toilets. We know that out of sight is not out of mind or body.

I have attended meetings and hearings (virtually) on the matter and heard first-hand that there are some very good minds hard at work on this problem and that solutions are possible. They may take time, cost money, but there are plans that are affordable that virtually eliminate CSOs. For the health and safety of our community and planet, there is *no excuse* not to address this major public health hazard as fully as possible. No excuse to take half-measures.

Please help.

Please.



Comment Number: P-50
Date: 7/13/2026
Name: Emilio Lopez
Email: emilio@soptechint.com

Attachment begins on the following page.

SOP Technologies
Environmental Solutions
soptechint.com

Stormwater Filters

www.soptechint.com info@soptechint.com 305-792-8778

The Mission of **SOP** Technologies is to **S**top **O**cean **P**ollution



Organic material





Plastic Trash

Fish Kills



Street Flooding



Marine Debris



Proven Patented Technologies

CURB INLET FILTERS



UNDER-GRATE BASKET FILTERS



CUSTOM & CATCH BASIN FILTERS



QR CODE STORM DRAIN MARKERS



Customers & Testimonials

"It has not been necessary to clean the drains since the devices have been installed."
- Public Works Director, Customer

"The filter does what it is designed to do, all debris is collected at the inlet, keeping it out of the basin."
- Public Works Director, Customer

"All of the debris stays out instead of going into the storm basin. Much easier to clean and remove from the surface instead of vac trucking it out."
- Public Works Director, Customer

"It is in the best interest of the city to purchase these filters from SOP Technologies. Staff have tested filters from two companies. The SOP product is much stronger and better built. They are comparable in price. No other comparable products exist to staff's knowledge after lengthy research. The filters have been effective at keeping debris out as intended and have had no mechanical or corrosion issues to date."
- Utilities Director, Customer

In the News

ABC News: Hallandale Beach
https://soptechint.com/blog/2022/8/3/abc-local-10-news-city-of-hallandale-beach-public-works-city-of-miami-and-sop-technologies-storm-drain-filters

City of Laurel, MD TV
https://soptechint.com/blog/2024/3/1/city-of-laurel-md-implementing-qr-code-storm-drain-markers-and-stormwater-inlet-filters

NBC News: North Bay Village
https://soptechint.com/blog/2024/3/1/north-bay-village-protecting-biscayne-bay

Stormwater Filters


Florida


Maryland


Florida


Tennessee


Florida


Maryland


Florida






Texas (custom engineering)



Michigan (custom engineering)

Stormwater Filter Benefits

- **REDUCES POLLUTION**

  Filters prevent leaves and street litter from entering the stormwater system, reducing marine debris and nutrient loads from decomposing organic material.

- **REDUCES FLOODING**

  Patented upward flow, louvered design prevents leaves and street litter from clogging stormwater inlets, pipes and drains, while allowing the free-flow of stormwater.

- **REDUCES OPERATIONAL & MAINTENANCE COSTS**

  Street sweeping is cheaper and easier than more costly vacuum cleanings.

- **ACHIEVES TMDL REDUCTIONS FOR NPDES / MS4 PERMITS**

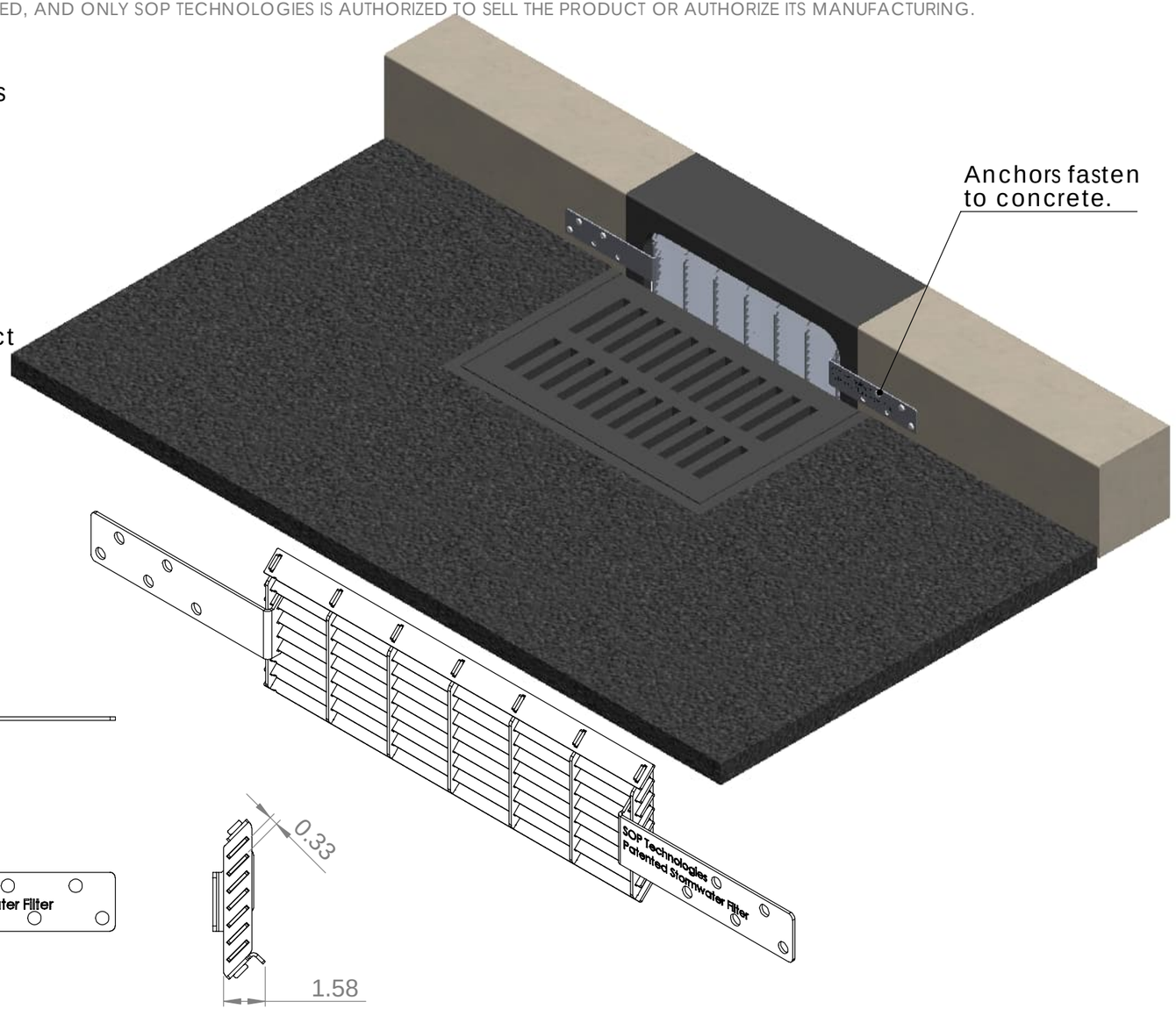
  Captured dry organic material prevents Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Nitrogen (TN), and this can be reported in your annual NPDES / MS4 report.

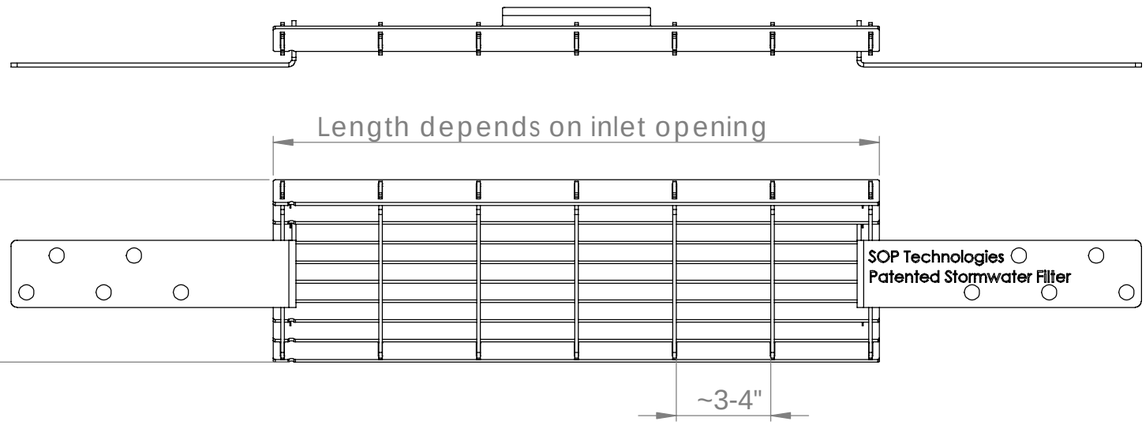
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SOP Technologies Patented Stormwater Curb Inlet Filters with side brackets

Key Features:
- Filters can be customized to any size inlets and bottom brackets are available for different inlet configurations.
- These shop drawings illustrate curb filters with side brackets.
- Material: Aluminum
- Fasteners: Nail-drive anchors or other anchors upon request.
- The SOP Technologies Patented upward-flow designs allow for high water flow, while minimizing blockage of the screen.
- Filters are installed slightly within the curb opening in order to prevent contact with car tires.
- Maintain filters clean with street sweeping.

SOP Technologies website: https://soptechint.com





SOP Technologies
info@soptechint.com
+1-305-792-8778

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Friday, May 3, 2024

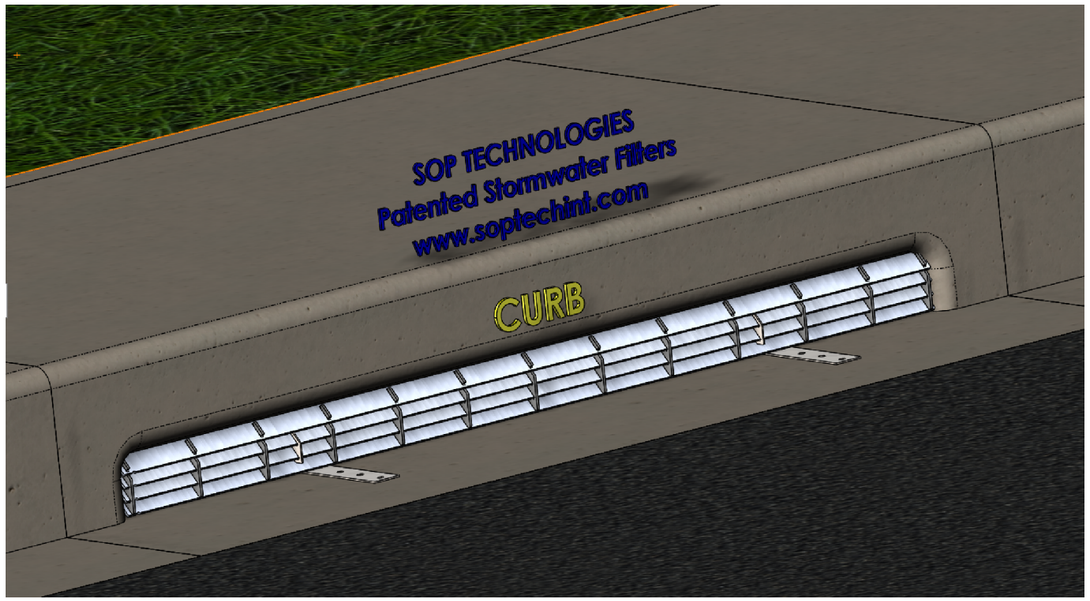
FILE NAME:
Curb Filter with Side Brackets - SOP Technologies - Installed Filter Assy

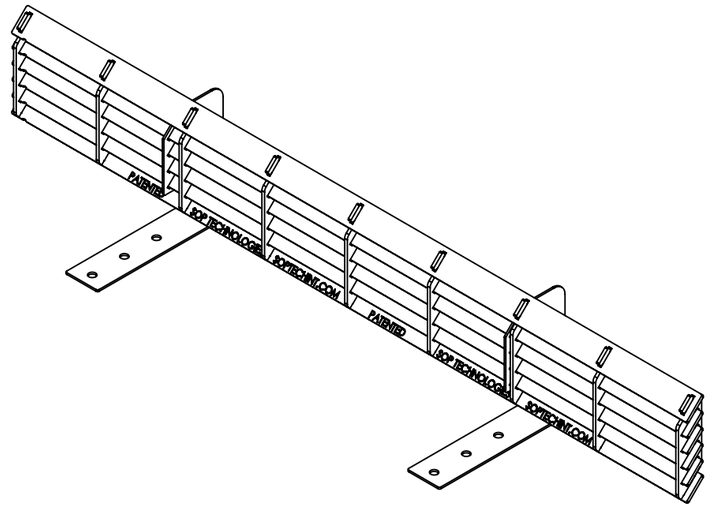
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B		

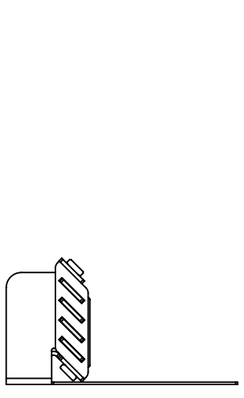
SHEET 1 OF 1

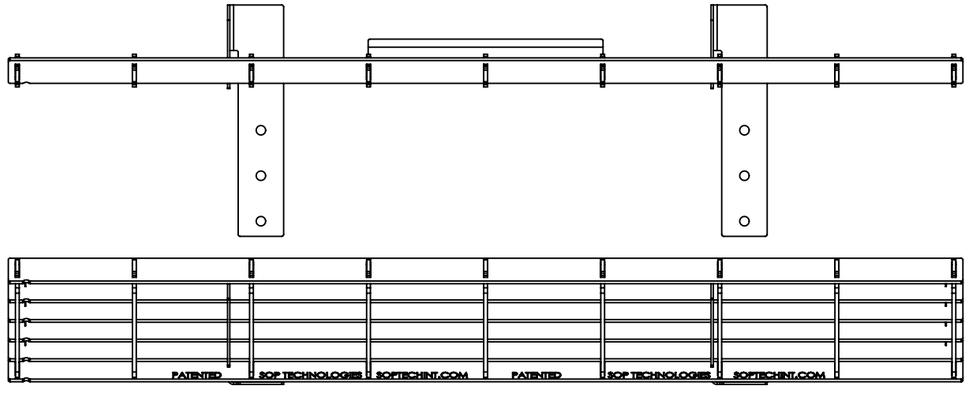
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SOP Technologies patented curb filter with bottom-mount brackets.









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DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES		
MATERIAL	Aluminum	
FINISH		
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING		

	NAME	DATE
Q.A.		

COMMENTS:
SOP Technologies patented stormwater filter with upward angle for water flow.

Thursday, April 14, 2022

FILE NAME:
Stormwater curb filter renderings.

DESCRIPTION:
SOP Technologies patented curb filter with bottom-mount brackets.

SIZE	DWG. NO.	REV
B		

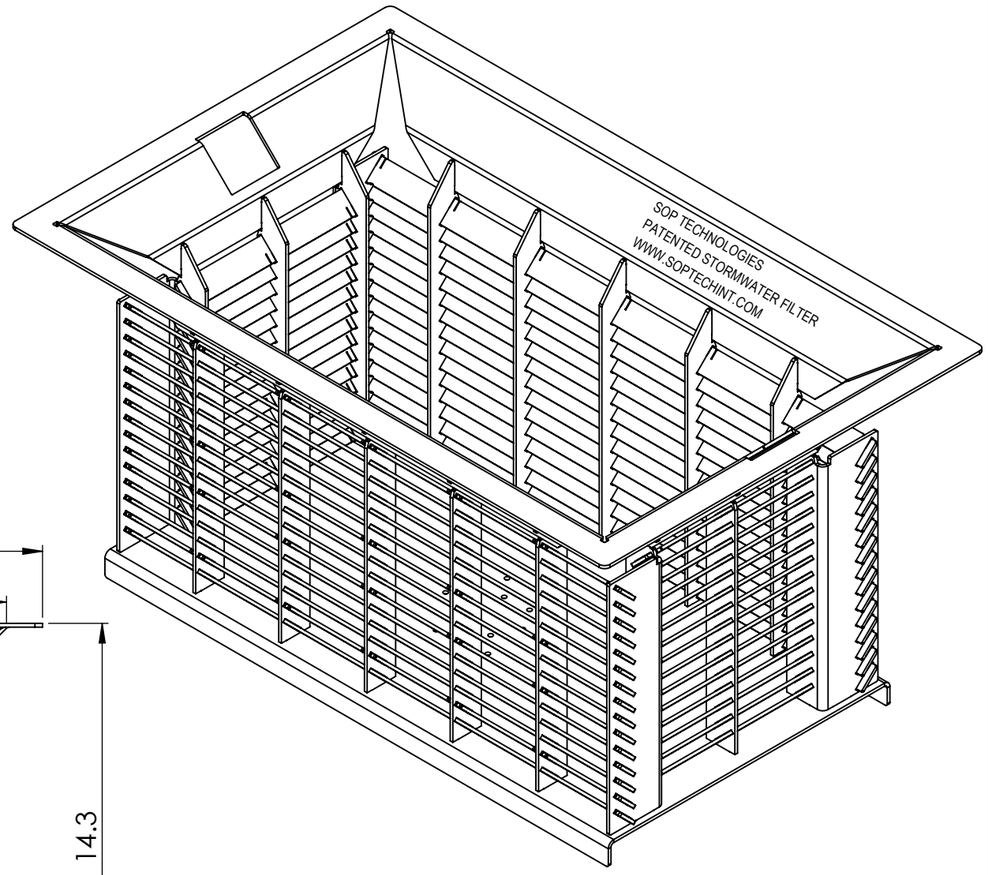
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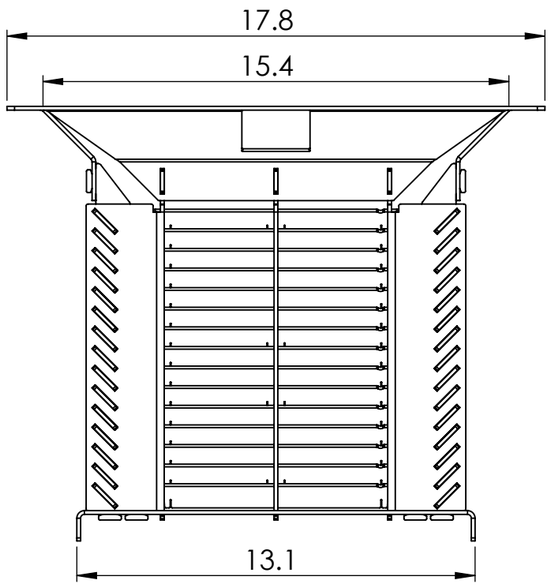
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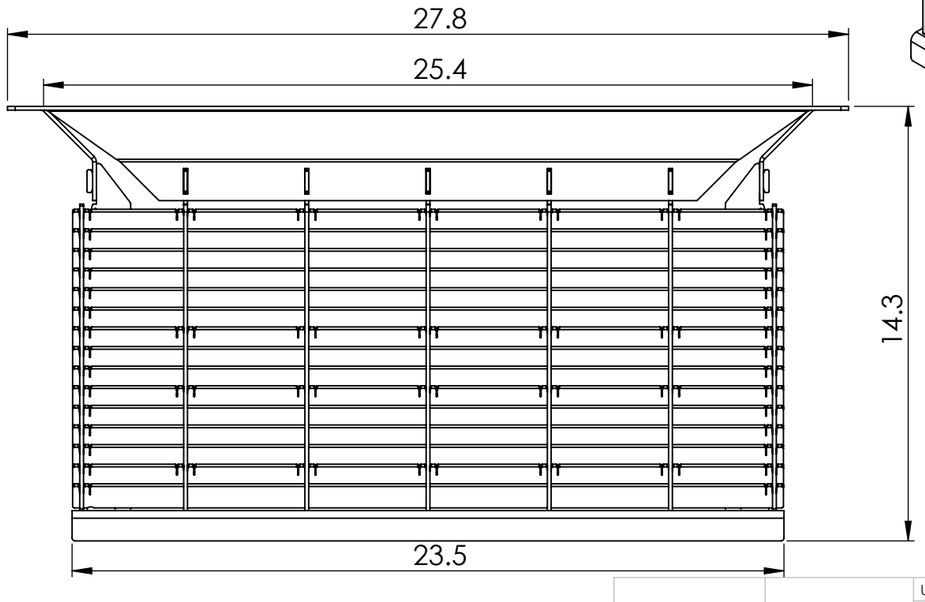
SOP Technologies patented stormwater filter baskets for use underneath USF 6223 and 6224 grates. Other dimensions are available upon request.

For more information, contact SOP Technologies:
info@soptechint.com
305-792-8878
www.soptechint.com









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UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED:
DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES
MATERIAL: Aluminum
FINISH
DO NOT SCALE DRAWING

COMMENTS:
Stormwater filters include SOP Technologies' patented upward angles for water flow.

Thursday, April 14, 2022

FILE NAME:
SOP Technologies Patented Stormwater Filters

DESCRIPTION:

SIZE	DWG. NO.	REV
B		

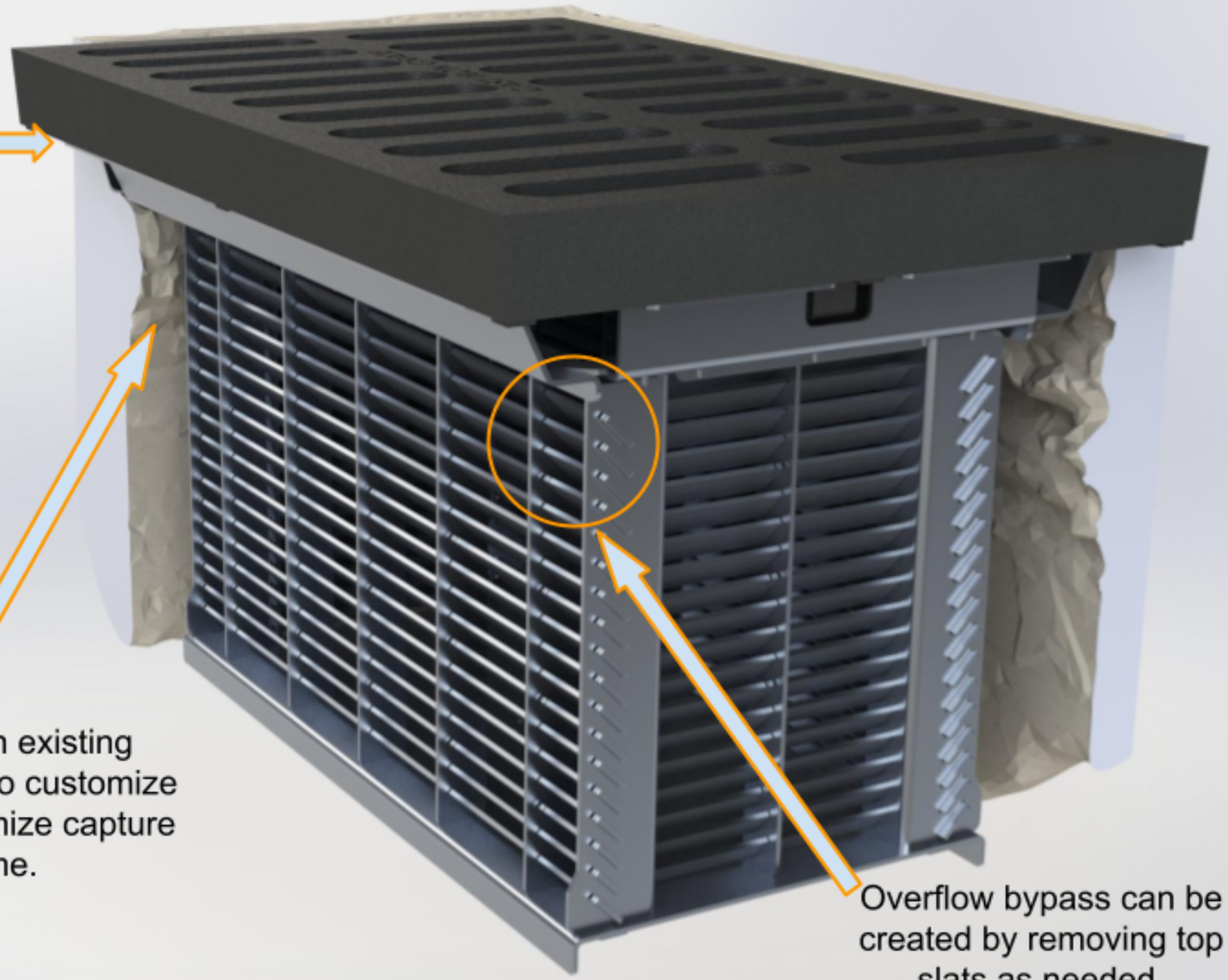
WEIGHT: 23.17

SOP Technologies
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SOP Technologies patented Stormwater Basket Filters are designed to capture pollutants and maximize open area for water flow on all sides.

soptechint.com | info@soptechint.com | (305) 792-8778

Filters drop into place between the grate and the grate frame.



We 3D scan existing infrastructure to customize filters to maximize capture volume.

Overflow bypass can be created by removing top slats as needed.

Case Study – Aventura, FL

THE CITY OF AVENTURA IMPLEMENTED SOP TECHNOLOGIES' PATENTED STORMWATER CURB INLET FILTERS CITY-WIDE IN 2019

232 stormwater curb inlet filters

ANNUAL POLLUTION PREVENTION

38,528 lbs. of leaves, street litter and debris prevented from entering the stormwater system, local groundwater, and Biscayne Bay. This includes capturing of nutrients, such as Phosphorus and Nitrogen.

FLOOD PREVENTION

The city is keeping thousands of pounds of leaves and litter out of stormwater catch basins and pipes, thereby preventing clogging, street flooding and more expensive maintenance.

COST SAVINGS

Projected to save up to $97,000 within 10 years.

FULL CASE STUDY

https://soptechint.com/blog/2020/8/17/city-of-aventura-preventing-nutrient-and-stormwater-pollution-of-biscayne-bay

AVENTURA

Photos of debris in front of inlet filters









POLLUTION PREVENTION ANALYSIS RESULTS (CONTINUED)

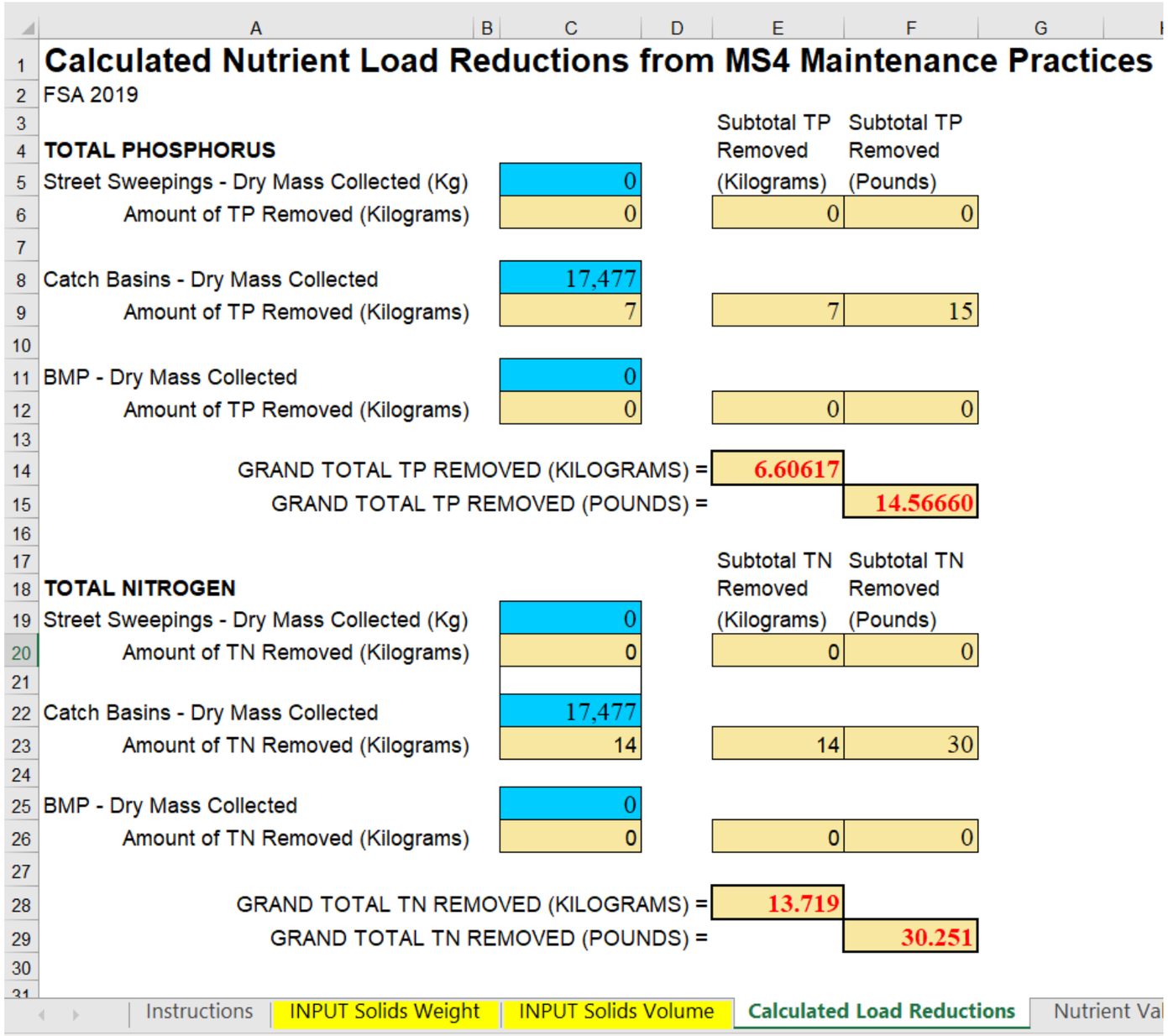
Total Nitrogen (TN) and Total Phosphorus (TP) captured by the stormwater filters in the City of Aventura were quantified using the FSA MS4 Load Reduction Assessment Tool available on the FDEP website.[1]

Total annual lbs. of debris blocked by the SOP Technologies filters, factoring the proportion of Residential and Commercial zones in the city is: 38,528.74 lbs. per year.

The total pounds calculation of 38,528.74 was entered into the Load Reduction Assessment Tool to derive the Total Nitrogen (TN) and Total Phosphorus (TP) prevented from entering the stormwater systems.

Annual removal with SOP Technologies stormwater inlet filters / screens:

- **TP** 14.566 lbs.
- **TN** 30.251 lbs.



Calculated Nutrient Load Reductions from MS4 Maintenance Practices

FSA 2019

			Subtotal TP Removed (Kilograms)	Subtotal TP Removed (Pounds)
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS				
Street Sweepings - Dry Mass Collected (Kg)	0			
Amount of TP Removed (Kilograms)	0		0	0
Catch Basins - Dry Mass Collected	17,477			
Amount of TP Removed (Kilograms)	7		7	15
BMP - Dry Mass Collected	0			
Amount of TP Removed (Kilograms)	0		0	0
GRAND TOTAL TP REMOVED (KILOGRAMS) =		6.60617		
GRAND TOTAL TP REMOVED (POUNDS) =				14.56660

			Subtotal TN Removed (Kilograms)	Subtotal TN Removed (Pounds)
TOTAL NITROGEN				
Street Sweepings - Dry Mass Collected (Kg)	0			
Amount of TN Removed (Kilograms)	0		0	0
Catch Basins - Dry Mass Collected	17,477			
Amount of TN Removed (Kilograms)	14		14	30
BMP - Dry Mass Collected	0			
Amount of TN Removed (Kilograms)	0		0	0
GRAND TOTAL TN REMOVED (KILOGRAMS) =		13.719		
GRAND TOTAL TN REMOVED (POUNDS) =				30.251

Instructions | INPUT Solids Weight | INPUT Solids Volume | Calculated Load Reductions | Nutrient Val

1. FSA-MS4 Loan Reduction Assessment Tool updated 2019. Accessed 5/5/2020
https://floridadep.gov/water/stormwater/documents/fsa-ms4-load-reduction-tool-updated-2019

POLLUTION PREVENTION ANALYSIS RESULTS (CONTINUED)

Most of the debris in front of the stormwater filters was composed of leaves and organic matter, but there was also lots of street litter.

As shown on the table on the right, street litter was more prevalent in the Commercial areas when compared to Residential areas.

Item type	Quantity collected in front of the 10 Commercial Area filters	Quantity collected in front of the 10 Residential Area filters
Cigarette Butts	39	7
Plastic bottles, lids and other larger plastics	8	2
Plastic bottle caps, wrappers and smaller plastics	35	4
Glass bottles	1	0
Paper wrappers, napkins and paper products	39	9
Metal cans and metal objects	8	0
Styrofoam pieces and other materials	16	2

Litter in front of the 10 inlets in Commercial Areas



Litter in front of the 10 inlets in Residential Areas



COST SAVINGS ANALYSIS

The City of Aventura protected 232 curb inlets using SOP Technologies' stormwater filters, and the average curb inlet opening area (Height x Length) is 523 square inches. The inlet open area determines the filter size, which determines pricing, amount of debris and litter blocked at the inlet, etc. Therefore, this cost analysis can be used to determine cost savings for inlets of other sizes.

Based on the FDEP Load Reduction Tool results, costs of street sweeping and catch basin cleaning were compared using the University of Florida study to FDEP, *"Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Practices Assessment Phase III – Reclaimed Water Areas"* (2019) by Sansalone, et al, University of Florida. The study includes cost comparisons of using street sweeping versus catch basin cleaning (figures shown below for TP and TN).

Collecting leaves, debris and street litter costs much less using street sweepers when compared to using vacuum trucks.

Implementing stormwater inlet filters allowed the City of Aventura to collect significantly more debris with street sweepers, thereby saving money.

Street Sweeping
$257 / lb. of TP
$165 / lb. of TN



Catch Basin Cleaning
$1,656 / lb. of TP
$1,016 / lb. of TN



Using data from the debris collected in front of the City of Aventura inlets, and the cost of TN and TP removal, we plotted the cost of implementing the filters and using street sweeping, versus not having filters and using catch basin cleanings. Quantities of Total Nitrogen (TN) and Total Phosphorus (TP) collected by the filters were calculated using the FDEP Load Reduction Tool and data gathered at the City of Aventura for the pounds of debris SOP Technologies filters prevented from entering stormwater catch basins.

The data show that it costs less to use SOP Technologies inlet filters and street sweeping to remove debris, when compared to not using filters and using catch basin cleaning. **Within 10 years, the net cost savings per inlet in Aventura that uses a stormwater filter is from $188 (for TP removal) and $420 (for TN removal).** The cost savings factor the upfront costs to purchase the stormwater filters, filter installations, and street sweeping throughout the 10 years.

https://floridadep.gov/water/stormwater/documents/fsa-ms4-load-reduction-tool-updated-2019
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Practices Assessment Phase III – Reclaimed Water Areas Final Report To Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). University of Florida (UF) College of Engineering, Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment (ESSIE), Environmental Engineering Sciences (EES) Department. Gainesville, Florida 32611 USA. January 2019. https://www.florida-stormwater.org/assets/FSAEF/Research/MS4/UF%20FDEP%20MS4%20Maintenance%20Final%20Report_edited.pdf

COST SAVINGS ANALYSIS (CONTINUED)

The net cost savings per inlet with a curb inlet filter is $188 - $420 within 10 years. This includes the cost of the filter, filter installation, and ongoing debris removal using street sweeping after filter implementation.

The estimated lifespan of SOP Technologies stormwater drainage filters is over 10 years; therefore, 10 years was used to conservatively estimate the Return on Investment (ROI) and cost savings (from maintenance operations) of implementing the stormwater filters.

The total cost, including installations, to implement stormwater curb drainage filters throughout the City of Aventura was $159,972.

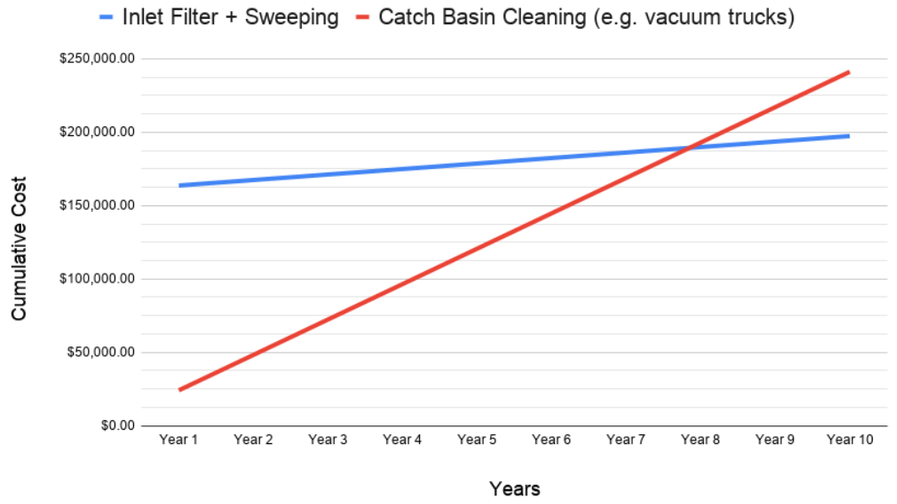
The financial "break-even point" of implementing the stormwater filters is from 6-8 years. Within 10 years, the city is estimated to save $43,000 - $97,000 on stormwater maintenance efforts because of the stormwater filters implementations.

Costs of street sweeping and catch basins cleanings are based on the cost per pound of Total Nitrogen (TN) and Total Phosphorus (TP) removal, using data from the FDEP Load Reduction Assessment Tool and the University of Florida MS4 study.

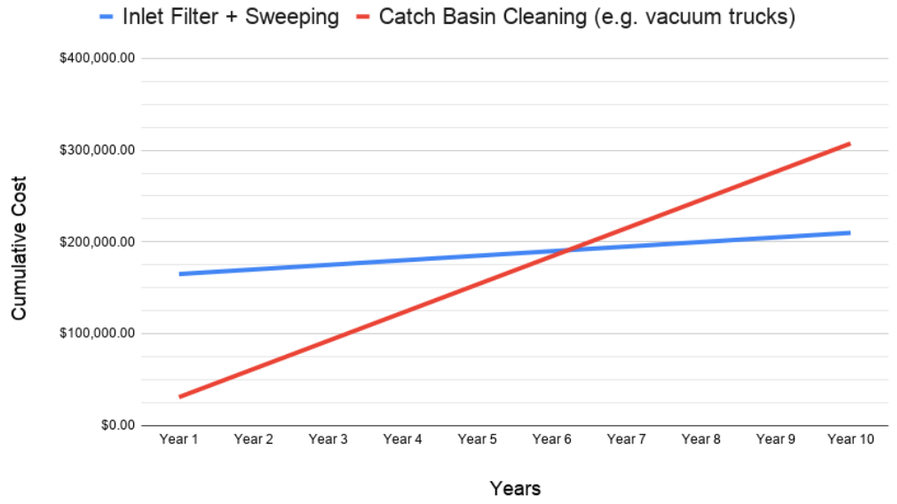
Maintenance Frequency

Before implementing stormwater curb inlet filters, the City of Aventura had a monthly (city-wide) street sweeping schedule. After implementing the filters, the city increased street sweeping to take place once every two weeks. The street sweeping is enough to keep the stormwater filters clean.

TP Removal 10 Year Cost Comparison (city-wide): Inlet Filters + Sweeping vs Catch Basin Cleanings



TN Removal 10 Year Cost Comparison (city-wide): Inlet Filters + Sweeping vs Catch Basin Cleanings



Patented and proven Anti-Clogging design

Proven in the field and in the lab!

- Our patented upward flow/louvered design allows the unimpeded flow of water upward between the slats, while capturing material such as cigarette butts, leaves, plastic bags, Styrofoam and other debris.
- Per Flow Rate Evaluation at FIU, a 48” Length x 5” Height filter would allow 1,050 gpm (2.33cfs) of water flow. https://soptechint.com/blog/2019/10/11/stormwater-filters-flow-rates-analysis-at-fiu



Miami Dade College



FIU

SOP Technologies
Patented Stormwater Filters Highlights

SOP Technologies
Environmental Solutions
soptechint.com

- **Industry Recognition:** The City of Aventura received "Stormwater Project of the Year" by the American Public Works Association for their city-wide implementation of filters in 2019.
- **Public Support and Documented Effectiveness:** Local 10 News supported the City of Miami efforts to implement our stormwater filters, and also highlighted Hallandale Beach Public Works' experience with our filters in Sept 2021 and again in July 2022.
- **Superior Design:** Our patented upward flow with overlapping slats prevents blockage of the openings, while allowing for substantial waterflow. They are adaptable for a variety of inlet heights and lengths.
- **Maximize Water Flow and Debris Capture:** SOP Technologies filters provide a higher flow rate for water and block trash and debris more effectively than competing products. By keeping leaves and organic matter out of stormwater systems, our filters prevent nutrients such as Nitrogen and Phosphorus from entering waterways.
- **Operational Efficiencies:** It costs less to sweep debris off the street when compared to using catch basin cleanings, so our stormwater filters offer a more cost-effective method for capturing/removing stormwater debris and trash.





SOP Technologies vs Competitors

SOP Technologies
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SOP Technologies' patented upward flow design provides more open area when compared to using perforated sheet metal.

SOP Technologies
Upward Water Flow

- 0.33" x 3.88" openings
- 1.28 sq in area per opening
- 69% open area (more open area)



Other Filter/Screen Designs
Horizontal Water Flow

- 0.75" diameter holes
- 0.44 sq in area per opening
- 51% open area (less open area)





SOP Technologies vs Competitors

SOP Technologies
Environmental Solutions
soptechint.com

SOP Technologies' stormwater filters don't have moving parts or gaps that are large.

- **Mechanisms that automatically open tend to become stuck in the "open"**
- **Filters/screens with large gaps allow cans and other large objects to enter the drainage system.**
- **Both of these systems can clog easier and require additional expenses for secondary screening and vactor cleanings**









Contact Us

(305) 792-8778
www.soptechint.com
info@soptechint.com

Comment Number: P-51
Date: 7/13/2026
Name: Joseph LaFond
Email: jlafond1732@gmail.com

Attached letter begins on the following page.

Joseph LaFond
[redacted]
Chelsea, MA 02150

July 13, 2026

My Name is Joe LaFond, and I live in Chelsea. I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook. As a resident Chelsea, a marginalized, environmental justice community that is already disproportionately impacted by myriad environmental and health risks, I find this plan—advanced by wealthier neighboring cities—to be particularly deplorable and unjust.

I live in the Admiral's Hill neighborhood and walk in Mary O'Malley Park on the banks of the Mystic and Island End Rivers every single day. After any amount of rainfall, it seems, the warning lights to avoid contact with the water are flashing. With climate change affecting weather patterns, we are sure to more sudden downpours, resulting in combined sewer overflows. Likewise, with regular temperatures increasing, the benefits of a healthy, swimmable watershed must be considered. Especially for communities like Chelsea—which is already a heat island—being essentially surrounded by water on all sides and being barred from swimming in or otherwise engaging with the water is particularly cruel and unjust. This cannot be ignored, and the need to plan for these inevitable conditions is now.

In addition to the detrimental effects that CSOs have on human health, they also degrade and destroy our watershed for the immense array of wildlife that call it home. As a birding and wildlife enthusiast, I watch with great sadness as ducks dive, geese swim, and herons hunt in a literal river of excrement!

If the risks to human and environmental health are not enough of a call to action, the recent CSO incident in the Merrimack River which closed beaches and fisheries for days clearly show that CSOs pose immense financial risk to tourism and other of our state's industries.

This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination now.

Comment Number: P-55
Date: 7/23/2026
Name: Eric Reuss
Email: ereuss@gmail.com

Attached letter begins on the following page.

July 23, 2026

Greetings,

My name is Eric Reuss – I live in Arlington, and have previously lived in both Medford and Somerville, always near the Mystic River.

I'm delighted that Massachusetts and local towns are finally seeking to really address the CSOs that plague local waterways. I also find it laudable that the Partners chose to look at rainfall predictions for future years rather than using historic measurements that are bound to be inaccurate.

At the same time, I'm deeply disappointed at the limited nature of the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. The weather will not be so obliging as to give us a Typical 2050 year every year, nor even close. And the effects of climate change are not going to stop on a dime in 2050.

Dumping our untreated sewage into the limited green spaces we spare from paving over is, bluntly, disgusting and shameful. We ought, as a civilized society, to do better by ourselves and the natural world. But even setting that aside, CSOs have a real impact on those living nearby. I enjoy walking along Alewife Brook – but not too often, because of CSOs. Friends have invited me to kayak on the Mystic – and I have declined because of CSOs. And I'm not even one of the unlucky ones, whose yards get flooded with untreated water.

I do understand that other sources (stormwater and upstream contamination) play a large role in the state of these waterways, and that eliminating CSOs would not make everything perfect. That's no justification for being lax. When there are three main sources for a problem, it's easy for those responsible for each source to point at the other two and say, "oh, but *those* exist, so putting in the effort to properly fix the part *we're* responsible for is a poor use of time, money, and effort", in a circular evasion of blame.

The Plan makes much of being data-driven, but data should not drive: our priorities, ethics, and obligations should drive, using data to *understand*. I find it telling that the Partners conducted so much public outreach only to essentially ignore the most urgent entreaties, attempting to blame "advocacy groups" for the desire for zero CSOs – as if those groups weren't made up of actual residents and taxpayers.

It is true that the Plan is much less expensive, and much less of a hassle, than many alternatives. It is also much less of a solution. It may offer better "bang for the buck", but it *doesn't actually fix the problem*. We'll be back at this point again in 25 years, give or take, with band-aids falling apart and people asking why we didn't do it properly in the 2020s, given all the hassle we had to go through then.

We should do better.

Thanks,

Eric

Comment Number: P-57
Date: 7/27/2026
Name: Regina Raz
Email: raz.regina@gmail.com

Attached letter begins on the following page.

Regina Raz ([redacted] Watertown, MA 02472)

27 July 2026

Subject: Public Comment on Draft Updated CSO Control Plan

I am writing to oppose approval of the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan in its current form.

The proposed Charles River plan would make substantial infrastructure investments and is designed to achieve zero CSO discharges during the modeled 2050 Typical Year. However, that is not the same as eliminating CSOs under all future weather conditions. The plan's own analysis indicates that overflows would remain during larger storms, and that more protective alternatives could eliminate additional discharges.

I am particularly concerned that the phrase "0 CSOs in the 2050 Typical Year" may give the public the impression that sewage overflows will be eliminated, when the proposed standard is limited to one modeled rainfall sequence. Public communications should clearly state that CSOs would continue during storms exceeding that modeled condition.

The proposed implementation period is also troubling. The Charles River alternative is estimated to take approximately 28 to 33 years to complete. Residents should not be asked to accept decades of continued discharges without enforceable interim milestones, transparent project sequencing, and regular reassessment of whether stronger controls have become feasible.

The plan places considerable weight on the finding that non-CSO sources account for most modeled bacterial pollution in the Charles River. That is an important consideration, but it should not be used to minimize the independent public-health, ecological, and aesthetic value of eliminating sewage discharges. River-wide annual modeling may not fully reflect short-term bacterial peaks near outfalls, localized exposure, floatables, nutrients, odors, and other impacts of untreated sewage.

I therefore ask MassDEP, EPA, MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville to revise the plan to:

- clearly distinguish "0 CSOs in the 2050 Typical Year" from full CSO elimination;
- establish enforceable interim reduction targets and public reporting requirements;
- preserve the ability to require a higher level of control as climate conditions, costs, and technology evolve;
- provide a transparent comparison of household rate impacts for the recommended and more protective alternatives;
- evaluate localized and short-term public-health impacts at individual outfalls; and
- pair CSO controls with enforceable stormwater and phosphorus-reduction measures.

The recommended alternative may be a reasonable major phase of the cleanup effort, but it should not become the permanent ceiling on restoration of the Charles River. After decades of public investment, the final plan should maintain a clear and enforceable path toward a truly swimmable and fishable river.

Thank you.

Comment Number: P-58
Date: 7/29/2026
Name: Jasiah Ortega
Email: jayortega821@gmail.com

Attached letter begins on the following page.

Dear project teams,

My name is Jasiah, and I live in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

I am writing to express my deep concern about the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan. As a concerned citizen who cares about the health of the Mystic River watershed, I find it unacceptable that the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville would advance a plan that allows for the ongoing release of sewage into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook.

I currently live within the Charles River watershed but have found a connection with the Mystic River and its community members through volunteering events in and around the water. The Mystic is home for many residents and the health risks that CSO's impose would directly affect the community that I have come to love through service.

I also attend Tufts University and believe that the current drafted CSO control plan directly impacts me and my fellow students who love to use the Mystic for recreational activities as well as varsity athletes who use the Mystic for their training and preparation for competitions.

This plan is a half-measure that provides minimal control in a future climate. Specifically on Alewife Brook, the plan promises that completely untreated CSO releases will continue indefinitely into the future in all scenarios with more rain than a "typical" or average year. Many years will be above average. And all the CSO discharge into the Alewife—which directly impacts the Mystic River as well—would be completely untreated, not even partially disinfected. The report itself shows that the current proposal would have reduced—but by no means ended—CSOs in the past 10 years, had it been in place. This is not enough. You have shown us that plans that would virtually eliminate CSOs are not only possible, but affordable. We can't afford to take half-measures. Our rivers and our cities deserve CSO elimination.

Sincerely,
Jasiah Ortega
Boston, MA, 02125

Comment Number: E-182
Date: 8/4/2026
Name: Jimmy Johnson
Email: forcedexposure@yahoo.com

Attached email begins on the following page.

[redacted]

From: Kristin Anderson <forcedexposure@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Updated CSO Control Plan
Cc: arlington@savethealewifebrook.org
Subject: Restoring the Alewife Brook: public comment on the CSO plan

Categories: Green category

This Message Is From an Untrusted Sender
You have not previously corresponded with this sender.
Report Suspicious

Dear MassDEP and EPA,

I am writing as a concerned resident to urge you to adopt a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) plan for Alewife Brook that truly ends sewage pollution.

I live near Alewife Brook and the stench is nauseating. But the odor is nothing compared to the health risk that raw sewage poses every time the brook floods. We can and must fix this problem now, when we have the chance. Stop dumping sewage and restore the brook by dredging, dechannelization, and river restoration.

My concerns are as follows:

PUBLIC HEALTH

At Alewife Brook, all CSOs are untreated. You flush the toilet, and whatever happened in that toilet (and you _know_ what happened in that toilet) arrives at Alewife Brook in the condition that it left. It's not treated. E. coli counts are nearly 1000 times higher than EPA's recommended safe level. These untreated sewage discharges expose people along the Alewife to other live bacteria, viruses, and parasites, including norovirus and intestinal worms - which can cause much greater health problems than E. coli. In fact, Alewife CSOs have made people sick. There are documented cases of severe gastrointestinal illness after forced exposure to contaminated floodwaters, and a Boston University School of Public Health study found that sewage overflows are linked to increases in gastrointestinal illness. Dumping untreated waste only appears cheaper if the analysis excludes health impacts, environmental damage, and the community burden.

END CSO SEWAGE POLLUTION

I demand a plan engineered to a 25-year level of control for the year 2050. A 25-year level of control is what engineers refer to as 'virtual' combined sewage elimination: no sewage discharges except in a really big storm that occurs roughly every 25 years - around 6 inches of rain in 24 hours, according to the most current rainfall model (NOAA Atlas 14). According to MWRA, the cost starts at $45 more per year to households to eliminate combined sewer overflows in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic. Let's start with elimination. Why wouldn't we make this investment in Massachusetts?? It's a no-brainer. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 and the Commonwealth's Biodiversity Goals Report call on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Environmental health is community health. The

current proposal does not come close to eliminating remaining CSOs - instead, it proposes dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage into the brook in a single 5-year storm event. That's after the $340 million plan is constructed. The plan is just kicking the can down the road.

FUNDING: MWRA MUST PAY

Somerville and Cambridge should not have to pay! This is MWRA's job. The Legislature created the MWRA in 1984 to solve this regional problem, with a mandate for 'repair, replacement, rehabilitation, modernization and extension' of the sewer system. Under the Second Stipulation of the Boston Harbor court case, MWRA 'accepts legal liability to undertake such corrective action as may be necessary to implement the CSO control requirements.' MWRA is legally and financially responsible for the Alewife outfalls in violation of the court - CAM401A and SOM001A. Ending sewage pollution at Alewife Brook means MWRA must pay its fair share! Between 2024 and 2031, MWRA will finish paying off about $2.1 billion in long-term bonds, which means it has the capacity and hte debt service to issue new bonds just in time to fund sewage pollution elimination projects for Alewife Brook and the Charles and Mystic rivers. MWRA should pay for the work and stop demanding $500+ million from Cambridge and Somerville. This is a regional problem. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. MWRA must incentivize the cities to finish the job by acheiving a 25-year level of control and by paying for projects at Alewife Brook.

Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Johnson
[redacted]
Arlington, MA 02474
forcedexposure@yahoo.com

Sent from my iPhone

Comment Number: E-183
Date: 8/4/2026
Name: Beth Melofchik
Email: bethmelofchik@gmail.com

Attached email begins on the following page.

[redacted]

From: Beth Melofchik via Save the Alewife Brook <arlington@savethealewifebrook.org>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 10:05 AM
To: Updated CSO Control Plan
Cc: bethmelofchik@gmail.com
Subject: A resident's comments on the Alewife Brook CSO plan

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You have not previously corresponded with this sender.
Report Suspicious

Dear MassDEP and EPA,

I am writing as a concerned resident to urge you to adopt a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) plan for Alewife Brook that truly ends sewage pollution. My concerns are as follows:

PUBLIC HEALTH

At Alewife Brook, all CSOs are untreated. You flush the toilet, and whatever happened in that toilet (and you _know_ what happened in that toilet) arrives at Alewife Brook in the condition that it left. It's not treated. E. coli counts are nearly 1000 times higher than EPA's recommended safe level. These untreated sewage discharges expose people along the Alewife to other live bacteria, viruses, and parasites, including norovirus and intestinal worms - which can cause much greater health problems than E. coli. In fact, Alewife CSOs have made people sick. There are documented cases of severe gastrointestinal illness after forced exposure to contaminated floodwaters, and a Boston University School of Public Health study found that sewage overflows are linked to increases in gastrointestinal illness. Dumping untreated waste only appears cheaper if the analysis excludes health impacts, environmental damage, and the community burden.

END CSO SEWAGE POLLUTION

I demand a plan engineered to a 25-year level of control for the year 2050. A 25-year level of control is what engineers refer to as 'virtual' combined sewage elimination: no sewage discharges except in a really big storm that occurs roughly every 25 years - around 6 inches of rain in 24 hours, according to the most current rainfall model (NOAA Atlas 14). According to MWRA, the cost starts at $45 more per year to households to eliminate combined sewer overflows in the Alewife, Charles, and Mystic. Let's start with elimination. Why wouldn't we make this investment in Massachusetts?? It's a no-brainer. Governor Healey's Executive Order No. 618 and the Commonwealth's Biodiversity Goals Report call on the state to significantly reduce or eliminate combined sewer overflows, to protect public health and ensure our waters are swimmable and fishable. Environmental health is community health. The current proposal does not come close to eliminating remaining CSOs - instead, it proposes dumping 15 million gallons of raw sewage into the brook in a single 5-year storm event. That's after the $340 million plan is constructed. The plan is just kicking the can down the road.

RESTORE THE BROOK

River restoration and CSO sewage elimination is the most effective strategy to improve water quality. The concrete channel in Alewife Brook limits biodiversity and prevents ecological restoration - pretty

much nothing can grow there. Removing it and restoring the river would improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and provide needed flood storage. The state's 2003 Alewife Master Plan includes stream channel removal and river restoration. The Alewife Brook should be safe for boating and fishing year-round. It runs through historic public parkland with a popular multi-use path connecting Somerville, Cambridge, Arlington, and Medford, yet its water is unsafe for recreational use due to pollution. We demand a safe, beautiful, fishable brook for the residents and for wildlife. The rivers shall flow, be free from sewage, and perform essential ecosystem functions.

COMMUNITY PLAN

I support the community plan developed by the Coalition to End Sewage Pollution. The Alewife Brook Community CSO Plan evaluates flooding of Alewife Brook, where millions of gallons of sewage are discharged during flood events. The Draft plan does not consider community health impacts of that flooding. The Community Plan eliminates CSO sewage pollution, reduces flooding, improves water quality, is climate-resilient, increases sewer system capacity locally and regionally, and is paid for with MWRA funding.

SEWER SEPARATION & GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

The Alewife plan is 99.9% tanks and includes only 0.1% sewer separation. At Alewife Brook, the answer is not CSO storage tank and tunnel on public parkland. Grey infrastructure is not an improvement on public parkland at Alewife Brook. No to a tunnel on public parkland! Yes to sewer separation! Yes to green infrastructure on public parkland! The planning process needs to carefully consider a range of sewer separation scenarios, especially for Alewife Brook where none of the sewage discharges are treated. Plus, half the sewer separation work in Cambridge is now done. Under the first Alewife Brook Sewage Control Plan, 7 CSO outfalls were eliminated, Cambridge separated 283 acres of combined sewers, and the 3.4-acre Alewife Stormwater Wetland was created. The cities and MWRA must follow the goals and methods of the first long-term plan and finish the job!

The storage tanks and tunnel in the Alewife plan are undersized even for 2-year storm events. When the tanks fill up, 100% of additional sewage is dumped into the brook. Raw sewage then floods into the park, the bike path, yards, and homes. Tanks and tunnels cannot be expanded later at a reasonable cost. As climate change drives more intense storms, rigid concrete tanks and tunnels will quickly be overwhelmed and outdated. Grey infrastructure does not belong on public parkland at Alewife Brook. Put the grey infrastructure under the roads and at the MBTA station, instead of on park land.

The old combined sewer system was built for yesterday's storms, not tomorrow's. Climate change will worsen the problem with heavier, more frequent rainstorms. CSO sewage volumes could rise two to four times by 2050. Combined sewers are not compatible with Climate Change, and the plan must address anticipated future climate conditions. Sewer separation removes stormwater from the sewer system. The benefits include CSO elimination, fewer sanitary sewer overflows, fewer basement backups, increased local sewer system capacity, and increased regional sewer system capacity. It's a win-win-win-win-win - the Climate Resilient solution.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

There are acres of public parkland available for new stormwater wetlands next to Little River and Alewife Brook - enough for more constructed stormwater wetlands, and enough to space on public parkland to support complete separation of Cambridge's remaining combined pipes. The existing 3.4-acre Alewife Wetland already cleans stormwater from 211 acres. Green stormwater infrastructure is a

park amenity. I want to see the problem solved with sewer separation and green stormwater infrastructure. I do not want grey concrete infrastructure on public parkland. That is not a park amenity.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Alewife Brook floods regularly. It flooded five times in 2023, and sewage-contaminated floodwater covered parts of the Alewife Greenway, parks, yards, and homes. Children were riding bikes through the sewage and parents were pushing baby strollers through it. This is a densely populated area - 5,000 people live in the Alewife Brook's 100-year floodplain. The situation is horrifying and unacceptable.When Alewife Brook floods, there is likely untreated sewage in the floodwater. Flooding is bad enough. But at Alewife Brook, there is sewage in the water, making it a serious health hazard. The situation is horrifying and unacceptable.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

If you want to know where the Environmental Justice populations live, just look at a map of MWRA's CSOs. That's where EJ communities are. This is an issue of equity as well as public health, with disproportionate impact on already vulnerable populations. Sewage-contaminated water floods over the banks into the area's most diverse and vulnerable Environmental Justice neighborhoods. Allowing this to continue undermines Environmental Justice principles, which call for enforcement of environmental standards and protection of environmental justice neighborhoods from environmental harms. Unhoused individuals living near the Combined Sewer Outfalls are particularly vulnerable to the health risks of untreated sewage pollution. Many unhoused people live in the Alewife Reservation parkland. All of this is counter to what the Governor has already committed to. The Governor needs to step in and demand that the CSOs are closed.

SPECIFIC OUTFALLS & SITES

Cambridge's Alewife MBTA Station outfall (CAM401A) is the worst CSO outfall in the entire MWRA system, discharging approximately 70% of all sewage that gets dumped into Alewife Brook. This single CSO discharged over 20 million gallons of untreated sewage in 2023, exceeding the permitted annual total for all Alewife Brook CSOs. The City is in violation of the court. An undersized CSO tank in a neighborhood is not a solution.

A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time.

Somerville's Tannery Brook CSO (SOM001A) is not in compliance with the Boston Harbor Cleanup Court Case and has failed to meet its discharge and floatables controls requirements - toilet paper has hung from the branches at the outfall. Somerville should include sewer separation and Green Stormwater Infrastructure in the Tannery Brook sewershed. Tannery Brook CSOs from Davis Square and West Somerville should be routed to an existing treatment facility.

Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority, not an afterthought, in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the two outfall pipes responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges, making it the ideal location for green stormwater infrastructure and a major underground storage tank.

ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

MWRA has proposed a revision to the Water Quality Standard to avoid making required investments. A Water Quality Standard downgrade would roll back decades of progress. It means more pollution and four times as much sewage by 2050 due to climate change.

Alewife Brook is a Class B waterbody. It should be safe for human contact, support healthy fish communities, and contain no untreated sewage. Instead of enforcing that standard, regulators have waived it with variances since 1999. We expect DEP to act to protect the health of our community and enforce the Alewife's existing Class B water quality standard rather than waive it. Our community deserves a safe Alewife Brook and an end to untreated sewage pollution.

FUNDING: MWRA MUST PAY

Somerville and Cambridge should not have to pay! This is MWRA's job. The Legislature created the MWRA in 1984 to solve this regional problem, with a mandate for 'repair, replacement, rehabilitation, modernization and extension' of the sewer system. Under the Second Stipulation of the Boston Harbor court case, MWRA 'accepts legal liability to undertake such corrective action as may be necessary to implement the CSO control requirements.' MWRA is legally and financially responsible for the Alewife outfalls in violation of the court - CAM401A and SOM001A. Ending sewage pollution at Alewife Brook means MWRA must pay its fair share! Between 2024 and 2031, MWRA will finish paying off about $2.1 billion in long-term bonds, which means it has the capacity and hte debt service to issue new bonds just in time to fund sewage pollution elimination projects for Alewife Brook and the Charles and Mystic rivers. MWRA should pay for the work and stop demanding $500+ million from Cambridge and Somerville. This is a regional problem. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. MWRA must incentivize the cities to finish the job by acheiving a 25-year level of control and by paying for projects at Alewife Brook.

Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.

Sincerely,

Beth Melofchik
MA
bethmelofchik@gmail.com

Comment Number: E-184
Date: 8/4/2026
Name: Jonathan Burgess
Email: jburgess171@gmail.com

Attached email begins on the following page.

[redacted]

From: Jonathan Burgess <jburgess171@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 4, 2026 1:51 PM
To: Updated CSO Control Plan
Cc: Alewife Brook Save the
Subject: A resident's comments on the Alewife Brook CSO plan

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Report Suspicious

Dear MassDEP and EPA,

I am writing as a concerned resident to urge you to adopt a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) plan for Alewife Brook that truly ends sewage pollution.

My mom works right next to the Alewife Brook in Cambridge, and for years she's been following the swan families that call the Brook home. Every year new babies hatch and grow up on the water. The highlight of my mom's spring is getting to meet the year's new hatchlings. Those swan babies deserve as clean a home as anyone else in the area!

My concerns are as follows:

PUBLIC HEALTH

• At Alewife Brook, all CSOs are untreated. You flush the toilet, and whatever happened in that toilet (and you _know_ what happened in that toilet) arrives at Alewife Brook in the condition that it left. It's not treated. E. coli counts are nearly 1000 times higher than EPA's recommended safe level. These untreated sewage discharges expose people along the Alewife to other live bacteria, viruses, and parasites, including norovirus and intestinal worms - which can cause much greater health problems than E. coli. In fact, Alewife CSOs have made people sick. There are documented cases of severe gastrointestinal illness after forced exposure to contaminated floodwaters, and a Boston University School of Public Health study found that sewage overflows are linked to increases in gastrointestinal illness. Dumping untreated waste only appears cheaper if the analysis excludes health impacts, environmental damage, and the community burden.

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sewer system capacity, and increased regional sewer system capacity. It's a win-win-win-win-win - the Climate Resilient solution.

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SPECIFIC OUTFALLS & SITES

• Cambridge's Alewife MBTA Station outfall (CAM401A) is the worst CSO outfall in the entire MWRA system, discharging approximately 70% of all sewage that gets dumped into Alewife Brook. This single CSO discharged over 20 million gallons of untreated sewage in 2023, exceeding the permitted annual total for all Alewife Brook CSOs. The City is in violation of the court. An undersized CSO tank in a neighborhood is not a solution.

• A tank filled with raw sewage in a residential neighborhood risks exposing residents, including schoolchildren and other members of vulnerable populations, to sewage smells and harmful aerosolized bacteria. The city has not offered any guarantee that in a major storm accompanied by power outages, a backup generator would be available to keep the tank's odor control system running. Tank neighbors want real solutions that will fix the problem, not a band-aid solution that maintains the status quo and guarantees continued CSO discharges into the Alewife Brook. The Sherman Street CSO tank prioritizes speed over long-term mitigation ability, which makes no sense given that CSO volume is expected to get larger over time.

• Somerville's Tannery Brook CSO (SOM001A) is not in compliance with the Boston Harbor Cleanup Court Case and has failed to meet its discharge and floatables controls requirements - toilet paper has hung from the branches at the outfall. Somerville should include sewer separation and Green Stormwater Infrastructure in the Tannery Brook sewershed. Tannery Brook CSOs from Davis Square and West Somerville should be routed to an existing treatment facility.

• Ending sewage releases into Alewife Brook must be a priority, not an afterthought, in the Alewife MBTA Station redevelopment. The 10-13 acres of the Alewife garage - state-owned land - are perfectly situated for green and gray infrastructure. The site includes the two outfall pipes responsible for most of the area's sewage discharges, making it the ideal location for green stormwater infrastructure and a major underground storage tank.

ACCOUNTABILITY & LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

• MWRA has proposed a revision to the Water Quality Standard to avoid making required investments. A Water Quality Standard downgrade would roll back decades of progress. It means more pollution and four times as much sewage by 2050 due to climate change.

• Alewife Brook is a Class B waterbody. It should be safe for human contact, support healthy fish communities, and contain no untreated sewage. Instead of enforcing that standard, regulators have waived it with variances since 1999. We expect DEP to act to protect the health of our community and enforce the Alewife's existing Class B water quality standard rather than waive it. Our community deserves a safe Alewife Brook and an end to untreated sewage pollution.

FUNDING: MWRA MUST PAY

• Somerville and Cambridge should not have to pay! This is MWRA's job. The Legislature created the MWRA in 1984 to solve this regional problem, with a mandate for 'repair, replacement, rehabilitation, modernization and extension' of the sewer system. Under the Second Stipulation of the Boston Harbor court case, MWRA 'accepts legal liability to undertake such corrective action as may be necessary to implement the CSO control requirements.' MWRA is legally and financially responsible for the Alewife outfalls in violation of the court - CAM401A and SOM001A. Ending sewage pollution at Alewife Brook means MWRA must pay its fair share! Between 2024 and 2031, MWRA will finish paying off about $2.1 billion in long-term bonds, which means it has the capacity and hte debt service to issue new bonds just in time to fund sewage pollution elimination projects for Alewife Brook and the Charles and Mystic rivers. MWRA should pay for the work and stop demanding $500+ million from Cambridge and Somerville. This is a regional problem. MWRA is using Alewife Brook as cheap hydraulic relief for its regional sewer system. MWRA must incentivize the cities to finish the job by acheiving a 25-year level of control and by paying for projects at Alewife Brook.

Thank you for considering these comments. I look forward to a plan that protects public health, environmental justice, and climate resilience for our community.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Burgess
[redacted]
Medford, MA 02155
jburgess171@gmail.com

Comment Number: P-70
Date: 09/04/2026
Name: Rob Moir
Email: rob@oceanriver.org

Alewife Living Forest: Living Infrastructure to Complement the CSO Plan

I fully support the proposed gray infrastructure. With much still to be done, I also support evaluating living forest infrastructure to complement it and **pick up where gray infrastructure leaves off.**

A forested leach field could be piloted on the Cambridge upland along Alewife Brook, between Route 2 and Massachusetts Avenue. Cambridge already has experience with densely planted native forests. Between Alewife Brook Parkway and the brook lies more than 60,000 square feet of mowed grass that could potentially support about 25,000 native tree and shrub saplings.

A pumping station could pretreat and lift a portion of the CSO water to the Alewife Living Forest, regulating the rate at which water enters the forest rather than subjecting it to the full pulse of a CSO event. Much as in a conventional leach field, the water could be distributed underground, where soil would provide further treatment while supporting thousands of native trees and shrubs.

A pilot would determine how much CSO water the system could safely receive, how it should be pretreated and distributed, and how treatment performance changes through the seasons.

The Alewife Living Forest could provide many public benefits beyond treating CSO water: habitat, shade and summer cooling, cleaner air, quieter surroundings, stormwater interception, and a healthier and more beautiful Alewife Greenway. Planting thousands of native saplings would be an investment not just in today's infrastructure, but in a forest that could grow and mature for generations.

Rob Moir, PhD
Executive Director
Ocean River Institute

Cambridge, MA 02138
rob@oceanriver.org

Comment Number: P-77
Date: 09/13/2026
Name: Sasha Lauterbach
Email: sasha.lauterbach@comcast.net

Public comment letter

As 50+year residents of Cambridge, we thank you for the work that your group is doing to protect our waterways, and special gratitude for your efforts to educate the public and in reaching out for comments and feedback from the community.

However, your information stating that the city of Cambridge is working with Somerville and the MWRA to contain storm water and protect rivers and waterways in our communities is not accurate: Cambridge's new zoning ordinance and its permitting processes for new construction disregard the city's own ordinances concerning the containment of storm water. The city is encouraging developers to build multi-housing units in cramped lots (only five feet from property lines) that will result in the elimination of open space in areas with already-documented poor drainage; the city is allowing developers to submit drainage plans which city agencies concede will inevitably result in increased storm water going into city sewers. There is documentation in the public record of these arrangements between developers and the Cambridge DPW department which deals with storm water management.

The city is also allowing developers to go forward with faulty and ill-considered plans for construction and excavation, which will cause the destruction of mature trees in the building lots, in neighboring yards, and along city sidewalks with a detrimental impact on water containment and the tree canopy.

Over many years, the city of Cambridge worked to address environmental issues with tree ordinances, storm water drainage ordinances, ambitious recycling ordinances. Now, however, in its rushed attempt to address the housing shortage, the city is approving developers' plans which run counter to the city's environmental efforts, including the plan you have proposed in your own CSO Control Plan. The new up-zoning as interpreted by city agencies allows for — and even encourages — a lack of regard for these and other environmental concerns.

We suggest that you take a look at the city's own records and speak with those handling the permitting process to determine if Cambridge is truly a partner in your effort to protect our waterways. We would welcome the opportunity to share information and speak with anyone on your team.

Thank you!!!!!!
Sasha

Comment Number: P-71
Date: 09/09/2026
Name: Jonas Davulis
Email: Jonas8201@outlook.com

City Meadows as Critical Living Infrastructure

My name is Jonas Davulis. I live in Dorchester and have enjoyed boating and fishing on the Charles, as well as its natural beauty. As an aspiring ecological landscaper, I would like to request more living infrastructure composed of native plants.

Updating our outdated gray infrastructure and creating new earthworks to handle our extreme weather events are major parts of solving Charles' CSO problem. But our choice of green infrastructure is just as important.

We can create swales and rain gardens to capture storm runoff, but we need deep-rooted plants to sink that rainwater into the soil. Native plants like Purple Coneflower or Switchgrass can have roots up to twelve feet below the surface, absorbing water and sequestering carbon and other pollutants in equally deep soils.

Native plants do more than care for our soil and water. Many of our native invertebrates can feed only on the native plants they have adapted to over thousands of years. The caterpillars of the famous Monarch butterflies complete their life cycle on native Milkweed plants. Our tomatoes, cranberries, and blueberries can be pollinated only by native bumblebees. This menagerie of invertebrates on native plants is essential to many of our songbirds, most of which raise their broods on a steady diet of caterpillars and other arthropods. Our Goldenrod species alone can support 42 species of pollen-specialist bees and host 104 species of caterpillars!

Meadows with drifts of Wild Indigo or Joe-pye weed bloom as native grasses sway in the breeze. As fall color fades and winter's chill drives the plants back into the soil, these perennials leave behind dried bouquets of leaves, spent blooms, and seed heads. In winter, a Purple Coneflower can provide seeds for birds, hollow stems for sheltering bees, and ornamental interest.

Native perennials should be part of the living green infrastructure to capture stormwater, improve soil, and support wildlife, helping to keep the Charles River cleaner.

Comment Number: E-336
Date: 9/08/2026
Name: Melissa Ludtke
Email: melissa.ludtke@gmail.com





Comment Number: E-470
Date: 9/21/2026
Name: David Stoff
Email: dstoff@rcn.com

[This is the written copy of my hearing testimony]

Before I start, I'd just like to note that I find CBI's role in this hearing troubling. MassDEP's water quality variance requires meaningful public participation and WQS regulations require actual hearings, part of a notice and comment process. That means a hearing before a regulator. A hearing run by the Project Team's consultant is not such a hearing.

My name is David Stoff, I live at 88 Fairmont Street in Arlington, next to Alewife Brook, and downstream from 2 CSO outfalls that routinely discharges raw sewage.

My first hearing about the Alewife Brook CSOs was in 1998. I've seen the target for CSO discharges in the Alewife
Brook slide from around 3MG in 1997 to 7.4MG in 2001. Now MWRA wants us to accept 9MG as a starting point.

The plan is really 2 plans. One to evaluate alternatives for CSO Control;

Another to present information about what the water quality standard should be.

I care about the water quality standard for Alewife Brook. The CSO controls presented in the Plan will have to meet this standard. The information presented in the Draft Plan is inadequate to make the changes in the WQS MWRA is looking for.

I took this widely circulated photo while I was telling people to get out of the sewage-and that's what it was-something I believe should be the dischargers job. I got sick for my trouble.

[see photo in pdf]

At the Variance hearing I said I thought MassDEP would move aggressively toward a Water Quality Standard that protected the public health. I was wrong.

AND I ASK:
What kind of future does this plan create? One in which millions of dollars is spent for an Alewife Brook that is a series of stagnant pools, periodically washed by raw sewage.

Even in the face of a sediment study that showed how fast the Alewife Brook was filling with sediment, the Project team refused to update their computer model for conditions in the channel. They don't want to know, even if regulations require this evaluation.

There will be a Final Plan, and it needs to look at improving water quality in the Alewife Brook through direct restoration measures, not just pouring concrete.

At the end of this project we should be able to look back with pride on what was built, not say "wow, that was a missed opportunity."

THANKS


Crossing ponded sewage
contaminated water on
the Alewife Greenway
August 8, 2023

The TOWN OF NORWOOD
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

September 8, 2026

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Rebecca Tepper, Chair
Board of Directors,
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

RE: Draft Updated CSO Control Plan Comments

Dear Secretary and Chair Tepper:

On behalf of the Norwood Board of Selectmen, I am writing to express our opposition to the Draft Updated CSO Control plan currently under consideration by MWRA and the cities of Somerville and Cambridge.

As a member of MWRA for both water and wastewater services, this plan places a financial burden on Norwood rate payers who receive little to no benefit from this massive investment in the CSO infrastructure. Given the estimated 60% MWRA share of project costs, over the course of the debt service period, Norwood ratepayers would pay an additional $36 million to pay for this project which is now estimated to cost $1.3 billion (Source: MWRA Advisory Board CSO Dashboard).

In October of 2025, MWRA staff presented a draft CSO Control Plan which projected a cost of $870 million. The $1.3 billion draft plan from April,2026 increases cost by over $400 million. In addition to hitting ratepayers with a massive increase in debt service costs, the proposed cost sharing between partners from the October,2025 plan to the April,2026 proposes an untenable cost sharing arrangement between the partners.

Compared to the October 2025 plan draft, the current cost sharing proposal for the $1.3 billion plan results in an additional cost to MWRA wastewater communities of $365 million dollars. Cambridge and Somerville would see a relatively small increase in cost and in Cambridge's case, an actual reduction from the $870 million plan. MWRA ratepayers would be responsible for almost 90% of the increase in costs from the October,2025 plan to the $1.3 billion plan currently under public comment.

In addition to the above concerns, as a member community, we are concerned that this $1.3 billion dollar plan will cause the MWRA to put stress on the authority's ability to fund capital investments that benefit the entire MWRA, most notably, the need to ensure that the Deer Island Treatment Plant operates effectively and efficiently. MWRA needs to keep its eyes on investments that benefit all the communities it serves.

Norwood is not a CSO community. Our system separates wastewater from stormwater. However, we are also dealing with our own capital investments in our local infrastructure.

We are in the middle of a 10-year, $45 million plan to re-line our water pipes. This is in addition to the support we receive from MWRA for such critical work. We are spending over $14 million to replace our aging water towers. We also have a need to improve our own stormwater infrastructure which is estimated to be over $25 million over the course of several years. As you may know, stormwater contributed to the destruction of Norwood Hospital in 2020.

The Town of Norwood supports the following actions by the Board:

- The MWRA Board of Directors should oppose the $1.3 billion draft CSO plan currently under public comment and place back the $870 million plan for consideration. The $1.3 billion plan adds over $400 million to project costs without significant improvements to CSO operations one would expect from such a massive capital investment;

- If the $1.3 billion plan is approved by DEP, MWRA must negotiate a more equitable cost sharing arrangement with Cambridge and Somerville;

- MWRA must vigorously oppose any plan that adds more cost to the $1.3 billion plan. This alternative plan adds billions of dollars more to the project without providing significant improvements in CSO operations. Under this plan, Norwood costs would rise from $36 million to over $100 million over the debt service period.

As you know, Norwood is an original member of the MWRA. John Carroll served both as our Town Manager and as the long-term Vice Chair of the MWRA Board of Directors. We in Norwood understand the need for the MWRA to invest in capital improvements for its infrastructure. Mr. Carroll also understood the need to balance those capital investments with the financial impact they have on communities served by MWRA. This perspective is part of Mr. Carroll's enduring legacy as a member of the MWRA Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration of Norwood's efforts to find a more cost effective and equitable plan to address what we all understand to be needed improvements to the CSOs. While we understand this need and empathize with our fellow member communities of Somerville and Cambridge, the current $1.3 billion draft plan must be significantly adjusted and any plans that advocate for more aggressive spending be rejected.

Respectfully,

Matthew E. Lane
Chair, Board of Selectmen

Robert G. Donnelly
Vice Chair, Board of Selectmen

cc: Andrew M. Pappastergion, Vice Chair, MWRA Board of Directors
Joseph C. Foti, MWRA Board of Directors
Louis M. Taverna, MWRA Board of Directors
Brian Pena, MWRA Board of Directors
Jennifer L. Wolowicz, MWRA Board of Directors
Henry F. Vitale, MWRA Board of Directors
Brian Swett, MWRA Board of Directors
Patrick J. Walsh, MWRA Board of Directors
John J. Walsh, MWRA Board of Directors
Paul E. Flanagan, MWRA Board of Directors

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Cheryl Doyle, Norwood Board of Selectmen
Antonio Mazzucco, Norwood General Manager
Jeff O'Neill, Norwood Director of Finance and Accounting
Mark Ryan, Norwood DPW Director and Town Engineer

Matthew Romero, Executive Director, MWRA Advisory Board

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Interim Executive Director, MWRA

Representative John H. Rogers, 12th Norfolk District
Senator Mike Rush, Suffolk and Norfolk District

Comment Number: E-550
Date: 9/30/2026

Town of Arlington, MA

Office of the Select Board

730 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: (781) 316-3020
Email: sbadmin@town.arlington.ma.us

John V. Hurd	*Eric D. Helmuth*	*Diane M. Mahon*	*Stephen W. DeCourcey*	*Joseph A. Solomon*
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Sent by Regular and Electronic Mail

Sean Navin, Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
MWRA
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

Attn: Draft Updated CSO Control Plan
UpdatedCSOControlPlan@aecom.com

Dear Director Navin,

The Town of Arlington Select Board submits this letter in response to the invitation for public comment regarding its Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan (hereafter "Draft Plan") for the Alewife Brook, Upper Mystic River and Charles River. The Board takes this opportunity to express its strong opposition to the Draft Plan as currently written. The Draft Plan, in its current form, only proposes to eliminate CSO events in a 2050 typical year weather event and claims to "substantially reduce" CSO discharges in the case of larger storms. Contrary to that claim, at Alewife Brook, the Draft Plan results in worsened conditions in a common 5-year storm event, with 50% more untreated sewage overflow discharges when the Brook is most likely to flood over its bank. By design, the Draft Plan will continue to allow CSO outfall and sewer overflows into the Alewife Brook, allowing for the continuation of a public health crisis. This is not acceptable. The Board supports strengthening the Draft Plan to provide effective CSO control through modern infrastructure solutions, resulting in no discharges except during a 2050 25-year storm or larger.

The Board acknowledges the MWRA, City of Cambridge, and City of Somerville (the "Partners"), have made progress addressing CSOs through the course of the initial long term control plan. The MWRA's recent appearance before the Board at a public meeting was helpful and offered the Board and Arlington residents an opportunity to express their concerns in person, direct to MWRA officials. However, as expressed at that meeting, the Board has serious ongoing concerns regarding the Draft Plan as presented and the limited level of protection it provides from these extraordinarily harmful events in the future. As the MWRA knows well, CSO events occur when wet weather overwhelms the capacity of the combined sewer and storm water systems, causing untreated wastewater, including raw human waste and harmful pathogens such as E. coli, to be discharged into local waterways. Each year, millions of gallons of untreated stormwater are discharged into the Alewife Brook, Charles and Mystic Rivers, impacting densely populated neighborhoods in the surrounding municipalities, including environmental justice communities.

The impact on Arlington has been particularly significant. For decades, the discharge and flooding of sewage from CSOs has occurred in Arlington. According to the MWRA, a staggering 200 million or more gallons of combined sewage were discharged into the Mystic River and Alewife Brook as recently as 2023 during nearly 100 distinct CSO discharges. When the Alewife Brook overflows, untreated CSO sewer discharge has at times flooded parks, yards and houses of residents in the surrounding area. The sewage discharge has also flooded area streets, leaving pedestrians to traverse environmentally hazardous conditions.

On August 26, 2026, the Boston City Council voted unanimously to adopt a resolution calling for "robust" infrastructure solutions to protect the Charles River and other local waterways, including the Alewife Brook, and by doing so opposed the current Draft Plan. This Board has long supported the implementation of green and gray infrastructure solutions, such as stormwater wetlands and sewer separation, that could drastically reduce future sewage overflows and protect the health of residents in Arlington and other impacted communities. The Board reaffirms its support for those solutions in this letter and confirms its agreement with the Boston City Council in calling for the MWRA, the City of Cambridge, and the City of Somerville to ensure that the Final CSO Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) for the Charles River, Alewife Brook, and Upper Mystic River puts forth recommendations that will achieve effective CSO control and result in no discharges except during a 2050 25-year storm or larger.

The Board appreciates the cost of pursuing more effective CSO controls. However, the cost of addressing this crisis in an incomplete and ineffective manner, as proposed by the Draft Plan, will be even greater in the long term through its significant detrimental impact upon public health. At this stage, the MWRA has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fulfill the Commonwealth's clean water commitments and rectify these long-standing conditions. The Board supports work with neighboring municipalities and state agencies to ensure all future infrastructure planning prioritizes the elimination of CSOs and the total protection of our waterways, including the Alewife Brook. Similarly, the Board is poised to support any efforts by the Partners to pursue state or federal funding aimed at eliminating CSO discharges into Alewife Brook.

Therefore, for all of the reasons outlined above, the Board opposed the Draft Plan as currently proposed. Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

The Arlington Select Board

Comment Number: E-552
Date: 9/30/2026

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BROOKLINE GreenSpace ALLIANCE

Grassroots support for a green community

September 30, 2026

Dear Secretary Tepper and the MWRA Board of Directors,

The Brookline GreenSpace Alliance (BGSA) strongly urges the MWRA to adopt a new and better long-term plan to control sewage discharges into the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook. The current plan, dated April 30, 2026, and submitted to state and federal environmental agencies on June 2, does not do enough to eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs).

The Charles River Watershed is a vital part of the ecosystem of Eastern Massachusetts. The BGSA is an advocate for the health of that regional system. We also recognize that Brookline is a member community of the MWRA and therefore affects and is affected by the MWRA's policies, plans, and decisions.

Thanks to the leadership of the MWRA since the 1980s, great progress has been made in cleaning up Boston Harbor and reducing pollution in the Charles River and its tributaries. Instead of abandoning or scaling back these efforts, it is now time to finish the job by eliminating sewage inflows into the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife Brook and making them safe for swimming, boating, and other recreational activities.

For the sake of the environment, public health, and the regional economy, we ask the MWRA to revise the current draft long-term plan so that it does not allow sewage discharges during large rainstorms. Due to climate change, the region will most likely have many intense rainstorms and rainy years during the coming decades. The MWRA should adopt a robust plan that anticipates these changes and eliminates the CSOs that dump sewage into the Charles and other waterways after heavy rain. Doing anything less would mean reneging on long-standing commitments to clean up the Charles and Greater Boston's other rivers and failing to prepare for the future effects of climate change.

The BGSA realizes that the Charles River and other waterways are also contaminated by stormwater runoff, and that problem needs to be addressed by communities in the watershed. The MWRA, however, has responsibility for sewage flows, and the MWRA needs to act to eliminate pollution from CSOs.

Sincerely yours,



Sean M. Lynn-Jones
President, Brookline GreenSpace Alliance

P.O. Box 470514 Brookline Village, MA 02447 617-277-4777
info@brooklinegreenspace.org www.brooklinegreenspace.org

Comment Number: P-88

Name: Miranda Sheinbaum

Date Received: 9/24/2026

Comment on MWRA CSO Plan

Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation (CSNDC), an affordable housing corporation located within the Charles River Watershed, requests that numerous edits are made to the MWRA's CSO plan. As it stands currently, miscarriages of justice and poorly foresighted plans threaten to be enacted to the detriment of Massachusetts residents, particularly regarding historically disenfranchised groups and individuals. Aspects of the current plan including allowance CSOs under any weather beyond a 1-year storm and a lack of Green Infrastructure (GI) make the plan vulnerable to climate change while simultaneously threatening those most vulnerable to climate change's effects. CSNDC's requested edits are as follows:

1) **MWRA must strengthen their plan to ensure that a 25-year storm in the year 2050 does not cause a CSO.** One of the hallmarks of climate change is increased intensity and variance of storms. As such, CSOs may occur far more often than currently forecasted, even using the updated model MWRA utilized in understanding weather in 2050. This is of particular importance to us as a NDC in an Environmental Justice (EJ) neighborhood. All CSO outlets in question in the plan with the exception of three (MWR018, MWR019, and MWR020) are located in EJ neighborhoods. Thus, on any occasion where a CSO occurs, it will cause deleterious effects only for those most vulnerable. Furthermore, those in EJ populations are most likely to use the Charles for cooling, recreation, and food alike. With increasing heat, it is imperative that our river is always swimmable and that the fish within it are edible (not lined with cancerous lesions, as is the state with CSO-polluted waters).
2) **Green Infrastructure must be instituted more completely and cohesively into the plan.** Specifically, CSNDC requests that actual site maps for GI in each and every sewershed are included in the plan and constructed. Current recommendations to install GI "as possible" hold minimal weight for actual construction. Under such terms, it is all too easy for GI needs to go unaddressed, to the detriment of Massachusettsians as a whole. GI's ability to mitigate CSOs has been proven in peer cities from Kansas City to New York to Manchester, UK. Failing to install adequate GI will cause us to lag behind our peers. The draft plan claims that GI provisions are too difficult due to spatial constraints. However, right-of-way GI, pocket parks, and tree trenches take up minimal space while capturing significant rainfall. That such alternatives were not explicitly evaluated and quantified is not just disappointing; it is negligent. Particularly in the

aforementioned EJ neighborhoods which are affected by CSOs, GI provision and its associated benefits (reduction of urban heat island effect, enhanced social cohesion, beautification, and air pollution reduction, to scratch the surface) are absolutely necessary. GI is a powerful tool to address systemic inequalities and must be examined seriously and implemented with intent.

    i. NB: The only outfalls currently recommended for GI provision by the MWRA plan (MWR018, MWR019, and MWR020) are also the only ones not in an EJ neighborhood. GI provision and its associated benefits are thus planned for less marginalized populations, while EJ neighborhoods are expected to do without.

3) For more information on the above, see Sheinbaum (2024).

We have an incredibly rare opportunity to fulfill the promises made in 1982 when the harbor clean-up first began. Over the course of this history, billions were invested and lives were lost. We must not fall short now.

Comment Number: P-89
Name: Cole Graham
Comment Received: 9/24/2026

I’m a family medicine physician, climate policy fellow, and resident of Somerville. I am writing in support of an improved CSO control plan that would eliminate sewage overflows into the Mystic, Charles, and Alewife Brook.

I frequently recreate along these waterways and am grateful to have access to beautiful, natural spaces within our otherwise urban environment. As a primary care physician, I regularly recommend being outside and utilizing natural spaces to my patients due to numerous physical and mental health benefits. In particular, on hot summer days, waterways are indispensable as areas to cool down and take a mental break. However, recreating along a river becomes definitively unhealthy when it is contaminated with raw sewage. And as studies show, the health risks exist not only for those who swim in contaminated water, but also those who live, work, or play nearby.

As summer heat becomes more extreme, our rivers are becoming even more precious resources. And, as rainfall events become more intense, we will need the most robust possible system to prevent sewage from contaminating these vital resources.

For this reason, MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville must adopt a plan that would achieve true elimination through separation or, if that is infeasible, virtual elimination up to a 25 year storm. Anything less is insufficient to adequately support the health and wellbeing of those who live, work, and recreate along our waterways.

Comment Number: P-90
Name: Siobhan Billings Pierce
Comment Received: 9/26/2026

Saturday, Sept 26, 2026

Good morning,

I hope this note finds you well. My name is Siobhan and I live in East Boston where I have the immense privilege of enjoying access to Belle Isle Marsh and Constitution Beach. Being able to leave my home and walk through one of these natural spaces has a qualitatively positive impact on my mood and my mental health. I want every person to be able to access this kind of natural peace. This means that I find the MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville plan that allows for the continued release of raw sewage both embarrassing and antiquated.

One of Metro Boston's most enticing features is the value we have appropriately accorded our nature and green spaces. Because we spend so much of the year in cold and darkness, we value our outside time all the more. I am a frequent visitor to the Mystic River. It is a wonderful place to fish and paddle. I formerly worked at an office building near the Alewife Brook greenway and being able to take a walk on my lunch hour was a true delight.

This plan does not appear to consider the future. This is surprising as recent CSO closure projects have demonstrated that the elimination of CSOs is possible and affordable. All people deserve better than a sewage-filled river.

Thank you for your time.

Best, Siobhan Billings Pearce

East Boston, MA

Comment Number: P-91
Date: 9/28/2026
Name: Brendan Bernard
Email: brendodb@gmail.com

Re: Public Comment on the Updated CSO Control Plan

Hello, I am writing as a Melrose resident, MWRA ratepayer and river user. I am asking that we adopt the strongest option in the plan: zero CSO discharges in a 2050 25-year, 24-hour design storm.

I canoe the Charles often, and I swam in college, activity on the water has always been important to me. Finding clean waterways locally is important for me personally, but also for the overall health of the environment and the residents living along those waterways. I would love to be able to swim in the river safely on any warm summer day. But, right now, after a rain, I have to think twice before even putting my canoe into the Charles.

Last weekend's nor'easter is a good example of the problem. It was a rare September storm that brought days of heavy rain and flash flooding around Greater Boston, and climate scientists expect storms like it to get both stronger and more frequent. A plan that stops overflows only in a "typical year" will never hold up in weather like that. What you build now will be in service for generations, so it should be designed for the storms we're going to get, not for those of the past.

The 25-year standard would cost households about $8 a month more than the approved plan. I'll gladly pay that for a river my family can paddle and swim in without worrying. The organized swims on the Charles already show people want to use it for open water swimming, and the Final Plan should make that safe all summer.

Please adopt the 25-year storm standard, build it with tunnel storage and sewer separation, and seek state and federal funding to keep rates down. Sewage doesn’t belong in our rivers!

Thank you,
Brendan Bernard
brendodb@gmail.com

City of Malden
MASSACHUSETTS
www.cityofmalden.org
Gary Christenson, Mayor

Comment Number: E-591
Date: 10/5/2026
Name: Yem Lip
Email: ylip@CITYOFMALDEN.ORG

September 24, 2026

VIA Email: UpdatedCSOControlPlan@aecom.com.
MWRA
Attn: Draft Updated CSO Control Plan
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

Dear Draft Updated CSO Control Plan Partner:

The City of Malden is a fully served water and sewer community of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), and we are proud to be part of this first-rate water and sewer utility. City of Malden staff are stewards of the environment, providing beneficial and sustainable water, wastewater, drainage, solid waste, recycling, and facilities management to our community. The City supports sustainability and environmental initiatives in both the water and energy sectors. It is from this perspective that we offer these comments on the MWRA's Long Term Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan.

In Fiscal Year 2027, the City of Malden was assessed $9,542,490 for water use and $14,832,592 for sewer use by the MWRA. These costs are paid by our roughly 12,000 customers.

Under the MWRA's proposed Long Term CSO Control Plan, Malden's sewer assessment is projected to increase up to $2,090,515 by 2043 and with costs continuing until 2072. Malden does not have combined sewers, but we recognize the importance of reducing CSO discharges to our region's rivers. For Malden customers, this additional $2.1 million annual assessment would mean approximately $174 more per year per household. This is a substantial increase for our customers. At the same time, as with the cleanup of Boston Harbor through construction of the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (DITP), we recognize the regional benefit of these investments and the need for all ratepaying communities to contribute.

We believe the MWRA's current proposal represents a prudent and cost-efficient approach. It is based on scientific data and system modeling and is designed to reduce CSO discharges in an average year to zero by 2050. The plan also includes substantial storage capacity, allowing significant volumes of stormwater to continue flowing from combined sewers to the DITP except during extreme weather events.

This approach is important because it allows polluted stormwater to continue receiving treatment rather than being diverted to local waterways. In our view, that strikes an appropriate balance between reducing CSO discharges and protecting water quality. Under the plan, the "first flush" of stormwater pollutants from areas proposed to retain combined sewers will continue to be diverted away from the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook and receive full treatment before being discharged to Boston Harbor. Select neighborhoods will also receive sewer separation to further reduce stormwater volumes that exceed the capacity of local combined systems.

The City is aware that there are other proposals on the table for dealing with CSO. While these proposals may provide some additional benefit in particular for specific communities, we feel strongly that the MWRA proposal strikes the appropriate balance between cost and result. For communities like Malden, that is an unfortunate but necessary consideration in everything we do given the population we serve. With affordability a central issue in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, particularly with respect to housing and utilities, an increase of this magnitude is difficult to justify, and we think risks losing support from other similar situated communities.

Once the plan is finalized by DEP/EPA and the Partners, mandated spending becomes an obligation that Malden cannot modify before 2072. Every mandated dollar paid by Malden ratepayers is a dollar that the City cannot use for its own local needs, including sewer, stormwater, roads, public safety, and schools. This could limit Malden's ability to determine how best to invest public dollars for the benefit of its residents and businesses. As Mayor, I strongly support responsible stewardship of the City while being mindful of our ability to make decisions about how taxes and fees are spent in ways that most benefit the residents of Malden.

We ask that the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Environmental Protection to act favorably upon the MWRA's proposed Long Term CSO Control Plan without substantial modifications. The MWRA has been a strong environmental partner since its inception in the 1980s and has developed a logical, data-driven plan that improves environmental protection while balancing the needs of the region's ratepayers.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

GARY CHRISTENSON
Mayor, City of Malden

cc: Yem Lip, City Engineer
MWRA Advisory Board

Comment Number: E-607
Date: 10/7/2026
Name: Nick Palermo
Email: nick@greaterbostonpca.com

35 Braintree Hill Office Park, #108
Braintree, MA 02184
P: 978-777-6764
admin@greaterbostonpca.com
www.greaterbostonpca.com

October 7, 2026

Via email: UpdatedCSOControlPlan@aecom.com

RE: Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan Public Comment

Dear MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville Combined Sewer Overflow Project Team,

My name is Nicholas Palermo, and I am the Director of Public Affairs for the Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association. I am writing on behalf of our 75 signatory contractors and UA Plumbers Local 12 to respectfully urge you to reject the Recommended Plan presented in the Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan, which would allow hundreds of millions of gallons of sewage to continue being discharged into the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook.

We strongly oppose any plan that accepts the permanent discharge of sewage into our local waterways. Massachusetts can and should do better. We urge you to issue a Final Updated CSO Control Plan that recommends an alternative resulting in complete or virtual CSO elimination.

The cleanup of Boston Harbor remains one of the great public infrastructure and environmental success stories in Massachusetts. That same level of leadership is needed now for the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife Brook. These waterways should not be treated as relief valves for outdated infrastructure when modern solutions, skilled labor, and proven technology are already available.

CSO discharges pose a real and ongoing threat to public health, environmental safety, and the long-term resilience of our communities. As licensed plumbers, GBPCA contractors are not only tradespeople, but public safety professionals and stewards of the Commonwealth's water resources. Our contractors see firsthand the risks created by aging infrastructure, overwhelmed sewer systems, and increased rainfall driven by climate change.

The Draft Recommended Plan is inadequate because it:

- Fails to end CSO discharges despite analysis showing that stronger alternatives are technically feasible;
- Accepts ongoing pollution of the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook;
- Relies on infrastructure assumptions that are backward-looking and will be increasingly stressed by current and future climate conditions;

Kenneth Reagan
President

Jim Bent
Vice-President

Tom Hannon, Jr.
Clerk-Treasurer

Derek DeGennaro
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer

Paul Dionne
Immediate Past President

Andrew DeAngelo
Exectutive Director

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www.greaterbostonpca.com

- Fails to fully account for the public health, environmental, workforce, and economic benefits of eliminating CSOs;
- Misses an opportunity to invest in modern water infrastructure built and maintained by highly trained, licensed professionals.

Further development in areas impacted by CSO discharges is not realistic or responsible planning unless the underlying infrastructure is fixed. Additional development brings increased water use, increased sewage generation, and added pressure on systems that are already failing during heavy rain events. Climate change will only make this problem worse.

The solution requires investment, modern infrastructure, and leadership like the MWRA has shown in the past. It also requires creative and practical thinking. In addition to sewer separation and major infrastructure improvements, Massachusetts should be expanding strategies like rainwater harvesting, on-site storage, water reuse systems, and other approaches that responsibly control, store, and manage water. These systems can reduce pressure on sewer infrastructure during heavy rainfall while also improving resilience during drought conditions, which many communities seem to be constantly facing now.

This work is also an opportunity to create hundreds of well-paying, local union jobs. Ending CSO discharges means investing in careers that support families, strengthen communities, and ensure that critical water infrastructure is installed and maintained by properly trained, licensed professionals. The workforce, skill, training, and technology already exist. What is needed now is the leadership to deploy them and ensure fair wages with Project Labor Agreements.

We respectfully request that the Final Updated LTCP recommend and implement a **2050, 25-year storm level of control or full sewer separation for the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook**. A 25-year level of control is analogous to what was done for Boston Harbor beaches, and CSO discharges have already been fully eliminated on the Neponset River. The communities along the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife Brook deserve the same commitment.

The MWRA has a proud legacy of transforming Boston Harbor. We urge you to continue that legacy by supporting a plan that permanently ends sewage dumping into the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook and finally delivers on the promise of fishable, swimmable, and safe waterways for all.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Peck Palermo
Director of Public Affairs
Greater Boston Plumbing Contractors Association

Kenneth Reagan
President

Jim Bent
Vice-President

Tom Hannon, Jr.
Clerk-Treasurer

Derek DeGennaro
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer

Paul Dionne
Immediate Past President

Andrew DeAngelo
Executive Director

Comment Number: E-608
Date: 10/7/2026
Name: Taylor Bernice
Email: btaylor@cambridgema.gov

City of Cambridge

POR 2026-186
FIRST IN COUNCIL
October 5, 2026

COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
VICE MAYOR AZEEM

WHEREAS: The City of Cambridge, through the Department of Public Works (DPW), has been working collaboratively with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the City of Somerville to develop a Draft Updated CSO Control Plan, as required by Water Quality Variances for the Charles River and Alewife Brook issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and

WHEREAS: The Health and Environment Committee of the Cambridge City Council met on September 9, 2025 to bring together representatives from the three watershed advocacy groups (Charles River Watershed Association, Mystic River Watershed Association, and Save the Alewife Brook) to discuss the City's work to reduce combined sewer overflows and the Draft CSO Control Plan, which led to policy order POR 2025 #136 and a response from the City Manager, CMA 2025 #309 and the creation of a CSO Control and Stormwater Management Advisory Committee; and

WHEREAS: The Draft CSO Control Plan, published in April 2026, is going through the public review process, which formally ends October 30, 2026, and the Cambridge City Council should use this opportunity to positively influence the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan and advocate for virtual elimination of Combined Sewer Overflows in the future; and

WHEREAS: The Draft Updated CSO Control Plan outlines in detail a number of different CSO Control Alternatives (0 CSOs in 2050 TY, Limited CSOs in 2050 TY, 0 CSOs in 2050 5yr storm, 0 CSOs in 2050 25yr storm, and full sewer separation) and are based on a 2050 typical year calculation that accounts for increased number of intense rainfall events due to the impacts of climate change, but a 2050TY standard, while representing significant progress, would still have allowed CSOs in almost half years in the historical 10-year period from 2015 to 2024, and the City of Cambridge and the entire CSO Control Plan Partnership should work to ensure that CSOs are truly a rare occurrence in the year 2050; and

WHEREAS: Combined Sewer Overflows discharge untreated or partially treated sewage, bacteria, pathogens, nutrients, and other pollutants into the Charles River, Alewife Brook, and connected waterways during wet-weather events, creating risks to public health, including to Environmental Justice populations; and

WHEREAS: The actions required by the various CSO Control Plan alternatives have total estimated costs between $1.3B and $4.74B, across the region, and so costs need to be considered equitably and the cost should be distributed as broadly as possible across the largest ratepayer and taxpayer base for the entire state and MWRA regional waterways system, and the City of Cambridge and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have more work to do to ensure that tax-supported funding is available for large infrastructure projects and to protect low-income residents from rising utility bills; and cost models and financial planning should continue to be expanded to include public health costs, environmental costs, and the costs of work after 2050 beyond the scope of the Draft Plan; and

WHEREAS: Committing to a regional plan that still allows for CSOs 25 years from now ensures that we will have more expensive work to do in the future, and the CSO Control Plan Partnership should spend more time investigating a range of hybrid solutions at higher levels of control than the 2050TY in order to continue to identify different solutions in different impact areas and continue to pursue efficiencies and alternatives to push for a near 25yr level of control, ensuring that CSOs in the year 2050 are truly a rare occurrence; and

WHEREAS: In addition to the action plans considered in the Draft CSO Control Plan, the City of Cambridge have done proactive and important work on sewer separation citywide over the past few decades and introduced novel stormwater and CSO retention tank systems like the project at 135 Sherman Street, that, while not a permanent solution or in lieu of larger sewer separation projects, are good and important projects that will significantly reduce CSOs in Cambridge in the short term and can be converted to an essential part of a long term vision for stormwater management locally, and that the 135 Sherman Street Multi-Use Facility has the potential to result in a 2050TY 2yr storm level of control at CAM401A, the most active CSO Outfall in Cambridge currently, significantly improving public health outcomes and stormwater mitigation for the entire region; and

WHEREAS: This region has a generational opportunity to improve the public health and safety of the region's waterways and its residents, and failing to take stronger action and ensuring a stronger level of CSO Control will ensure that the cost of improving our regional infrastructure and the public health and environmental costs for improving this system will fall to future generations at greater costs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging the CSO Control Partnership to continue to work to refine the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan to investigate a range of hybrid solutions at higher levels of control, ensuring that Combined Sewer Overflows are a truly rare occurrence in the future, and push for virtual elimination of Combined Sewer Overflows through this Control Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the City Council go on record urging the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to advocate for stronger levels of CSO Control, ensuring that the CSO Control Plan continues to work to investigate a variety of CSO Control Plan options at higher levels of control, ensuring that CSOs in the year 2050 are truly a rare occurrence; and be it further

ORDERED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to work with relevant City staff to advocate for a stronger level of CSO Control and virtual CSO elimination by 2050 in the CSO Control Plan and to advocate for broader funding across the state and entire MWRA region, and for additional federal funding; and be it further

ORDERED: That the Cambridge City Clerk be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this resolution to the CSO Control Partnership, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, each member of the Cambridge delegation to the state legislature, Governor Healey, and Secretary Tepper of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs on behalf of the entire City Council.

In City Council October 5, 2026.
Adopted as Amended by a yea and nay vote:-
Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.
Attest:- Paula M. Crane, Interim City Clerk
A true copy;



ATTEST:-

Paula M. Crane
Interim City Clerk

Comment Number: E-609 Name: Aoife Kelly
Date: 10/7/2026 Email: akelly@walpole-ma.gov

SELECT BOARD
Allyson Hamilton, Chair
Glenn Maffei, Vice Chair
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
James O'Neil
Benjamin Barrett

Walpole Town Hall
135 School Street
Walpole, MA 02081
Phone (508) 660-7277

October 6, 2026

Rebecca Tepper, Chair
Board of Directors,
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

RE: Draft Updated CSO Control Plan Comments

Dear Secretary and Chair Tepper:

On behalf of the Town of Walpole, I am writing to express our concerns regarding the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan currently under consideration by the MWRA and the Cities of Somerville and Cambridge.

As a community that is part of the MWRA regional wastewater system, the Town of Walpole has a significant and direct interest in the decisions made regarding major wastewater infrastructure investments and the resulting financial obligations to sewer communities.

The current Draft Updated CSO Control Plan represents a substantial investment in the region's wastewater infrastructure. We understand that the estimated cost of the current plan is approximately $1.3 billion, compared with approximately $870 million for the plan presented in October 2025. This represents an increase of more than $400 million and warrants careful consideration of the necessity, scope, and long-term financial impact of the proposed work.

For the Town of Walpole, the financial implications are significant. Based on current projections, Walpole's anticipated cost associated with this project through 2072 is approximately $18,324,534. This represents a substantial long-term obligation for the Town and its sewer ratepayers.

At the same time, Walpole is preparing for another significant and necessary investment in its wastewater infrastructure. In the coming fiscal years, the Town anticipates undertaking the development of a PFAS treatment facility, with an estimated cost in the region of $21 million. This project represents a significant local capital commitment and is necessary to address evolving regulatory and environmental requirements and to protect the long-term reliability of Walpole's wastewater system.

The PFAS facility is only one component of the substantial infrastructure investments facing the Town. Walpole must also continue to fund the ongoing replacement, rehabilitation, and upgrading of its water mains, as well as improvements to water storage tanks and pump stations. These investments are necessary to maintain the existing systems, address aging infrastructure, improve reliability, and ensure that the Town can continue to provide safe and dependable water and wastewater services to its residents and businesses.

Unlike a single capital project with a defined completion date, these infrastructure needs represent an ongoing responsibility for the Town. Water mains require continued replacement and rehabilitation, storage facilities require periodic improvements and maintenance, and pump stations require upgrades to maintain their operational reliability. These are essential investments that municipalities must make simply to keep their existing systems functioning properly and to meet the needs of current and future residents.

As a sewer community, Walpole understands the importance of maintaining a reliable and environmentally responsible regional wastewater system. We recognize that significant investments are sometimes necessary to meet regulatory requirements, protect water quality, and maintain the long-term integrity of the system. At the same time, communities that fund the MWRA system must have confidence that major capital expenditures are necessary, appropriately scoped, and provide benefits commensurate with their cost.

The magnitude and duration of Walpole's projected financial obligations make it particularly important that the MWRA carefully evaluate the additional costs associated with the current proposal. An obligation extending through 2072 affects multiple generations of sewer ratepayers and must be considered alongside the substantial wastewater, water, and other infrastructure needs facing communities throughout the MWRA service area.

The Town of Walpole therefore respectfully requests that the MWRA Board of Directors carefully evaluate the following:

- Whether the increase in the estimated project cost from approximately $870 million to $1.3 billion is fully justified by measurable environmental and operational benefits;
- Whether the scope of the proposed CSO work can be achieved in a manner that minimizes unnecessary costs to the sewer communities that ultimately fund the MWRA system;
- Whether the proposed allocation of costs among MWRA communities is transparent, equitable, and appropriately reflects the costs and benefits associated with the project;
- Whether additional or expanded project components are necessary to meet applicable environmental and regulatory requirements, or whether there are more cost-effective approaches that could achieve the same objectives; and
- Whether the long-term financial impact on sewer communities, including the approximately $18.3 million projected obligation for Walpole through 2072, has been adequately considered in evaluating the proposed plan.

Walpole supports responsible investment in regional wastewater infrastructure and recognizes the importance of continued progress toward the Commonwealth's environmental goals. However, responsible investment also requires careful stewardship of the financial resources provided by the communities that make up the MWRA sewer system.

For Walpole, an estimated $18,324,534 obligation through 2072 is a significant commitment. When considered alongside the Town's anticipated $21 million PFAS treatment facility and the continuing need to invest in water main replacements and upgrades, water storage tank improvements, pump station improvements, and other essential infrastructure, it is clear that Walpole faces substantial and ongoing capital requirements to maintain its systems.

These competing needs make it particularly important that regional projects be carefully evaluated, appropriately prioritized, and delivered as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. Walpole must be able to meet its own necessary infrastructure obligations while also fulfilling its responsibilities as a participant in the regional wastewater system.

We respectfully urge the MWRA Board to conduct a thorough review of the current Draft Updated CSO Control Plan, including its increased cost and long-term financial implications for sewer communities. We

further encourage the Board to consider whether the objectives of the plan can be achieved while limiting unnecessary financial impacts on the communities and ratepayers that rely upon and fund the MWRA wastewater system.

Thank you for considering the Town of Walpole's perspective and the significant long-term financial commitment that this proposal represents for our sewer community.

Respectfully,

Allyson Hamilton
Chair, Walpole Select Board

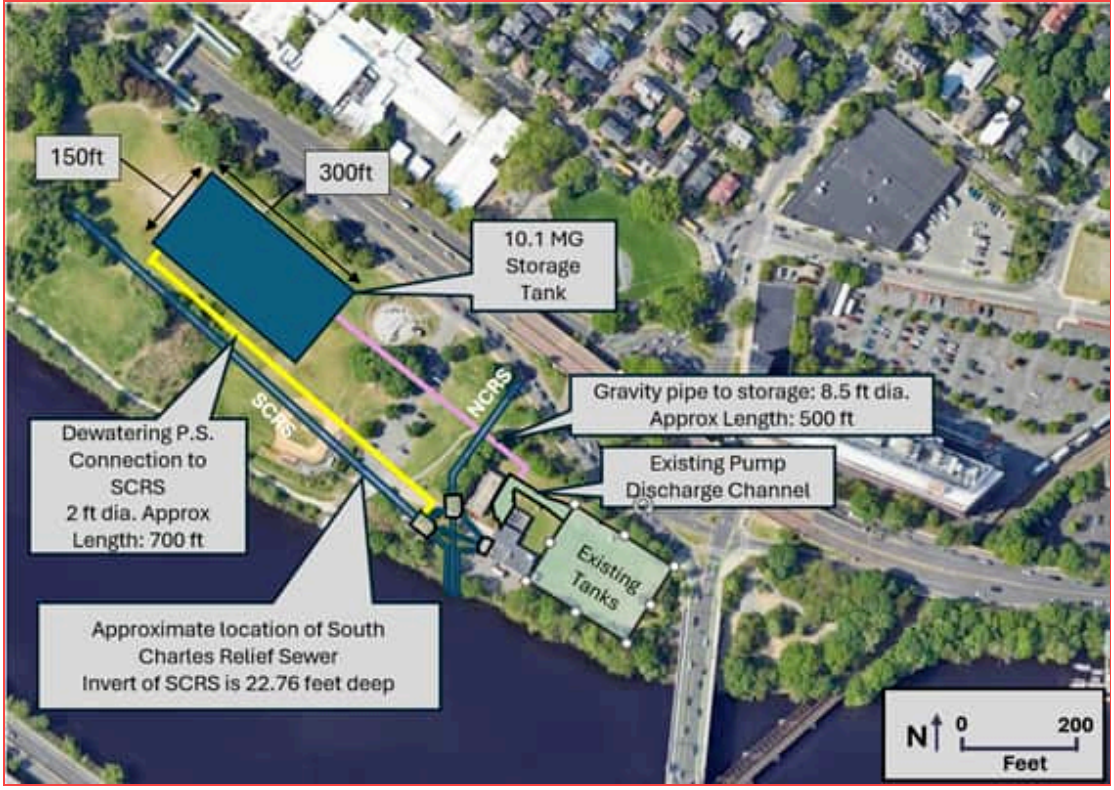
Comment Number: E-614
Date: 10/7/2026
Name: Mike Connolly
Email: Mike.Connolly@mahouse.gov

INITIAL COMMENT ON THE DRAFT UPDATED CSO CONTROL PLAN — Also posted on my State House blog on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, available at:
https://www.repmikeconnolly.org/this_ridiculous_proposal_to_destroy_magazine_beach_is_dead_on_arrival
As State Representative for the Cambridgeport Neighborhood, Magazine Beach, and other parts of Cambridge and Somerville, last night I attended a meeting at the Morse School where the City of Cambridge and the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) presented their recently released Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Control Plan to members of the Cambridgeport Neighborhood Association.



The plan is intended to address the fact that the Greater Boston area contains several archaic combined sewer systems where both sewage and stormwater travel through a single pipe network that sometimes dumps pollution into local rivers (aka CSOs). The MWRA and our local municipalities are under an EPA order to consider alternatives for remediating or preventing raw sewage from running into our local rivers during heavy rainstorms, which are only expected to get worse due to climate change.

Shockingly, at last night's meeting, the MWRA presented an option to sacrifice some 2.3 acres of parkland at Magazine Beach — essentially the entire sports area — fencing it off and making it permanently inaccessible. Construction at Magazine Beach would run for years and require closing off even more of the park for staging supplies and equipment, effectively destroying Magazine Beach as we know it. More details of this concept were presented to the MWRA board earlier this year (see pages 38-39 here).



For my part, I emphatically stated to the MWRA representatives present that this proposal is clearly not an option. Moreover, I told the City of Cambridge staffers who were present that this represents a failure of city planning.

There is absolutely no way the future use of a large part of Cambridge's second-largest park will be sacrificed for water-storage and pumping facilities. Furthermore, it is ludicrous that the MWRA asserted that if a large water-storage tank were someday placed under Magazine Beach, the only option would be to fence off the entire area above the tank for security reasons. Over in Somerville near Brickbottom, a massive underground stormwater storage tank was recently constructed, and above it are plans for a park called ArtFarm. **Apparently, the MWRA has made little effort to address the obvious question: if a tank were built here, why not restore usable parkland above it?**

Magazine Beach park is protected by Article 97 of the state constitution, and converting protected parkland to another use would require a two-thirds vote from both branches of the state legislature. So I can say this so-called option, were it ever allowed to proceed as presented to the community last night, is dead on arrival.

I told the presenters that this is frankly a highly manipulative move. In a nutshell, what happened is that the MWRA made an initial proposal for how to address future combined-sewer overflows. They proposed achieving zero CSOs in a projected typical year 2050. Advocates for the environment and the Charles River, myself included, called on them to be more ambitious and do more to address future discharges to keep wastewater out of our rivers and streams during five-year and twenty-five-year storm events in the year 2050. **In response, the MWRA appears to now be suggesting we could sacrifice Magazine Beach. For the MWRA to even make this suggestion was irresponsible and a wild insult to our community.**

On the one hand, I encourage everyone to learn more and get involved in the public comment process, which runs through October 30, 2026. That's so important. On the other hand, I want to reassure folks we will never abide the loss of Magazine Beach. I am in contact with my legislative partner, Sen. Sal DiDomenico, and I am working with him and neighborhood leaders to demand accountability for this ridiculous proposal and to insist on real alternatives. As I stated at last night's meeting, a proposal this obscene really harms people's trust in government. **I am furious and disappointed that instead of doing the work of considering real alternatives to address our sustainability concerns, the MWRA opted to make such a manipulative and empty proposal.**

***10/7/26 UPDATE**: This evening, I got word from the City of Cambridge administration that — as they worked with the MWRA to roll out the Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Plan, it was never their understanding that the plan implied a major permanent impact on future recreational uses at Magazine Beach park. The MWRA's claim that an underground stormwater tank would necessitate permanently losing a large portion of above-ground parkland is inconsistent with other tanks*

constructed locally, as many of us began pointing out Monday evening. It's also been noted that what was presented wasn't an actual design, and that the MWRA's stated construction impacts may have been exaggerated.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns via Mike.Connolly@mahouse.gov.
Yours in service,

Rep. Mike Connolly
26th Middlesex District
State House Room 167
Boston, MA 02133
Office: (617) 722-2230
Cell: (857) 236-1901
Subscribe to my newsletter

Comment Number: E-663
Date: 10/14/2026
Name: Patricia Jehlen
Email: Patricia.Jehlen@masenate.gov

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

Senator PATRICIA D. JEHLEN
2ND MIDDLESEX DISTRICT
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CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON AGING AND INDEPENDENCE

VICE CHAIR
JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND
JOINT COMMITTEE ON REVENUE

LABOR AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
JUDICIARY
CANNABIS POLICY

October 14, 2026

MWRA Board of Directors
2 Griffin Way
Chelsea, MA 02150

RE: MWRA Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan

Dear Chair Tepper and Members of the MWRA Board of Directors,

As senators of the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook community watersheds, we are deeply concerned with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) proposal to allow Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) to continue to be dumped into these waters, as would be permitted under the MWRA's Draft Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP).

We commend the MWRA for reducing sewage discharges into Boston Harbor. The harbor cleanup transformed the quality of life in the region, yielding tangible economic benefits, including an expanded port, improved ecosystem services, enhanced access to the waterfront, and tens of billions in real estate investment. The implementation of a 25-year storm level of control along the South Boston beaches, for example, has significantly reduced beach closures and earned recognition for some of the safest urban beaches in the country, enabling millions of annual visits to waterfront beaches and parks.
And yet, despite this progress, millions of gallons of raw and undertreated sewage discharges continue to flow into the Charles River, Mystic River, and Alewife Brook every year, threatening human health and the environment. We have heard from constituents who experienced flooding

in their homes as a result of CSO discharges and others who suffered from gastrointestinal sickness from exposure to raw sewage. The MWRA's Draft LTCP would allow these dangerous conditions to persist indefinitely, allowing continued discharge of raw sewage into our waterways and perpetuating ongoing, significant risks to human health, safety, and the environment. Such pollutants stifle our ability to improve equitable access to our rivers and to create new opportunities to grow a reliable outdoor recreational economy through expanded swimming, boating, and fishing. Our constituents paid to build, maintain, and operate the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and implement other infrastructure upgrades throughout the region, and they deserve for the MWRA to protect them from raw sewage exposure.

We call on the MWRA to implement a 2050, 25-year storm level of control for the Charles River, the Mystic River, and the Alewife Brook under the Final Updated LTCP, analogous to what was done for Boston Harbor beaches. The MWRA has a unique opportunity to end CSOs in our critical waterways so we can finally achieve the vision of the federal Clean Water Act for "fishable" and "swimmable" rivers and keep Massachusetts residents safe and healthy while stimulating local economies. We urge the MWRA to recommend virtual CSO elimination for the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife in MWRA's Final Updated Combined Sewer Overflow Long-Term Control Plan and expect you to fulfill your obligations.

Respectfully,



Senator Patricia D. Jehlen
Second Middlesex

Cc: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
MWRA Board of Advisors

Oct 10, 2026

Jared Elenbaas

jaredelenbaas@gmail.com

Comment No. P-178

Please see the attached file. My family loves Magazine beach for its green space and we used it multiple times per day. We humbly request a significant investment in the green spaces of Cambridgeport if this plan moves forward.

I understand the need of Cambridge and surrounding cities to develop a CSO Control Plan, but the current plan to use a large proportion of the green space in the cambridgeport area, both for the building and placement of overflow tanks is extremely disappointing.

Magazine beach is one of the reasons we moved to the area and purchased a home here, and I am usually in the park multiple times per day. My older son loves the small slice of nature and had a nature scavenger hunt there for this last birthday. We take our younger son and dog on walks on a daily basis, as well. It's been frustrating to see how Cambridge does not fully appreciate the value of this space to local homeowners and citizens, such as my family.

If using this space for staging and placement of very large tanks is the only feasible plan, I would respectfully ask that significant investments be made in beautifying the remaining space, including improving the nearby trails along the river. Many folks in the Cambridgeport area moved there to experience this space, and the current plan will negatively influence our daily lives, our property values, and our family experiences. Further investment in our community should be made if this plan moves forward. It's simply the right thing to do.

I understand the necessity for Cambridge and surrounding communities to develop a comprehensive Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Plan. However, the current proposal to utilize a large proportion of the vital green space in the Cambridgeport area, both for the structural staging and placement of massive overflow tanks, is deeply disappointing.

Magazine Beach is a cornerstone of our community and a primary reason my family and neighbors chose to purchase a home here. As a local homeowner, I am in the park multiple times daily. It serves as a rare, cherished slice of nature for my older son (who recently hosted a nature scavenger hunt there for his birthday) and a daily sanctuary for walks with our younger son and dog. It is frustrating to witness a plan that overlooks just how profoundly this greenspace impacts our daily lives, mental well-being, and property values.

If using this specific location for overflow facilities is deemed the only technically feasible path forward, I respectfully insist that substantial, mandatory investments be tied to the project to directly mitigate the aesthetic and environmental loss:

- Extensive Natural Landscaping: Robust, dense plantings of native trees, shrubs, and pollinator-friendly vegetation must be integrated into the design to completely screen and hide the industrial tanks and facilities, preserving a natural aesthetic rather than a utilitarian footprint.

- Pathway and Trail Enhancements: Comprehensive investments must be made to upgrade and beautify the pathways throughout Cambridgeport, specifically improving and expanding the nearby walking and multi-use trails along the river to compensate for the disruption of local recreation.

Many residents moved to Cambridgeport specifically to experience and access this natural riverside environment. If this plan moves forward, tangible enhancements to our local infrastructure and greenery are simply the right thing to do to protect our community's quality of life.