



11.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager

November 5, 2001

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report 01-245 regarding the status of the sewer separation project in North Cambridge, Public Works Commissioner Lisa Peterson reports the following:

The City has been working with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) to separate the sanitary sewer and storm water lines on North Massachusetts Avenue between Porter Square and Alewife Brook as part of a larger sewer separation project. The sewer separation project originally proposed was in accordance with the Boston Harbor Federal Court Order, based on the MWRA Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Facilities Plan. Due to the increased level of cost associated with sewer separation in the Alewife Watershed and after further analysis of the impact of CSOs on water quality in the Alewife Brook, the MWRA proposed revisions to their Facilities Plan. The MWRA proposal now excludes sewer separation along North Massachusetts Avenue from its schedule, believing that the benefits associated with separation do not merit the cost required constructing such.

While the MWRA is no longer proposing sewer separation work along North Massachusetts Avenue, a determination as to the appropriateness of eliminating CSOs along the Alewife Brook (to include the North Massachusetts Avenue CSOs) will ultimately be made by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) within the next year. The City of Cambridge believes that sewer separation in this area will be required sometime in the future. However, any action or decision on the City's part to do sewer separation work prior to the DEP decision would not be financially prudent. Consequently, the sewer separation in this area is not budgeted or scheduled at this time.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert W. Healy".

Robert W. Healy
City Manager



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Consent Agenda #11

Awaiting Report Item
Number 01-245, regarding a
report on the status of the
sewer separation project in
North Cambridge.

In City Council November 5, 2001

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