

WATER: STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

**City of Toronto's Environmental Plan
"Clean, Green and Healthy"**



City of Toronto

FEBRUARY 2000

Background

"Water: Strategic Directions" and the attached "Water: Background Report for the City of Toronto's Environmental Plan" are part of a series of background and strategic documents on Water, Land and Air. These reports were prepared by the Environmental Impact Assessment & Policy Development Unit of Works & Emergency Services in collaboration with Environmental Task Force members and staff, Toronto Public Health, Urban Planning & Development Services, the Healthy City Office and Corporate Services. The key strategic directions and recommendations provided to address water quality are derived from the review of the background information collected on the conditions of the water environment.

These reports were developed to provide background information and analysis for the Environmental Plan and reflect the results of a review of environmental initiatives current as of November/December 1999. The Environmental Plan was endorsed by the Environmental Task Force in February, 2000 and the reports have been revised to consider comments received during this process. These reports also serve to provide part of the foundation for an integrated environmental policy framework that is currently being developed by the Environment Impact Assessment & Policy Development Unit.

Comments

Introduction

Water is a precious resource that supports all life on our planet. Through the hydrological cycle, water constantly moves through the ecosystem by the processes of precipitation, run-off, infiltration, evaporation and condensation. Development and urban growth within the City of Toronto and surrounding regions over the past 200 years have resulted in very intense pressures on the ecosystem, and the alteration of the hydrological cycle and natural environment.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) has designated Toronto one of 42 Areas of Concern in the Great Lakes basin because of beneficial use impairments in its surface waters. Contaminant sources include discharges from wastewater treatment plants, storm sewers and combined sewer overflows. Environmental impacts of these sources include bacterial contamination of recreational beach areas, stressed aquatic ecosystems, flooding, erosion, and the loss of aquatic habitat and contaminated sediments, nuisance algal growth and fish consumption advisories.

Effective public and private sector initiatives are needed to address water quality and water quantity issues. Environmental and community groups also play a key leadership role in ensuring that our decision-makers and community are well informed and that the condition of our water environment improves.

Stormwater

In urban areas, the carrying capacities of the storm and combined sewer systems vary widely. One common factor is that the systems have difficulty handling the runoff from very infrequent and intense storms. Storm sewers are designed to intercept road drainage, through roadside catchbasins, during wet weather conditions and convey this runoff to the nearest receiving water body. However, because of the amount of impervious surface areas within urban areas, the runoff volumes and flow rates are substantially increased. In addition, washoff from these hardsurface areas contains an enormous amount of contaminants. Area watercourses are impacted both by the physical and chemical stresses created by the flows. During dry weather, storm sewers can also be a direct source of contamination as a result of accidental or deliberate chemical spills to roadside catchbasins.

To reduce the environmental impact of storm sewer discharges, the City has embarked on a number of initiatives, including:

- using traps in roadside catchbasins to capture floatable material (e.g. oils and debris);
- constructing spill containment devices at problem locations;
- performing routine street sweeping and catchbasin cleaning;
- disconnecting downspouts from the roofs of buildings;
- requiring for stormwater management provisions in new and redevelopments;
- designing and delivering a spills response program to contain spills and minimize environmental impact;
- maintaining a sewer outfall monitoring program and trace & disconnect illicit sewer connection program;
- developing a road salt reduction program; and
- implementating new technologies for stormwater treatment such as the:
 - ◆ Dunker's Flow Balancing System
 - ◆ Etobicoke Stormwater Management Facility at Humber Bay Shores
 - ◆ Stormwater water quality ponds (e.g. Terraview Willowfield, Eco Park)
 - ◆ Stormwater infiltration systems (e.g. Etobicoke Exfiltration System, North York Infiltration System)
 - ◆ Spring Creek/Lower Duck Pond – High Park
 - ◆ Design of Emery Creek Storm Water Management facility.

Combined sewers were designed to transport sanitary sewage and some stormwater runoff. During large rainfall events, the runoff component overwhelms the sewer's capacity which results in basement flooding in low lying areas, and the discharge of combined sewage through combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to area watercourses and the waterfront.

To reduce the impact of CSOs, the City has implemented the following strategies:

- separating sewers into storm and sanitary systems as well as retrofitting combined system with oversize pipes to minimize basement flooding;
- disconnecting downspouts from the roofs of buildings;
- constructing storage facilities to minimize CSOs (eg. Eastern Beaches Tanks and Western Beaches Storage Tunnel);
- inspecting sewer systems with cameras to identify structural deficiencies and infiltration routes;
- implementing a sewer relining program to provide system rehabilitation and reduce infiltration;
- inspecting CSO weir locations to ensure proper operation & minimize CSO frequency; and
- testing new technologies for CSO treatment (e.g. North Toronto Treatment Plant – CSO Tank High-Rate Treatment Full Scale Demonstration Project).

The City has also recently implemented an "Integrated Plant Health Care" program that phases-out corporate use of pesticides thus reducing the run off containing chemicals from the City owned lands (i.e. parks and facilities). The City also has a household hazardous waste program which is aimed at decreasing sources of contamination and has drafted a new sewer use by-law that sets the toughest standards for sewer discharges in Canada and strict financial penalties for non-compliance.

Wastewater

Wastewater is collected by the extensive sewer system and conveyed to a wastewater treatment plant where it undergoes treatment processes that remove solids, chemicals and other undesirables before the water is released into the natural water supply. Sanitary sewer systems are designed with allowance for a limited amount of infiltration. However, as the pipes settle and age, deterioration occurs in the form of loose joints, cracks and collapse in some cases. During heavy rains, excessive infiltration through crevices can stress the system and exceed its hydraulic capacity, creates additional load to the sewage treatment plants downstream and can cause basement flooding in low lying areas.

The City programs to mitigate extraneous flows to the system include:

- disconnecting downspouts from the roofs of buildings;
- constructing oversized pipes and/or storage tanks to minimize basement flooding;
- inspecting sewer systems with cameras to identify structural deficiencies and infiltration routes;
- implementing a sewer relining program to provide system rehabilitation and reduce infiltration;
- replacing sewers where structural deficiencies are severe; and
- monitoring flow within sewers to identify infiltration and inflow deficiencies.

Toronto's four wastewater treatment plants operate under the guidelines set by the Ministry of Environment. Water and Wastewater Services Division, of Works & Emergency Services, also controls industrial discharges, conducts continual maintenance and rehabilitation of the sewer system, and provides analytical services.

These actions with regard to wastewater discharges are being enhanced through pollution prevention efforts such as the sewer use by-law and household hazardous waste programs. The sewage treatment plants treat the wastewater completely, including the removal of suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), and phosphorus. These plants also provide effluent disinfection, and disposal of wastewater sludge, including sludges generated. After biological treatment and before discharge in Lake Ontario, chlorine is added to sewage effluent to disinfect it. Although much safer to drink, chlorine use poses human and environmental health risk to the people that work at the treatment facilities and the residents that live near the plant as well as impacting the water quality near the outfall. Ultraviolet (UV) disinfection technology is now being piloted at the Ashbridge's Bay Treatment Plant as a disinfecting alternative to chlorine. The City is seeking Environmental Assessment approval for the UV disinfection system and plans to have UV fully implemented by 2005.

Drinking Water Quality

Lake Ontario is the only source of Toronto's drinking water. Toronto treats its drinking water and it is routinely tested for many chemicals. In 1998, the City's drinking water complied with the province's standards for biological contaminants. Trihalomethane, aluminum and fluoride levels are also below the set standards. Levels of lead in flushed water are lower than the provincial guideline, but lead levels in standing water can be significantly higher than the guideline. Levels of tritium are below guidelines. The City is actively involved in the processes that review and update water quality guidelines and objectives.

Occasionally during the summer months, the presence of naturally-occurring algae and higher water temperatures in Lake Ontario can cause a noticeable taste and odour. The City is currently exploring to reduce or eliminate the taste and odour episodes in the future. Testing has confirmed that the quality of water continues to meet provincial standards. The City has begun to install activated carbon filters to address taste and odour problems, and should continue to explore how to minimize these problems. Although, Toronto's water quality meets, and in most cases exceeds these standards, it should be noted that generally, backwash water from the water filtration plants does exceed the provincial water quality objectives/guidelines for a number of substances.

Strategies and actions at the City of Toronto also include the development of a water efficiency strategy and plan that include the following categories: operations and maintenance, measures improve the efficiency of the distribution system, residential and industrial, commercial and institutional programs, rate structures and prices, regulations and public education. Recently, City council also committed to expanding the 1999 Ultra Low Flush Toilet Incentive Program, which currently provides for the replacement of 10,000 high consumption toilets within the multi-residential sector by an additional 8,500 toilets. A much larger implementation program is planned for the year 2000 once the Water Efficiency Plan has been completely developed.

Watermains and water services deteriorate as they age. Exterior deterioration of watermains is caused by static electricity and aggressive soils, and this leads to pitting and periodically to leaks and breaks. Internal deterioration in the form of rust build up on the inner pipe wall (tuberculation) due to the water-metal interface. This results in episodes of 'red'/'orange'/'yellow'/'rusty' water and reduced flow in the watermain. Generally the reduced flow is not always the cause of low water supply flow to homes. Low flows to homes are usually caused by deterioration in the water service connection in the form of passivation, a coating of the inner wall with calcium carbonate, similar to the scale built-up observed in kettles and pots.

On-going programs to improve the aging water infrastructure of the City include:

- Opportunistically replacing the oldest watermains, for example during road reconstruction;
- Replacing watermains with poor break records;
- Installation of cathodic protection to slow down or stop external deterioration;
- Cleaning and lining watermains to solve the 'rusty' water problem and to restore flow capacity;
- Replacing substandard water service connections; and
- Cleaning water service connections.

Rehabilitation and Restoration of Natural Habitats

The City of Toronto has an area of about 630 square kilometres. Extensive urbanization and the activities it entails, along with increased population, exerts increased pressure on the watersheds and waterfront of the City, particularly in terms of the health of fish and wildlife habitats. Despite combined sewer overflow abatement measures (e.g. sewer separation) across the City and advances in stormwater management technologies and their application, the potential for continual impact of wastewater discharges on the aquatic environment still exists. Other solutions beyond these end-of-pipe controls are required.

While the Toronto waterfront has substantially less wetland habitat than it did historically, over 120 hectares of provincially significant wetlands exist today along its waterfront, including 46.9 hectares of additional wetlands that were added through re-evaluation. Almost 20 hectares of wetland have also been created along Toronto's waterfront and at river mouths in the last eight years. Today, it is less likely that existing wetlands will be removed due to development pressures. In an attempt to improve stormwater quality the City of Toronto and others such as the TRCA have undertaken projects that have created ponds which have a wetland component (e.g. Centennial Eco-Park and Terraviva –Willowfield Gardens Park).

Many renaturalization projects have been undertaken by the City of Toronto and other agencies. For example, the City has renaturalized watercourses (Markham Branch of Highland Creek), retrofitted stormwater management facilities (Meadowvale Stormwater Pond at Meadowvale and Kingston Road), and have undertaken renaturalization in a number of locations including High Park. The TRCA has retrofitted the Don Brickworks.

Rouge Park, a partnership of area Municipalities (including the City of Toronto), Toronto & Region Conservation Authority, the Province, and the environmental interest group -- Save the Rouge Valley System Inc. has undertaken extensive work to improve natural areas, to restore watercourse and to remove invasive species. The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, in conjunction with Rouge Park Alliance partners, is working on the Rouge Marsh rehabilitation at the mouth of the Rouge River.

The City, TRCA, the Black Creek Project and the Lambton Golf Club are jointly conducting a feasibility study to determine the best options for naturalizing and rehabilitating the lower Black Creek channel and floodplain (between Jane Street and the Humber River). This is a proactive offer by private owners to consider naturalizing a degraded watercourse through partnership with the City and other agencies, and is an unexpected opportunity to improve local water quality impacts on the western waterfront

Efforts at Other Levels of Government

In October 1997, Environment Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Environment (MOE) signed an agreement with the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to provide leadership and coordination for the implementation of the Remedial Action Plan. The MOE has a role to play in achieving the RAP objectives through its core business activities of abatement/compliance, environmental planning including stormwater management and pollution prevention, and monitoring. Environment Canada continues to participate in the watershed initiatives, and has also committed to using its databases and scientific knowledge of the Lake Ontario ecosystem to conduct preliminary work on delisting targets and criteria. Within the context of the Remedial Action Plan recommendations intended to accomplish rehabilitation and restoration of natural habitats assist in moving forward in the International Joint Commission delisting process.

Key Strategic Directions

The review of current water quality initiatives in the Background Report demonstrates the range and nature of individual, community, municipal, provincial and federal actions intended to improve our water environment and reduce environmental and human health impacts. The review also suggests that our efforts to date could benefit from a more integrated and coordinated strategic approach, grounded at the municipal level. In order to achieve this, contributions and expertise will be required from the policy, technical and operational units created in all of the new City departments through amalgamation, other government levels, the private sector, community and environmental groups, and the broader public.

A comprehensive water quality strategy that will minimize impacts on the environment and health should be based on a watershed approach. It should include a focus on cumulative discharges, impacts and pollution prevention. It should integrate and communicate all of the current separate and joint water quality initiatives into one framework, identify where the City is currently involved, and identify new areas where the City should be involved and how it can best apply its resources to maximum effect. Key aspects of this strategy would be focused on:

- the City accelerating the preparation and implementation of the Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan. The Plan will establish a wet weather flow management policy and contain strategies for the prevention, control and reduction of wet weather flow impacts across the City to dramatically reduce combined and storm water sewer overflows that impair the water quality of Toronto's watersheds and waterfront. Rainwater should also be viewed as a resource to be used to irrigate gardens, parks, yards and infiltrate into the ground, rather than a waste that needs to be managed. Wet weather flow quantity and quality issues should be managed on a watershed basis to enhance and preserve ecosystem health through a hierarchy of source, conveyance and end-of-pipe control and/or treatment measures. Source reduction methods would include rain barrels, the disconnection of downspouts, infiltration pits and the replacement of impervious surfaces with permeable ones. Innovative, non-structural approaches for managing stormwater, such as retention ponds and wetlands should also be encouraged.
- restoring and enhancing the ecological health of the City's watersheds and its waterfront. Currently, there are many initiatives underway and being delivered by the City, provincial and federal governments, the TRCA, the Waterfront Regeneration Trust, community groups and non-governmental organizations, all in response to the Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan and other related initiatives. The City should report on the progress being made on these remediation and restoration efforts while also developing new initiatives to further affect positive change in improving the conditions of the water environment. The stakeholders should work in concert to effectively monitor environmental conditions within the watersheds and the waterfront, naturalize and revegetate area watercourses, reclaim as many buried creeks and streams as possible, and restore and enhance aquatic and neighbouring terrestrial habitats. The City should adopt standards,

conduct baseline studies and set targets related to surface water quality along the waterfront and watersheds.

- improved cooperation between regional municipalities within the Greater Toronto Area and the watershed, to facilitate water quality planning and strategies that reduce local conditions. The City and the regions could enhance the role of the GTSB, or establish an inter-regional committee, to work together on water issues and increase the municipal influence on the other senior levels of government. This added political strength could also increase the ability of the City to influence transboundary water pollution issues, and assist U.S. states that are engaged in efforts to improve their watersheds.
- the identification and reduction of sources of local and long distance water pollution. This needs to be supported by effective water quality monitoring by the province, in conjunction with the City, and facilitated by the expansion of sources that report to the National Pollutant Release Inventory. It also includes the consideration of cumulative impacts and watershed carrying capacity when new discharge agreements are requested.
- continuing to advocate for the City's interests in protecting the Oak Ridges Moraine (ORM) as a natural resource. The natural functions of the ORM are vital to the health of the bio-regional ecosystem. The most obvious example of this inter-relationship is the location of the headwaters of the Humber, Don, and Rouge River systems within the ORM. The groundwater discharge function of the Moraine, as well as surface water retention and runoff, is very important in maintaining and regulating the quality and quantity of water flow in these watersheds. The rural portions of the ORM form an essential component of the GTA "countryside", which has intrinsic value as GTA rural area with unique character, value and functions, rather than as "undeveloped" land awaiting some "higher and better" use. The countryside is a distinct and valuable resource that contributes to the overall quality of life in the GTA. Greenlands, open space, agricultural lands, and the recreational opportunities available in the countryside are other important interests to protect, as well as the direct and indirect effects on water systems that development on the ORM would have.
- the effects of water pollution on the environment (aquatic and terrestrial flora and fauna) and human health. This requires that the City continue its research and documentation of the consequences related to impaired water quality, and be represented at provincial and federal water processes that determine water quality standards. It also requires effective City representation in provincial and federal regulatory processes and input into new regulations that are being developed.
- preventing the discharge of pollutants into sanitary sewers. The Sewer-Use By-law is being developed to prevent pollution by industry and the residential community, and improve the quality of biosolids produced in wastewater treatment. In raising the quality of the biosolids (sludge) generated, the material can be used beneficially as a fertilizer for surrounding agricultural lands. Upon completion, the City should encourage other upstream municipalities to adopt similar By-laws to protect the receiving waters, watercourses and aquatic communities in the Greater Toronto Bioregion. The City should also review methods of containing and treating of the runoff from snow dumping and new options for treating leachate from landfill sites that avoid treatment from wastewater treatment facilities.
- improving the environmental performance of the sanitary sewer system. Many of the City's sanitary sewers are old and are in need of repair or replacement. Poorly performing sewer infrastructure can allow undesirable compounds to escape from the system, causing ground and surface water contamination. Also, groundwater can infiltrate into the sewers, increasing the amount of water that has to be treated at the water treatment plants. The City should continue implementing current measures while also exploring innovative new methods of ameliorating the current system as to minimize environmental impacts.

- continuing to look at new technologies and best practices for treating sewage and drinking water. Ultraviolet irradiation techniques are already being tested to treat the sewage effluent before discharging it into Lake Ontario. Results to date at the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant have been very positive and the City needs to consider the same strategy for disinfection at the other wastewater facilities. To remedy taste and odour problems of its drinking water in the late summer and early fall, the City should continue the installation activated carbon filters at drinking water treatment facilities as a method of minimizing or eliminating the geosmin that is the cause of this problem.
- The City of Toronto support the implementation of the strategies that are proposed in the Water Efficiency Plan, which is due for release in January, 2000. City residents and businesses consume far too much water during their daily activities. Water conservation also saves the City money in the form of the energy needed to pump, convey and treat water and wastewater. It also effectively increases the capacity of water treatment plants and postpones the need for expansion. As part of the Water Efficiency Plan, or to complement its strategies, related methods that should be developed would include:
 - ◆ reusing a greater amount of grey-water;
 - ◆ designing improved public education and outreach programs;
 - ◆ delivering programs that disseminate rainbarrels, water efficiency kits, and ultra-low-flush toilets at reduced costs to Toronto residents;
 - ◆ implementing a mandatory water meter program;
 - ◆ instituting an outdoor summer watering by-law;
 - ◆ mandating that new development proposals include aggressive water efficiency plans;
 - ◆ advocating the Province to establish appropriate licensing and training programs for "in-ground" irrigation contractors;
 - ◆ developing a program to support the retrofitting of all public buildings in the City with water efficiency/conserving measures; and
 - ◆ developing a program to support the naturalizing of grassed/turf areas around publicly owned buildings and facilities.
- the review of user-pay and polluter-pay approaches to improve water quality and reduce water consumption. To date, regulatory approaches have been used in Canada to control water pollution. However, financial instruments may ultimately serve as very useful tools to improve water quality and lower water use.
- supporting the work being done to phase out the use of pesticides on City-owned lands through Integrated Plant Health Care (IPHC) and continue to encourage City agencies, boards and commissions to use IPHC as the standard for managing green space. This will reduce the toxic chemicals that get washed-off the land, and flow through the storm and combined sewer systems to the receiving waterbody, thus improving surface water quality in Toronto's watersheds and waterfront.

A comprehensive approach to water quality should include public consultation, education, communication and awareness to build public support for effective measures to improve the conditions of our water environment. Initially this requires the development and ongoing revision of a map or framework that illustrates the initiatives, programs, policies, processes and regulatory efforts that are included in the water quality strategy. This framework will serve as one of the tools to communicate the strategy visually, increase our understanding of the complexity of the environment issues related to water, and illustrate what is being done and what is not being done. This will also identify the linkages between different ongoing efforts, identify the roles of different government levels and the private sector, help set priorities for City action, and facilitate monitoring and reporting to Council and the broader public.

Recommendations

1. Water Quality Strategy

That the City should continue to develop a comprehensive water quality strategy that:

- i) is based on an watershed approach;
- ii) includes a focus on cumulative discharges, impacts and pollution prevention;
- iii) increases our understanding of the complexity of water issues;
- iv) integrates contributions and expertise from the policy, technical and operational units within City Departments, other government levels, the International Joint Commission, the private sector, community and environmental groups, and the broader public;
- v) catalogues the current initiatives designed to improve water quality, identifies the linkages between different ongoing efforts, and ascertains the roles of different government levels and the private sector;
- vi) assists in setting priorities for City action, facilitates monitoring and reporting to Council, and public communication; and
- vii) identifies new areas where the City should be involved and how it can best apply its resources to maximum effect.

2. Continue Existing Stormwater Management Initiatives

That the City continue to support all the initiatives underway to manage stormwater such as downspout disconnection, detention/retention and infiltration retrofit of existing infrastructure, detention at source, pollution prevention at source, and Sewer Use By-Law enforcement. Watercourse restoration initiatives should be supported in concert with appropriate stormwater management control.

3. Accelerate the Preparation and Implementation of the Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan

That the City should accelerate the preparation and implementation of the Wet Weather Flow Management Master Plan to establish a wet weather flow management policy and formulate strategies for the prevention, control and reduction of wet weather flow impacts across the City. Wet weather flow quantity and quality issues are to be managed on a watershed basis supporting a philosophy developed with key stakeholders:

“Rainwater is to be treated as a resource to be utilized to enhance and nourish the City’s environment. Wet weather flow quantity and quality issues are to be managed on a watershed basis to enhance and preserve ecosystem health through a hierarchy of source, conveyance and end-of-pipe control and/or treatment measures. Source control measures will be considered first in this hierarchy in a manner that is balanced with the other two measures in terms of environmental, social and economic impacts.”

The Master Plan process should proceed to:

- a) establish a harmonized, City-wide Wet Weather Flow Management Policy to provide overall guidance for the development of the Master Plan and a consistent base for wet weather flow management activities across the City;
- b) identify and recommend appropriate receiving water quality targets and standards for area watercourses and the waterfront in consultation with the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, and the provincial and federal governments;
- c) recommend equitable, dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism for the implementation of the Master Plan;
- d) develop wet weather flow management strategies based on a control/treatment hierarchy of source/conveyance/end-of-pipe measures consisting of natural systems, non-structural and structural solutions; and

- e) develop an implementation plan, phasing in aspects of the Master Plan over several years, and monitoring the results.

To support the implementation of the Master Plan recommendations, the City should:

- i) approve and provide an equitable, dedicated and sustainable funding mechanism for the implementation of the Master Plan;
- ii) advocate for the Province to play a stronger role in the development and assessment of new stormwater management technologies for retrofit applications;
- iii) recommend continued testing of new stormwater management technologies to assess their implementation applicability, operational constraints and cost-effectiveness;
- iv) advocate for the Province to develop enabling legislation which would allow the City to impose stormwater management requirements on new developments (e.g. through site plan approvals) and provide for the collection of cash-in-lieu of treatment in those cases where site conditions preclude implementation of on-site controls; and
- v) request financial assistance from the provincial and federal government to help with the implementation of the Master Plan.

4. Waterfront Restoration Strategies

That the City should continue to support watershed restoration strategies, subwatershed studies, partnerships and community involvement to improve the aquatic conditions of Toronto's watersheds and waterfront.

5. Improve Environmental Performance of Sewer Infrastructure

That the City continue to advance its sewer infrastructure renewal program of sewer relining and replacement to reduce infiltration of the sanitary and combined sewer systems and develop new methods that further minimize environmental and human health impacts of ineffective sewers.

6. Advance Initiatives using Alternatives to Treat Wastewater

That the City should support current initiatives of employing alternative disinfection methods (i.e. ultraviolet irradiation techniques) at the Ashbridges Bay Treatment Plant and seek to expand the use of these methods at other wastewater treatment facilities.

7. Prevention Discharge of Pollutants into Sewers and Natural Water Bodies

That the City should prevent the discharge of pollutants into sanitary sewers. It should:

- a) continue to support the development of a Sewer Use By-Law to prevent pollution and improve the quality of biosolids produced in wastewater treatment; and
- b) upon completion of the Sewer Use By-Law, encourage other upstream municipalities to adopt similar by-laws to protect receiving waters, watercourses and aquatic communities.

The City should also prevent the discharge and spillage of pollutants into storm sewers, watercourses and Lake Ontario. It should support pollution prevention strategies applied to both public and private lands (e.g. IC&I stormwater, Business Management Plans).

8. Reduce Water Use

That the City should support the strategies being developed in the Water Efficiency Plan and allocate the resources needed to enable it to reach its target of 15% reduction in water use by 2011 or sooner, and advocate for more aggressive water use reductions where appropriate. To support this initiative, the City should also:

- a) encourage all agencies, boards and commissions to examine how they can reduce water use in their operations and facilities; and
- b) advocate for the Province to develop enabling legislation that restricts the sale and installation of new toilets to ultra low-flow models (i.e. six litres or less).

9. Summer Water Use By-law

That the City should support and accelerate the development and implementation of a Summer Water Use By-law for use in the City to restrict the watering of lawns and gardens to off-peak hours.

10. Monitor Drinking Water Guidelines

That the City should monitor research on drinking water quality and health, communicate these results to the public and participate in Federal and Provincial processes that set guidelines or objectives for drinking water, while advancing efforts to improve the taste and odour of the water

11. Transboundary Water Issues

That the City should continue to advocate for increased action from the International Joint Commission, the Provincial, Federal, and U.S. governments regarding water quality and quantity issues that affect Toronto's watersheds and waterfront.

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