

February 2006

**Re: Lansing's Combined Sewer Separation Project
Private Property Inflow Removal**

Dear Property Owner/Resident:

This letter is to remind you that your neighborhood is the next area scheduled for construction of the new separated sewer lines. Construction in your area may begin as early as March 2006. We are also reminding you that property owners play an important role in making sure the new sanitary sewer system operates properly.

The success of the Lansing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) control program is based on separation of storm water and sanitary sewage flows into separate pipes. The storm water is discharged to local waterways, and sanitary sewage is treated at the Lansing Wastewater Treatment Plant before ultimate discharge of the clean water to the Grand River. If storm water remains connected to the sanitary sewer system, it can overwhelm the sanitary system during heavy rainfalls, which can result in basement flooding and overflow of raw, untreated sewage to local waterways.

Therefore, it is imperative to ensure that storm water inflow sources and pumped groundwater on your property--downspouts, catch basins, driveway or patio drains, cleanouts, and footing drain water pumped by a sump pump--are disconnected from your sanitary sewer lines and are discharged either to storm sewers or to the ground surface. Stairwell and window well drains, which accept storm water from areas in excess of 100 square feet, must also be disconnected from your sanitary sewer lines and discharged to either storm sewers or the ground surface. Discharging storm or groundwater to the City's sanitary sewers is a violation of the City Code (Section 1040.10).

The Public Service Department CSO Engineering Consultant, Tetra Tech, conducted the initial external inspection of private properties in your neighborhood during 2005. If storm water inflow sources connected to your sanitary sewer service were identified, you were sent a legal notice requiring you to disconnect the source from your sanitary sewer service. At the time of inspection, an inspector filled out a form entitled "Combined Sewer System". A yellow copy of the inspection notice was left at the property. An additional owner's copy (blue) was mailed to the owner of record. The forms were filled out indicating what sources, if any, remain connected on your property, based on the inspections. ***Now is the time to disconnect inflow sources if you have not already done so.*** Since internal inspections will not be done at this time, it is possible that some inflow sources could not be identified or verified from the external inspections alone. Property owners are responsible for the disconnection of any inflow sources on their property.

Detailed sheets explaining how to correct storm water inflow sources are attached to this letter. The "Typical Problems" sheet illustrates typical problems that may be found on a property. The Inflow Brochure informs property owners how to identify inflow sources, answers frequently asked questions, and explains how to properly disconnect downspouts from the sanitary sewer system.

Separation of ground level inflow sources (driveway drains, catch basins, patio drains, sump pumps, etc.) on your property may require the expertise of a contractor licensed to perform work in the City of Lansing. This type of source disconnection may require coordination between your contractor and the City contractor to make the final connection to the appropriate storm sewer in the roadway. If so, these types of sources can remain connected until sewer construction begins on your street. A list of licensed contractors is available upon request by calling the City of Lansing's Private Inflow Removal Helpline at (517) 394-5577.

Follow-up inspections of properties identified as having storm water inflow connections to the sanitary sewer will be performed as soon as the sewer construction in your street is completed. If inflow sources remain connected to your sanitary sewer service, the City will be forced to take further legal action to enforce compliance with City Ordinances. If connection to the public storm sewer is necessary, the property owner may be able to save considerable expense by coordinating the required work with the sewer separation project work in the City right-of-way. Storm sewer connections required after CSO construction has been completed in your street will be paid for entirely by the property owner.

Our goal is to work with you and help make sure you are in compliance with City ordinances. If you are not sure whether you have any improper connections, or if you have a question about what to do on your property, please contact the City of Lansing's Private Inflow Removal Helpline at (517) 394-5577. The City's project consultant, Tetra Tech, will respond to your questions.

Sincerely,

Chad A. Gamble, P.E.
Assistant City Engineer

Enclosure