



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 1
5 Post Office Square
Boston, MA 02109-3912**

May 4, 2023

David Coppes
Chief Operating Officer
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Charlestown Navy Yard
100 First Avenue, Building 39
Boston, MA 02129

Richard Raiche
Director of Infrastructure and Assets
City of Somerville
93 Highland Ave.
Somerville, MA 02143

Catherine Woodbury
Senior Project Manager
Department of Public Works
147 Hampshire Street
City of Cambridge
Cambridge, MA 02139

Re: MWRA, Somerville, and Cambridge Schedule Extension Requests for Deliverables
Associated with the Updated CSO Long Term Control Plans, Dated September 2022

Dear Mr. Coppes, Mr. Raiche, and Ms. Woodbury:

EPA has reviewed the above letters submitted by the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (“MWRA”), the City of Somerville, and the City of Cambridge. The Updated CSO Long Term Control Plans are being developed in accordance with requirements of the 2019 Variances for Combined Sewer Overflow (“CSO”) Discharges to the Alewife Brook/Upper Mystic River Basin and the Lower Charles River/Charles Basin.

Considering the letters, and subsequent discussions between EPA, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (“MassDEP”), MWRA, the City of Cambridge, and the City of Somerville, EPA recognizes the significant time and effort undertaken by the parties to incorporate into the development process meaningful public input and the appropriate realities of climate change as requested by EPA and MassDEP.

Current regulations at 40 C.F.R. 131.14 require that any modification of the Variances requires the same extensive development and outreach process as would a re-issuance of the Variances.

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While EPA and MassDEP consider whether a re-issuance or other steps are appropriate, MWRA and the Cities of Cambridge and Somerville should continue to advance the work required under the current Variances. In the case of the Updated LTCPs, EPA encourages MWRA, the City of Somerville, and the City of Cambridge to proceed in accordance with the revised schedule as proposed.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of these issues. Please contact feel free to contact me (617-543-9438 or borci.todd@epa.gov) if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Todd Borci, Manager
Water Technical Unit 1
Environmental Compliance Assurance Division
US EPA Region 1

cc: Kathy Baskin/MassDEP
Eric Worrall/MassDEP
Michael Wagner/EPA
Jeff Kopf/EPA
Ken Moraff/EPA