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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

05-53

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MORE INFORMATION

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DEP Announces Public Meetings in Brooklyn and Queens Concerning Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan

Commissioner Emily Lloyd announced that two public meetings will be convened to discuss the progress of the Jamaica Watershed Protection Plan. In July 2005, Mayor Bloomberg signed Local Law 71 into effect. Its purpose was to create a plan to restore and maintain the water quality and ecological integrity of Jamaica Bay. The law also established the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Advisory Committee to advise DEP and provide recommendations concerning the plan as it evolved.

Commissioner Lloyd said, "This is one of DEP's most urgent and important projects. The preservation of the Jamaica Bay watershed is essential to maintaining its function as an ecological wetland as well as a recreational location for City residents who use the Bay for fishing and boating. Over the years, Jamaica Bay has been harmed by overdevelopment and pollution. DEP's current mission is to investigate sources affecting pollution and to develop an action plan for the future. We also want to ensure that interested citizens have a voice in our planning process," continued Commissioner Lloyd, "and we urge those who are concerned with the integrity and future of the Bay to attend the meetings."

Two public meetings are currently planned. They will be held as follows at the stated locations:

Brooklyn

Date:	Wednesday, January 11, 2006
Time:	6 - 8:30 pm
Location:	Ryan Visitors Center, Floyd Bennett Field (FBF) (By transit: #5 or #2 train to Flatbush Ave. (FBF); Connect to Q35 green bus to Visitor's Center; By car: Belt Pkwy to Exit 11S. Flatbush Ave. at light before Marine Parkway Bridge, left to FBF, left on Aviation Rd.)

Queens

Date:	Thursday, February 9, 2006
Time:	6 - 8:30 pm

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Location: Main Stage Theater, York College
(94-20 Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, Jamaica, New York)

For further information about the public meetings and the Jamaica Bay Watershed Protection Plan, please check the DEP web site at www.nyc.gov/dep or contact DEP's Community Outreach Office at (718) 595-3504.