

REPORT

Submitted to:  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Conservation Law Foundation

# **FINAL CSO CONCEPTUAL PLAN AND SYSTEM MASTER PLAN**

December 1994

Submitted by:



**Massachusetts Water Resources Authority**

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December 30, 1994

To: Parties in the Boston Harbor Case

Re: Final CSO Conceptual Plan and System Master Plan

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority is pleased to submit herewith a copy of its report, Final CSO Conceptual Plan and System Master Plan, in compliance with Schedule Six of the Boston Harbor Case. In contrast to the \$1.3 billion, systemwide deep tunnel storage plan of 1990, the current plan recommends a capital investment of \$372 million for a variety of receiving water specific CSO controls, including sewer separation, interceptor relief, upgrading of existing CSO storage and treatment facilities, and new screening and disinfection facilities.

Implementation of the recommended plan will result in complete elimination of all CSOs to the critical-use beaches and shellfish beds of Boston Harbor. It will also reduce the frequency of overflows from remaining CSOs in other waterbodies to four or fewer per year and will provide appropriate levels of treatment for these remaining infrequent discharges.

In order to reach consensus on the CSO plan from as wide a range of interested parties as possible, a series of five public meetings has been held in the four CSO communities since publication of the draft report in September. Additional meetings were held with state and federal agencies, watershed interest groups, local officials and environmental organizations. Briefings were also conducted for the MWRA Advisory Board and with the Authority's Wastewater Advisory Committee. The Authority's goal throughout this extensive public involvement process has been to structure a long-term plan that addresses, to the extent possible within the authority and the ability of the MWRA, the numerous and varied interests regarding the CSO control program. These interests include:



- Improvement in water quality of Boston Harbor and its tributaries;
- Cost and ratepayer concerns for benefits in proportion to cost;
- Facility siting constraints;
- Engineering feasibility and operation and maintenance requirements.

We believe that the present plan is a sound, balanced, long-term program that satisfies the above interests and, as a complement to the completion of secondary treatment and residuals management facilities, is a critical component of the Authority's efforts to restore Boston Harbor.

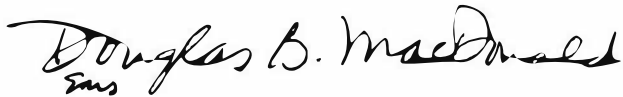
This report also summarizes important information needed to direct the Authority's future capital investment decisions on I/I (infiltration/inflow) control, interceptor relief needs and remaining secondary treatment capacity requirements. The final recommendations regarding secondary treatment will be put forth in the Secondary Treatment Facilities Concept Design Reassessment (DP-29) report to be published in early 1995.

The Authority is now preparing to initiate detailed facilities planning and environmental review in Spring 1995. Facilities planning will be followed by design and construction of numerous individual projects. Over the next few months, a schedule of implementation activities will be negotiated with EPA and the other Court Parties. At the same time, discussions with the CSO communities will continue in order to determine the appropriate division of responsibilities for facilities planning, design and construction activities. The MWRA will be meeting with EOEA and DEP staff to plan the necessary environmental review process and to define the requirements to be met in order to comply with the states "partial use" designation for waterbodies with remaining CSOs. The Authority will also continue to coordinate with other major projects within the CSO study area (Central Artery and I-93 relocation) and with the watershed planning efforts underway by both the state and the Charles River Watershed Association. Because of the substantial uncertainty inherent in all of the above issues at this time, the Authority strongly believes that the implementation schedule negotiated over the next few months must be reviewed and revised after facilities planning and at other key future milestones.

Finally, the Authority wishes to express its appreciation to EPA and the other Court Parties for recognizing the appropriateness of this reassessment and for providing not only the window of time but also their full attention and support during this intense, two and one-half year period. The Authority believes that the cooperation and flexibility demonstrated by all of the Boston Harbor parties over the last few years is not only a nationally-important testimony to the merits of EPA's new CSO policy but also an example of how the regulatory/planning process should work. Thank you for your support and assistance.



Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas B. MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small "Dms" monogram below the first name.

Douglas B. MacDonald  
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cc: John F. Fitzgerald, Director, Sewerage Division

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