

APPENDIX 23

PUBLIC COMMENTS



KLINE'S ISLAND SEWER SYSTEM

Regional Act 537 Plan

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

On June 30, 2025, a public notice regarding the Regional Act 537 Plan was published in the Morning Call (see Appendix 22). As of July 30, 2025, **ONLY ONE WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS WAS RECEIVED.**

Please see the attached letter of support from the Allentown Environmental Advisory Council which supports the Implementation Plan in the KISS Regional Act 537 Pan.



Allentown Environmental Advisory Council

Kyle Ropski, *Chair*
Tinku Khanwalker, *Co-chair*
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Allentown City Hall
435 Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18101

RE: Letter of Support - Kline's Island Sewer System (KISS) Regional Act 537 Plan

Dear Members of City Council and Mayor Tuerk:

The Allentown Environmental Advisory Council (EAC) respectfully submits this letter of support for the approval of the Kline's Island Sewer System (KISS) Regional Act 537 Plan. This comprehensive and collaborative plan addresses long-standing wastewater management challenges in our region while supporting the environmental goals outlined in the EAC's purpose and mission.

The EAC commends the plan's robust focus on inflow and infiltration (I&I) reduction, which directly protects and preserves our natural resources, promotes sustainable infrastructure, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions through cost-effective system efficiencies. As climate change continues to bring more intense and frequent precipitation to the Lehigh Valley, we must act decisively to address vulnerabilities in our wastewater systems. **The 2019 hydraulic overload due to excessive wet-weather flows at the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (KIWWTP) serves as a warning of what may become more common if we do not implement strong I&I mitigation measures now.**

The Regional Act 537 Plan reflects thoughtful coordination among the participating municipalities and provides a forward-looking framework that will protect water quality, improve public health, and support Allentown's future development in a sustainable manner. Its phased implementation of Source Reduction Plans (SRPs), improved metering programs, and commitments to infrastructure rehabilitation exemplify proactive stewardship.

We also wish to acknowledge and commend the City of Allentown and the Lehigh County Authority (LCA) for their joint leadership and collaboration throughout the planning process. Together, through the Office of Compliance and the broader project team, the City and LCA have demonstrated a unified and thoughtful approach, ensuring that a wide range of perspectives were considered. Their commitment to transparency and stakeholder engagement has fostered public trust and strengthened the regional partnership that is critical to the success of this long-term infrastructure plan.

We urge the City Council to approve this plan, recognizing it as a critical environmental and public infrastructure investment for the City of Allentown and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,
Kyle Ropski
Chair, Allentown Environmental Advisory Council