



BERGEN COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY

P.O. Box 9, Foot of Mehrhof Road, Little Ferry, New Jersey 07643

July 27, 2012

RESIDENTS OF:

Bergenfield, Bogota, Carlstadt, Cliffside Park, Closter, Cresskill, Demarest, Dumont, East Rutherford, Edgewater, Emerson, Englewood, Englewood Cliffs, Fairview, Fort Lee, Harrington Park, Hasbrouck Heights, Haworth, Hillsdale, Leonia, Little Ferry, Maywood, Montvale, Moonachie, New Milford, Northvale, Norwood, Old Tappan, Oradell, Palisades Park, Park Ridge, Ridgefield, Ridgefield Park, River Edge, River Vale, Rochelle Park, Rutherford, South Hackensack, Teaneck, Tenafly, Teterboro, Washington, Westwood, Woodcliff Lake, and Wood-Ridge

Re: **PLAN FOR ELIMINATION OF BASEMENT SEWER BACK-UPS AND WATER POLLUTION RESULTING FROM SEVERE WET WEATHER**

Dear Resident:

Many homes in your neighborhood were constructed with plumbing systems that over the years have become damaged or allow rainwater to enter into the municipal sanitary sewer system instead of directing it to the storm sewer or the ground. Such plumbing systems include sump pumps, foundation drains in basements, roof leaders, and area drains that are located in lawns and driveways. In addition, many homeowners' private building sewer connections under lawns, sidewalks, driveways, and streets may be cracked, allowing groundwater into the sewer system during heavy rains. This rainwater, or rain-derived infiltration and inflow (RDI/I) is discharged into the municipal sewer system and increases the cost you pay for sewage collection and treatment. During heavy rain events, these plumbing systems have caused untreated sewage to back-up in sewer pipes, surcharge manholes, and enter into basements in homes causing property damage and health risks. In extreme weather, these overflows enter local rivers and streams causing water pollution. These sewage back-ups are commonly referred to as sanitary sewer overflows or SSOs.

The BCUA has partnered with your local public elected officials and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to implement a plan to reduce RDI/I and eliminate SSOs. The plan includes public education for homeowners to disconnect storm drains, roof downspouts, basement sump pumps, and foundation drains that are improperly connected to the municipal sanitary sewer. To further assist the municipality and its residents, the BCUA will offer an "amnesty" program to those municipalities and residents who have illegally connected storm drains, downspouts, sump pumps, and foundation drains. The amnesty program will last until December 31, 2012. During this



period, the property owners must inspect their own plumbing to identify illegal hookups and to remove any illegal connections. Owners who do not have the expertise to determine if their sump pumps, storm drains, downspouts, or foundation drains are illegally connected should call the BCUA's environmental programs hotline at 201-807-5825 for an assessment of conditions. A "Homeowner's Guide" is also available and can be accessed on the web at www.bcua.org/publications. A number of these brochures will be made available for distribution at municipal buildings, libraries, or other public places. A rain barrel program is also available as an incentive to disconnect roof downspouts as part of the BCUA's plan.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me directly at 201-807-8634. Thank you in advance for assisting us improve the water environment and public health and welfare.

Very truly yours,

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Eric Andersen, P.E.
Chief Engineer/Director of
Water Pollution Control Division

EA:ljc



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RAIN-DERIVED INFILTRATION AND INFLOW REMEDIATION AND SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW ELIMINATION PLAN

Permission Form to Enter Home Basement and Property
to Perform Assessment of Existing Conditions

I hereby grant permission for representatives of Bergen County Utilities Authority to enter my property and basement during my presence to conduct a survey of existing plumbing and storm drainage system conditions.

Signature(s) _____

Date: _____

Name (s) _____

Phone No. _____

Address: _____

Copies to: BCUA
Homeowner