

Text of e-mail sent to DNREC for public record on Ocean Outfall

We wish to thank DNREC for providing an opportunity for all homeowners to participate and comment on every stage of the ocean outfall project, as it has moved from first consideration over a decade ago, to the Record of Decision approving the outfall in January 2015, and now to the permitting phase.

The Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association is a non-profit organization that operates to promote the common good and general welfare of homeowners and residents of Rehoboth Beach for their mutual enjoyment and benefit, to preserve the quality of life, and to foster the spirit of community. We seek to play a meaningful role in civic matters through advocacy for our members on issues such as ordinances, the environment, and preservation.

Concerning the outfall project, RBHA's primary role is to educate homeowners on both the process and the facts. We prepared a Q&A prior to the vote for funding the project, and have recently provided links to the extensive documentation that exists both on DNREC's website and the City's. We've invited homeowners to send any comments or questions they might have directly to you, and we have asked that they direct those comments to the five permits that the City has requested.

We believe the plan for the ocean outfall has been extensively researched and vetted in a transparent manner. Given the length of time that has elapsed since discussions of alternative wastewater treatment methods began, it is not surprising to learn of new homeowners just now discovering the project. So, our challenge is to make sure we put out balanced and reliable information in a manner that is easily digestible.

We believe public outreach is critical to our mission and we aim to continue doing so throughout the decision process on the permits and throughout the construction of the ocean outfall. On a related note, we like the section of the preliminary stormwater report (as required in the outfall ROD), which addresses best management practices and includes several guides prepared by DNREC on actions citizens can take to keep our waters clean. As we move forward from the outfall to address these other critical environmental issues, these materials will be good resources for homeowners in the City.

Thank you for your oversight of our environment.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors
Rehoboth Beach Homeowners' Association

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