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For Immediate Release: Friday, August 5, 2022

Stormwater/Wastewater Discharge in Owasco River

On August 4, 2022 at 6:41pm, the Cayuga County Health Department was notified by NY-Alert, New York State's emergency notification system, that due to excessive rain, 1 combined sewer overflow facility at the City of Auburn activated on August 4, 2022 resulting in the discharge of stormwater and partially treated wastewater into the Owasco River. Per the City of Auburn, these combined sewer overflows are permitted to discharge by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

According to an update sent out through the NY-Alert System, the discharge occurred at 12 Wadsworth Street at 4:49pm, lasted for approximately 20 minutes releasing 12,731 gallons. To sign up for alerts, please visit New York State's NY - Alert system at <https://alert.ny.gov>.

This permitted discharge does NOT affect the public drinking water source (Owasco Lake) as the discharge is upstream and flows north. The Owasco River water is not regulated by the Cayuga County Health Department. We encourage persons who are considering recreating in any unregulated body of water to make a decision based upon their own comfort level of risk. The Cayuga County Health Department recommends persons who choose to recreate in an unregulated body of water to avoid getting water in their mouth, to wash their hands afterwards, and to shower once they return home. For more information, please call the Cayuga County Health Department at 315-253-1560 or go to www.cayugacounty.us/health.
