

---

**Toronto Water**

Toronto City Hall, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Tower  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Tel: 416-392-8200  
Fax: 416-392-4540

---

## **2007 BUDGET BRIEFING NOTE**

### **Source Water Protection through the City's Wet Weather Flow Master Plan (WWFMP)**

---

#### **Issue/ Background:**

- Toronto Water draws its source water through water treatment plant intakes from Lake Ontario to provide drinking water to the City's residents and businesses.
- Lake Ontario source water is impacted by basin-wide pollution inputs and local, nearshore water quality, is further impacted by direct discharges from storm sewers and combined sewer overflow discharges, river discharges and "long-shore" pollution sources which extend along the north shore Lake Ontario, well beyond the City limits.
- The City has, therefore, maintained that a basin-wide source water protection plan is needed to ensure that the City's source water is properly protected into the future and this should be developed with active involvement by the City (and other affected municipalities), the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (and other Conservation Authorities across the Basin), the Province of Ontario and the Federal Government.
- The Clean Water Act is the Provincial source water protection legislation that received Royal Assent on October 19, 2006. Its goal is to ensure that communities are able to protect their municipal drinking water supplies through developing collaborative, locally driven, science-based protection plans. Municipalities, communities, conservation authorities, property owners, farmers and industry are required to work together to identify potential risks to local water sources and take action to reduce or eliminate these risks. The Province has assigned the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority the responsibility of developing Source Water Protection Plans for watersheds that extend across the City of Toronto.
- The City has taken an active role to protect water quality within its boundaries and improve water quality within Lake Ontario, particularly the nearshore area; the City's drinking water source, through the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan, approved by Council in September 2003.
- In recognition that the acquisition of land can contribute to the protection of the City's source water through the removal of property from urban development, City Council directed Toronto Water to allocate a combined \$2.5 Million from its capital budget in 2005 and 2006 to Land Acquisition for Source Protection and it is noted that these land purchases were predominantly outside of Toronto.
- Works Committee requested at its meeting of September 11, 2006 to report on an allocation of 1 percent of the water rate increase for funding of land acquisition for source protection of Toronto's river system. This would equate to approximately \$6 million per year.

## **Key Points:**

### *Wet Weather Flow Master Plan (WWFMP)*

The WWFMP has the long-term goal of achieving Provincial Water Quality Objectives in area surface waters and an ambitious 25-year implementation Plan, estimated at over \$1 billion, is actively being programmed.

- The WWFMP is the most significant undertaking of its kind across Ontario and Canada; and provides a foundation for the development of a basin-wide Source Water Protection Plan.
- The WWFMP was developed on a watershed basis, consistent with the overall goals and principles of source water protection planning, adopting a hierarchical approach to manage wet weather flows starting with source controls, followed by conveyance controls and finally end-of-pipe control measures.
- The measures contained within the 25 Year Implementation Plan consist of:
  - an enhanced Public Education and Public Outreach Program focused on increasing public awareness and encouraging participation in roof leader disconnection;
  - source control measures (e.g. downspout disconnection);
  - an enhanced municipal operations program (e.g. sewer-cross connection remediation program, and increased frequency of street sweeping and catchbasin cleaning);
  - basement flooding protection works (e.g. sewer system upgrade and home isolation);
  - conveyance control measures (e.g. protect ditch network and implement infiltration measures in coordination with road reconstruction projects);
  - shoreline management for the waterfront (e.g. beach monitoring and protection, and studies to identify sources of bacterial contamination);
  - stream restoration works to restore 104 km of eroded stream banks for infrastructure protection and aquatic habitat restoration; and
  - end-of-pipe measures (e.g. construction of stormwater ponds/wetlands, underground storage for stormwater management and control of combined sewer overflows (CSO), and treatment facilities).
- The first priority of Source Water Protection will be to address the issue of combined sewer overflows and the implementation plan developed through the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan recognizes this in the scheduling and funding of activities.

### *Toronto Water Capital Plan*

- Rising fuel and other commodity costs have increased Toronto Water's operating expenditures and coupled with declining revenues, the amount available to be allocated to capital projects has decreased.
- \$188 million has been deferred from the Toronto Water's 5-year plan to accommodate the reduced contribution to capital which will result in the delay of completion of implementation of the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan, along with other planned works.

- The 2007 Recommended Capital Budget includes a reallocation of \$1.508 million from the Wet Weather Flow Master Plan to Land Acquisition.
- Toronto Water's recommended 2007 Capital Budget includes approximately \$21 million and forecasts a total of \$158 million over the 5-year Capital Plan from 2007 to 2011 for the WWFMP. These expenditures are directed at improving water quality within area watercourses and the waterfront and are expected to be the foundation of the City's contribution towards the Source Water Protection Plan being developed through the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority, in accordance with the requirements of the Province's Clean Water Act.
- An annual reallocation of 1% of approved rate increases to Land Acquisition would equate to a deferral of more than \$30 million over the 5-year period and would impact the implementation of the City's Wet Weather Flow Master Plan.

---

**Prepared by:** Jonathan P'Ng  
Lee Anne Jones

**Contact for further information:** Michael D'Andrea, P. Eng.  
Director  
Water Infrastructure Management  
Toronto Water  
Tel: 416-397-4631  
E-mail: mdandre@toronto.ca

**Date:** January 5, 2007