Introduction

The City of London is undertaking a study to address sewer system overflows and wastewater treatment bypasses throughout the City. The discharge of wastewater to receiving streams has been an issue in Ontario for a number of municipalities for decades. Through the development of Pollution Prevention and Control Plans (PPCPs), municipalities have been identifying sewer overflow points and developing strategies to remove them or mitigate their impacts to acceptable levels.

The City of London’s first water collection systems were built in the 1850s; some of which are still in service today. Over the years, the City has grown to include nearby municipalities and has therefore assumed responsibility for their sewers, wastewater treatment plants, and pumping stations. There are approximately 2,750 km of sanitary, storm and combined sewers within the City’s boundaries.

PPCP Mission Statement

The Pollution Prevention and Control Plan will provide the City of London with a “road map” for implementation of infrastructure improvement projects that will mitigate the impacts of wet weather sewer system overflows on the Thames River, in alignment with the City’s commitment to environmental stewardship and the protection of water resources.

The implementation plan must achieve this objective while not negatively impacting the existing system performance with respect to sanitary sewer service, and provide increased protection against localized basement flooding.

The study will be conducted following the Phase 1 and Phase 2 components of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) planning process for Master Plan level studies. A Master Plan is a long-range plan that provides direction for planning and implementing a set of infrastructure projects over an extended period of time.

Summary of Work Completed to Date

Since the last Public Information Centre (PIC) in October of 2012, the Project Team has completed the following tasks:

- Created a detailed inventory of sewer overflows and treatment bypasses
- Created a preliminary ranked list of sewer system overflows and bypasses, based on expected maximum overflow capacity
- Characterized the receiving stream environment (Thames River and tributaries) in regards to water quality and sewer overflows and bypass impacts
- Developed a plan for hydrologic and hydraulic modeling of the City’s sewer network
Next Steps
Following this PIC, the project team will continue to work on the following tasks:

- Further characterization of the Thames River and its tributaries through water quality analysis
- Estimating sewer overflow and bypass volumes and frequencies through theoretical hydrologic and hydraulic modelling
- Compiling and screening a comprehensive list of sewer overflows and bypass control alternatives
- Determining the preferred control measures for the reduction of sewer overflows and bypasses
- Developing a prioritized implementation plan for the preferred control measures that will allow the City to meet water quality objectives and mitigate the impact of sewer overflows and bypasses on the Thames River

Commonly Used Terms

Bypass: During wet weather events the treatment capacity of a wastewater treatment plant may be exceeded, in which case the sewage bypasses treatment and is discharged directly into the receiving stream. Bypasses may also occur at wastewater pumping stations if the pumping capacity is exceeded.

Sewer System Overflow: A sewer system overflow occurs when sanitary sewers are overwhelmed by storm water inflow and infiltration during wet weather events. Sanitary flow mixed with storm water discharges directly into local waterways through an outlet, to assist in preventing basement flooding.

Wastewater: The spent or used water of a community or industry that contains dissolved and suspended matter. It is a general term for untreated discharge.

Public and agency consultation is a key component of the Municipal Class EA process. All those with an interest in the project are encouraged to attend upcoming PICs to provide input into this important study. Comments are welcome at any time during the Class EA study. If you would like to provide comments or to receive notification of future project activity and PICs, please contact:

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The information presented at PIC #2 will be available at the City’s website after June 18, 2014 at:
http://www.london.ca/ppcp

All comments and information received from individuals, stakeholder groups, and agencies regarding this project are being collected to assist the City of London in decision making. Under the Municipal Act, personal information such as name, address, telephone number, and property location that may be included in a submission becomes part of the public record. Questions regarding the collection of this information should be referred to Mr. Kyle Chambers.