

Dear Mayors of Middlesex County,

As we all clean up from Hurricane Sandy, the Middlesex County Utilities Authority (MCUA) hopes that you and your communities are beginning to return to some level of normalcy. At the MCUA, we have had to deal with multiple problems resulting from Hurricane Sandy and know that each of you have had to share in the burden brought on by this storm. We would like to thank you for your continued patience and resilience during this time.

Three MCUA Pump Stations were flooded after the storm. The South Amboy Station has been brought back online. Our Sayreville Pump Station (SPS) and Edison Pump Station (EPS) were flooded and deemed inoperable and will take some time to be repaired. In the meantime, bypass pumping systems has been installed at the SPS and EPS and are conveying the average daily wastewater flow to the MCUA Central Treatment Plant. One positive note, our Central Treatment Plant did not sustain any damage, other than losing power and we had generators as backup for the Plant.

Staffs at the MCUA, along with their engineering consultants and contractors the United States Environmental Protection Agency, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, are working around the clock to support the effort to maintain our temporary bypass system while the damaged main pumps are repaired and brought back online. The MCUA has made significant progress to convey all the wastewater flow entering its pumping stations to its Central Treatment Plant.

However, intermittent controlled bypasses to the Raritan River from the Sayreville Pump Station have occurred and will need to continue. Future controlled bypasses at the SPS may occur due to the pumping capacity of temporary bypass system when we have a storm which will cause increased wastewater flows. These controlled bypasses are necessary to protect the SPS from flooding and prevent uncontrolled overflows of its trunk system. To further assure protecting the SPS from flooding and prevent overflows in the trunk system, the MCUA is currently installing Temporary Wet Weather Overflow Facilities.

During this time, we must prevail upon the residents and commercial/industrial facilities within the communities of our service area to conserve water wherever possible as requested by Governor Christie (notice attached) and must strive to locate and, if possible, eliminate excessive wastewater use and Infiltration and Inflow from entering your collection system. If these reductions to the flow of water to the MCUA systems are achieved, this will ensure that the bypass pumps are not overwhelmed while we continue repairs.

The current situation will have no effect on your drinking water systems infrastructure and our Central Treatment Plant remains fully operational.

We also ask that you refrain from any recreational water activities in the Washington Canal, South River and Raritan River. We have been in contact with the Middlesex County Office of Emergency Management and local authorities to request their assistance in suspending these activities and have requested increased signage along the waterways to notify the public that water activities are prohibited until further notice.

Thank you for your cooperation and support as we rebuild and recover from Hurricane Sandy.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Fitamant
Executive Director