

# McANA

**Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations, Inc.**  
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## **Position on Proposed Wet Weather and Sewage Disposal Ordinances and Control Plans**

adopted April 12, 2001

The Marion County Alliance of Neighborhood Associations consistently advocates for improving the quality of life in the neighborhoods of Indianapolis and for ensuring the public health as it relates to those neighborhoods. Additionally, we expect actions taken by our elected and appointed officials to be responsibly balanced against the financial realities faced by the residents of those same neighborhoods.

In keeping with these goals, MCANA has considered the City government's plans and legislation currently being offered as at least partial solutions to the wet weather and sewage disposal problems and has concluded the following:

- 1) We wish to reaffirm our support for the Stormwater Utility Ordinance proposed and coordinated by City County Councilor Buelah Coughenauer.
- 2) We wish to support the Long Term Control Plan for Combined Sewer Overflows authored by the Administration of Mayor Bart Peterson.

We believe that these two plans, implemented concurrently, will serve to exponentially increase the effectiveness of the City's ability to successfully mitigate current drainage and infrastructure inadequacies and failures. We also believe that the combined costs of these two plans provide a reasonable and generally affordable financial foundation for resolving Combined Sewer Overflow violations and addressing a long term program for the construction and maintenance of appropriate stormwater management systems in Marion County.

- 3) However, we also believe that in order for the City to provide the most comprehensive and responsible safeguards for the health our neighborhoods, the issue of septic systems in Marion County must be thoroughly investigated and a long term plan developed for addressing this matter which is complementary to and can be easily integrated with the plans for Combined Sewer Overflows and

Stormwater Management. We believe that such an investigative and planning process should be completed within the next two years, and that the plan developed should, at a minimum:

a) include a comprehensive assessment of the functionality and/or location of failing septic systems and anticipated failures along with funding formula options and timelines for replacement of those systems that does not cause undue hardship on property owners

b) Develop a master plan with a stable funding component for the logical extension of the sewer infrastructure that will meet current and future capacity needs and which will address the issuance of any new septic system permits within Marion County.

c) include an on-going public education program which promotes the proper use and maintenance of septic systems.

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