
Public and Regulatory Agency Participation Program for Long-Term CSO Control Plan

June 2012



King County

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Wastewater Treatment Division

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The King County Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) implements the public and regulatory agency participation program for its CSO Control Program within three contexts—WTD in general, King County, and City of Seattle:

- Outreach efforts for CSO control—including design and construction of control projects, program reviews, long-term control plan updates and amendments, special studies and pilot projects, and public notification of overflows—are coordinated with outreach efforts on wastewater management and water quality in general. This coordination provides context and shows how all WTD activities work together to achieve the same goals.
- WTD outreach is also carried out in the context of King County as a whole. The King County Community Engagement Guide and how community outreach implements principles of social justice and equity can be found at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/exec/equity/toolsandresources.aspx>.
- The City of Seattle is both a stakeholder and a partner in the King County's CSO control program. The County's combined sewer system collects combined flows from the City of Seattle's combined sewer system and conveys them to the West Point Treatment Plant, also in Seattle. Both agencies have a role in each other's long-term control efforts and in their associated public and agency participation plans.

The following two chapters describe ongoing outreach activities for the CSO Control Program and activities specifically related to WTD's Long-Term CSO control plan. The three appendices present the public and regulatory agency participation plan developed for WTD's 2012 CSO Control Program review and long-term control plan amendment, the list of participants so far in this process, and a summary of the process to date.

Chapter 2

Ongoing CSO Outreach Activities

WTD's ongoing outreach, conducted in the context of its overall wastewater management program, occur through the venues:

- Website that provides CSO Control Program information, compliance reports, plans and studies, contact telephone numbers, and links: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/CSOcontrol>
- Signage at publicly accessible CSO locations that provides basic warnings and a telephone number to call for more information
- Public participation processes for planning, design, and construction of CSO control projects
- Tours of WTD wastewater treatment plants
- Presentations on water quality and wastewater treatment for community groups, schools, and agencies
- Participation in an annual water quality telephone survey on awareness and opinions
- Real-time overflow status information for King County and City of Seattle CSOs: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/CSOstatus.aspx>

Briefings to the Washington State Department of Ecology have occurred to provide status of the WTD control efforts, and to discuss issues impacting CSO control. For example, many meetings have occurred to discuss integration of sediment management with the CSO control program.

In addition, Public Health – Seattle & King County provides the following services:

- Information telephone hotline
- CSO website: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/toxic/cso.aspx>
- Visits to businesses in the vicinity of CSOs to promote awareness and provide information

The following sections provide information on outreach efforts for CSO control projects, special projects, and the overflow notification program.

2.1 CSO Control Projects

The goal of public involvement during CSO capital projects is to ensure that the public has the opportunity to be involved in specific projects during the delivery of each project—from conceptual design and scoping through construction. The public involvement process is designed to ensure that the public is informed of and can choose to participate in the design, environmental review and permitting processes associated with each project.

Since each CSO control project has unique components such as location, affected neighbors, and integration with other capital projects in the vicinity which can compound construction impacts,

every project begins with a Needs Assessment. A Needs Assessment is conducted early in the project life, typically during pre-design, to research the affected communities and document the project goals and objectives that drive the level and type of public involvement in order to develop or update a public involvement plan.

The fully developed public involvement plan will be crafted during pre-design to guide the strategic and daily work of the community involvement staff, describing the project goals and schedule, community history, tools and techniques, affected audiences, and a complete implementation schedule with public meetings and staff resources needed. Each Public Involvement Plan will have objectives specifically designed to meet the communities and project's needs and may range from providing information to assist in the public's understanding of the project to a staffing a "Design Advisory Committee" made up of local residents. The type and level of involvement depends on the project's history, impacts, and level of community engagement and local interest. The plan will be reviewed and updated during the course of the project to ensure that it is current and meeting the needs of the community from pre-design through construction. Techniques and tools may change as the project progresses from conceptual design to construction. For example, a website will be used in the early stages of a project to announce the startup of a capital project. Later, if demolition of an existing structure is planned in a residential neighborhood, flyers may be distributed to neighbors and local businesses by hand because of the timeliness and sensitivity of the activity. Components of the plans typically include the following:

- Stakeholder identification with specific needs listed such as language requirements, if needed
- Development of a website, emailing list and possibly a newsletter to communicate project progress to the public
- Environmental review scoping meetings
- Design updates held in local accessible facilities
- Meetings with regulatory and other agencies, including U.S Fish and Wildlife, Army Corp of Engineers, and Washington State Department of Natural Resources, occur regularly to ensure that alternatives are being developed in ways that can be approved and permitted.
- Meetings with the community occur at key points in the alternatives development process, particularly around siting discussions. Community members and local businesses are notified of meetings via posters, flyers, mailings, emails, and sometimes notices posted on people's doors.
- Meetings and briefings with the City of Seattle, involved as a permitting agency and as a stakeholder. (A Seattle Public Utilities representative serves on the project team as a liaison between the agencies. These representatives will often attend key public meetings.)

The first CSO control projects under the 1999 CSO control plan amendment are for four CSOs that discharge near Puget Sound beaches: Barton and Murray in the Alki area, South Magnolia on the north side of Elliott Bay, and North Beach just south of Carkeek Park. These locations

were ranked highest priority during the amendment process because of nearby recreational uses and potential public health risks.

Community involvement for the Barton and Murray CSO control projects began in 2005 in order to integrate CSO control with modifications to Barton and Murray pump stations, including electrical and pump upgrades and installation of emergency generators and odor control facilities. Open houses and meetings with neighborhood associations and the Seattle Parks and Recreation Department in March 2006 and June 2007 established a foundation with these communities for later CSO control work.

Starting in 2007, predesign of the four Puget Sound Beach projects was supported by significant community outreach, which now continues into the design phase. The involvement includes formation of community advisory groups and design charrettes (a series of meetings with the community to discuss design goals and concepts that can be applied to the facility). Each of these projects has its own website, including descriptions of community involvement and project documentation:

North Beach:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/NBeachCSOStorage.aspx>

South Magnolia:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/SMagnoliaCSOStorage.aspx>

Murray:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/MurrayCSOStorage.aspx>

Barton: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/BartonCSO-GSI.aspx>

Another current project with a CSO control benefit is the Ballard Siphon replacement project. The siphon is made of two 36-inch wooden stave pipes which have served the Ballard community since the 1930's. It carries wastewater from north Seattle under Salmon Bay, between the Ballard and Interbay, to the West Point treatment plant. To maintain the integrity of this older pipeline WTD is re-lining the existing siphon pipes with plastic pipes. To provide new capacity to accommodate growth, and to control the Ballard Regulator CSO, a new 84-inch siphon pipe is being built. By combining CSO control with the refurbishment project the Ballard CSO will be controlled much earlier than scheduled in the CSO Control Plan.

Project planning community outreach activities included mailing newsletters to addresses in the project area, neighbor interviews, presentations to the North Seattle Industrial Council, and a "meet the contractor meeting" for near neighbors prior to start of construction. Now that construction has begun, monthly updates are emailed to near neighbors, interested community groups and media outlets. A project information hotline is available and an information web page is maintained during construction. That website is:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/BallardSiphon.aspx>

Meetings and briefings with Ecology occur to provide status, but also opportunities to shape the developing project. Ecology is kept informed of issues impacting design, implementation and schedule, and has assisted in the resolution. Ecology's recent attendance at several community meetings in West Seattle increased understanding of the needs for CSO control and schedule milestones for the communities impacted by the current control projects.

2.2 Special Projects

King County is participating in three special projects related to CSOs: the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group, a CSO treatment technology pilot, and the CSO notification project.

2.2.1 Lower Duwamish Waterway Group

The Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) was formed as a partnership between King County, City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, and Boeing to proactively address sediment remediation needs ahead of and in support of the Superfund listing of an area in the Duwamish River. Because CSOs are one of many contributors to sediment contamination in the past, WTD's CSO Control Program initiated this work for King County. The remediation has now evolved into a standalone program for the County.

Representative activities and accomplishments are as follows:

- King County contributes funding to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to support groups like the Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC) and other public involvement efforts that sustain an ongoing community exchange of information about CSOs, control status, and scientific developments.
- Numerous agency and community contacts have occurred since 2000.
- Seattle and the County have implemented two early action remediations at the Norfolk and Diagonal/Duwamish CSO sites.
- The Port of Seattle's Slip 4 site remediation is in progress.
- Members of the LDWG have actively worked with EPA and Ecology as partner co-signers of the 2001 Administrative Order on Consent to develop a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.
- LDWG members maintain a website at <http://www.ldwg.org/>.

2.2.2 CSO Treatment Technology Pilot

WTD's 2008 update to its CSO control plan recommended exploration of improved high-rate sedimentation treatment technologies as possible candidates for use in controlling county CSOs. WTD pilot tested promising technologies that lacked operating data.

Workshops held in 2007 and late 2009 engaged the public and regulatory agencies in reviewing candidate technologies and developing the pilot. The City of Seattle was involved as a stakeholder and as a potential partner in CSO treatment project implementation.

Information on the pilot and how its results influenced recommendation of CSO treatment technologies for the 2012 long-term CSO control plan amendment can be found at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/CSO/ProgramReview/EvalTech.aspx>

2.3 CSO Notification Program

King County, City of Seattle, and Public Health – Seattle & King County (health department) are responsible for implementing the CSO notification program. The program began in 1997 with the posting of signs at all publicly accessible CSO locations, development of informational brochures, creation of a CSO information hotline staffed by the health department (the signs include the telephone number), a health department CSO website, and a process for health department staff to regularly visit businesses and organizations near CSO locations to provide information on CSOs, risks, and precautions.

Because few calls came in to the hotline, it is no longer staffed and callers can leave a message. The health department sends reports to the County and Seattle. The calls continue to be few. Most have nothing to do with CSOs, but rather pertain to general water quality questions.

In 2007, King County developed a real-time overflow status website for that provides telemetered data for all CSO locations. Users can learn if CSOs are occurring, have occurred within the last 48 hours, or have not occurred during within the last 48 hours. Members of the public have reported that they find the website useful when making decisions about their activities around city water bodies. In 2011, the County worked with Seattle to include the city's telemetered data on the site. The website was redesigned to reflect its joint nature. Seattle has been conducting outreach on the new website. Now the public has a more comprehensive view of the conditions in local waterways. This website is at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/CSOstatus.aspx>.

Public and Regulatory Agency Involvement for CSO Long-term Control Plan

Under Washington state regulations, the long-term CSO control plan must be reviewed, updated, or amended when the West Point Treatment Plant's NPDES permit is renewed. These reviews, updates, and amendments provide an opportunity for mid-course adjustments to set the trajectory for the future of the CSO Control Program.

Implementation of and adjustments to WTD's long-term CSO control plan involves public and regulatory agency outreach throughout the process. Outreach for two recent amendments/updates is as follows:

- Extensive outreach occurred between 1997 and 1999 for development of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP), a major amendment to the County's wastewater comprehensive plan. The CSO control plan was amended as a component of the RWSP. In parallel, a structured stakeholder process supported the County's CSO Water Quality Assessment for the Duwamish River and Elliott Bay (1999). Ecology participated in the stakeholder group. The assessment process and stakeholder group findings can be viewed at <http://your.kingcounty.gov/dnrp/library/wastewater/cso/docs/WQA/80165-LAYOUT.pdf>.
- Outreach was an integral part of the 2006 CSO Control Program review and the 2008 CSO control plan update in conjunction with renewal of the West Point NPDES permit. Ecology and EPA representatives participated in review and update workshops. Resulting reports and a summary of public opinion can be found at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/CSO/Library.aspx>.

Public involvement for the 2012 CSO control program review and long-term control plan amendment began in 2010. Appendix A presents the public and regulatory agency participation plan developed for the process; Appendix B lists agencies and groups who have participated in this process to date; and Appendix C summarizes public and agency comments received through 2010. The program review website is at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/CSO/ProgramReview.aspx>.

Although King County and the City of Seattle have been coordinating on CSO control for a long time and have completed several projects together, the public often cannot tell the difference between the two CSO control programs. The agencies met to identify goals and messages. Common messages include (1) the need to reduce CSOs in order to protect public health and the environment and (2) the desire to pursue joint projects when they are more cost effective, provide a better environmental outcome, and have less impact on the community. It was decided that coordinated public involvement should minimize confusion and build enough public support for programs and projects to be implemented. The agencies agreed to mention the other's

program and to lead people to their resources and contact information. Specific coordination efforts were developed for potential joint projects, and presentations would be done as a team in neighborhoods where there are overlapping interests.

Beginning in 2007 EPA began a review of WTD's CSO Control Program and NPDES permit compliance. Many briefings and meetings have occurred between then and now, and EPA's consultant has reviewed the detail of WTD's compliance efforts and is currently evaluating the consistency of the County's CSO control plan developed under Washington State requirements with their 1994 CSO control policy. Development of the 2012 Long-term Control Plan Amendment documentation is being done to assist in EPA's review and to demonstrate that the Plan meets EPA requirements.

A chronology of current and planned outreach for the process is as follows:

- Beginning in 2010 outreach focused on providing education about what CSOs are, the need for control, general control methods, the existing Plan and the public's opportunities to recommend changes. Workshops to discuss environmental science and control program priorities, and to weigh in on WTD's recommendations for CSO control treatment were held fall 2010. EPA, Ecology and other agencies participated.
- The outreach is currently focused on WTD's Recommended CSO Control Plan issued in October 2011. An addendum to the public and regulatory agency participation plan, also included in Appendix A, was prepared for this outreach effort. The summary of comments in Appendix C was used to support decisions for the recommended plan. This summary will be updated to include comments received on the recommended plan and from continuing outreach activities and will be given to King County Executive Dow Constantine in January 2012.
- The Executive will use this summary to help him prepare the Executive's Preferred CSO Control Plan, scheduled for submittal to the King County Council spring 2012. Considering what was heard in the earlier outreach phases, a second addendum to the public and regulatory agency participation plan will be developed to outline outreach activities to occur spring through summer 2012 to inform the County Council's deliberations in adopting a plan amendment, scheduled for submittal to Ecology and EPA by fall 2012.
- After the plan amendment is submitted to Ecology and EPA, King County will support Ecology in its outreach on the West Point NPDES permit renewal, including provision of a final summary of public opinion.

Appendix A

CSO Control Program Review Public and Regulatory Participation Plan

July 2010

(with July 2011 Addendum for Issuance of the Wastewater Treatment Division Recommended
CSO Control Plan)

Introduction and Background

This public involvement program has been designed to support King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks' Wastewater Treatment Division as the division completes a review of its Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program.

The CSO Control Program Review will examine the CSO program outlined in the Regional Wastewater Services Plan over a decade ago. This review will take place between 2010 and 2012, and includes extensive engineering, environmental, economic and social impact analysis to determine if, and how, King County's CSO Control Program should be modified. This review lays the foundation for the development of the CSO Control Plan Update to be submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) in 2013.

Ecology's CSO regulation requires that the County submit CSO control plan updates approximately every five years to coincide with each National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal for the County's West Point Treatment Plant in Seattle. All county CSOs must, by 2030, be controlled so that they overflow on the average no more than once per year. Currently the County has controlled 23 of its 38 CSOs to meet this requirement. Over time, technologies and approaches to controlling CSOs change and need to be evaluated. The Metropolitan King County Council recognized the need for regular review and updates to the 1999 Regional Wastewater Services Plan when adopting it.

The Program Review will consider a number of issues including: various methods and technologies for reducing CSOs (treatment, storage, demand management), the order in which King County CSO control projects will be built, the cost of required infrastructure, and options for siting CSO projects south of downtown, along the Duwamish River, and near the Ship Canal.

CSO Control Program Review Schedule

2010 – Phase 1 Review, Analyze CSO Control Priorities

- Identify stakeholders and interested parties for the CSO Control Program Review
- Obtain public input on setting priorities for projects and reviewing technologies

2011 – Phase 2: Develop Proposed Recommendations for CSO Control

- Public review of technical work that will be included in a draft CSO Control Program Review Report
- Draft CSO Control Program Review Report (including public comment) completed for review

2012 – CSO Program Control Review Report to King County Council for decision

2013 – Phase: 3 Produce Draft CSO Control Update

- CSO Control Plan Update submitted to Ecology

Public Involvement Program Objectives

Involving the public is critical to the success of the CSO Control Program Review in order to create a CSO Control Plan Update that has public support and can be implemented. Decision-makers need to hear from a range of participants before finalizing decisions. The County will actively engage and consult with the public as it evaluates the planned CSO control projects, schedules, technologies, costs, and siting options. The following objectives will guide this effort:

1. Stakeholders and members of the public understand that there is a problem. CSO requirements under state and federal law are mandatory and additional infrastructure must be built to meet them.
2. Stakeholders and members of the public understand that WTD is the right agency to conduct this comprehensive review and ultimately build the infrastructure it outlines. WTD is coordinating with SPU's concurrent and related planning efforts.
3. At the end of the process, most stakeholders agree that WTD's process to review the CSO program is legitimate and has taken into consideration all of the important factors. Most agree that they can support the review and plan going forward, even if they do not agree with every part. This level of support is called "Informed Consent."

Public Involvement Program Goals

To achieve these objectives, the public involvement program has the following goals:

Objective 1: There is a problem

Goals:

- Explain the need for CSO control, as well as the challenges and competing interests associated with the CSO control effort
- Increase public understanding of the CSO Control Program Review process, the role CSOs play in the County's wastewater system and the requirements and benefits of CSO control.

Objective 2: King County is the right entity to solve the problem

Goals:

- Articulate what King County has been doing for CSO control and how public input has shaped the CSO Control Plan in the past. Explain successes and challenges to date of the CSO control program.
- Clarify how King County and the City of Seattle coordinate on CSO issues and how that coordination can affect the Program Review. Explain the historic reason King County has a role in wastewater conveyance (CSOs) within the City of Seattle.

Objective 3: Obtain “Informed Consent” from stakeholders and the broader community

Goals:

- Foster respectful, two-way communication about the CSO program.
- Prepare the public to provide informed comments on the options for controlling the CSOs, siting of control facilities, and environmental priorities within the County’s CSO Control Program Review
- Use community input to shape the Program Review and ultimately the CSO Control Plan Update. Explain the decision-making process for the Program Review and how/where public input can influence it. Provide opportunities for comments at key decision points. Clearly articulate how the public’s views are incorporated into the Review.
- Prepare communities for scheduled CSO projects by explaining what to expect during siting, design and construction when CSO control projects come to their neighborhood. Ask affected neighborhoods how they would like to be involved during siting.

Public Involvement Implementation Strategies

Strategies are proposed to provide a wide range of opportunities for stakeholders and the public to be involved. Far-reaching strategies will provide information and opportunities for a large number of people to participate in the process. In-depth activities will be available for those with a high level of interest. Many strategies will meet more than one of the public involvement objectives. An attached activities chart outlines the specific public involvement tools that will be used to implement these strategies.

1. Far-Reaching Strategies

While particularly effective for Objectives 1 & 2, explaining the problem and King County’s responsibility to solve it, far-reaching strategies can also be used to provide opportunities for many people to comment on the issues leading to “informed consent.”

- **Public Education:** Provide information about the County’s decision-making process, analysis results, scheduling options and constraints, and regulatory responsibilities using a variety of media to reach a broad group of people so that anyone can join the process at any time. Tools will include Web and other social media, presentations, and fact sheets which can be used to convey broad information and specific technical details.
- **Consistent Messaging:** Whether communicating broadly with a large group or discussing issues one on one, the County will maintain consistency in its messages: supplying basic education and information over large geographic areas that is consistent with more in-depth information provided in response to specific questions. Consideration will be given to public access in how information is disseminated (for instance in formats and languages) and in how feedback is collected and shared. Communication with the public will be advised by social and environmental justice principles.
- **Many Opportunities for Input:** Provide a number of ways for individuals to share their opinions, depending on their level of interest, including comment forms, telephone surveys and online input and more in-depth strategies (see stakeholder and public involvement below). Allow members of the public to hear each other’s viewpoints.

Ensure that the King County Council and other decision-makers have access to public opinions. Demonstrate how public input is being factored into project decisions.

- **Coordinated Outreach with other WTD projects:** To ensure consistent messages and reach a broader audience, while respecting community members' limited time, coordinate outreach with other Wastewater Treatment Division projects and programs, including current planning for CSO construction projects, the CSO real-time status project, and ongoing water quality tours and presentations.
- **Coordinated Outreach with Seattle:** Continue to coordinate outreach and messages with City of Seattle's CSO Control Program to inform the public about the collaborative efforts for CSO control between the City of Seattle and King County.

2. In-Depth Strategies

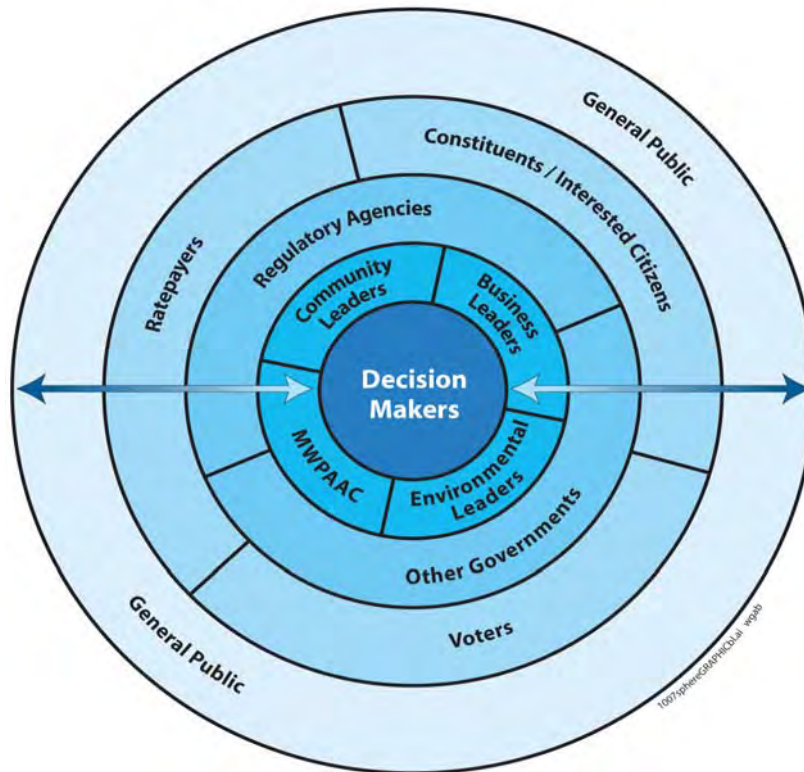
- **Stakeholder Identification:** Identify a range of stakeholders and interested parties for the CSO Control Program Review. Interested parties will include environmental organizations, especially those focused on water quality issues like People for Puget Sound and the Puget Sound Partnership and communities where CSOs are located such as basins that drain to Lake Union, the Ship Canal area, the Lower Duwamish Waterway and Elliott Bay. The process will focus upon community members, community opinion leaders and organizations in those communities with CSOs. Identification will draw from the stakeholder committee for the 1999 CSO Water Quality Assessment for the Duwamish River and Elliott Bay; previous CSO program reviews and suggestions from stakeholders participating in interviews and briefings.
- **Stakeholder and Public Involvement:** Use a wide range of tools for in-depth engagement, including interviews, workshops and public meetings to involve the public. Demonstrate that the County is listening to concerns, and working to balance a variety of interests with current regulatory, technical and fiscal realities.
- **Response to Inquiries:** The County will communicate regularly with the public, reporting progress and decisions made and respond promptly and thoroughly to ideas, issues or concerns raised by interested parties. Tools will include fact sheets, FAQs, speakers bureaus, individual meetings, workshops, email updates, project newsletters, web-based updates, etc. Completion milestones and major decisions will be points in time targeted for updates. See activities chart below.
- **Regulatory Requirements:** Fulfill public involvement requirements of regulations affecting the CSO Control Program, including the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and SEPA requirements.

Target Audiences

The target audience for this public involvement plan includes a wide range of people, some with significant interest in in-depth participation and others who need to be able to meaningfully participate with limited time. Others will need to learn more about CSOs before being able to determine the level of participation appropriate for them. It is likely that specific individuals or groups will transition between categories, depending on the issues being discussed.

This can be illustrated with the following graphic.

Sphere of Influence



Participants closer to the center of the circle will require more opportunities for in-depth discussion. Individuals or groups on the outside of the circle will require information to be able to participate in the process with limited time or to determine their level of interest in the project. The public involvement process needs to allow participants to move from the center of the circle to the outside or from the outside to the center, depending on the issue being discussed. For example, some people are likely to be very interested in cost, but less interested in siting in a specific neighborhood.

Audiences include King County decision makers, tribal governments, regional environmental leaders and groups, other governments and regulatory agencies, communities impacted by CSOs including the Ship Canal, Lake Union and Lower Duwamish Waterway and Elliott Bay, as well as the general public.

While some of the following groups have expressed interest in this planning effort, others need to be informed so they can decide on their level of interest. The project team will determine the best King County contact for each stakeholder: DNRP or WTD management, project team, or community services staff.

Decision-makers

King County Executive

King County Councilmembers

Tribal governments

In-depth outreach:

Duwamish Tribe

Suquamish Tribe

Muckleshoot Indian Tribe

Far-reaching outreach:

Tulalip Tribes

Puyallup Tribe

Regional environmental leaders

In-depth outreach:

Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition

People for Puget Sound

Far-reaching outreach:

Puget Soundkeepers Alliance

Waste Action Project

Geographic community, business and environmental leaders

In-depth outreach:

Community Coalition for Environmental Justice

Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS)

Port of Seattle

Seattle Pacific University

University of Washington

Far-reaching outreach:

Ballard District Council

Divers Institute of Technology

EOS Alliance

Georgetown Community Council

Manufacturing Industry Council (MIC)

Magnolia Community Council

Queen Anne Community Council

Propeller Club

Seattle Marine Business Coalition

South Park Community Council

South Seattle Community College

Sustainable West Seattle

Seattle Maritime Training Center

Seaview Neighborhood Association

Other government committees & regulatory agencies

In-depth outreach:

Regional Water Quality Committee

Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC)

MWPAAC Engineering and Planning Subcommittee

Puget Sound Partnership

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)

Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Far-reaching outreach:

Seattle Parks

Seattle Department of Transportation

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration - Fisheries

Washington State Department of Transportation (WADOT)

Water Resource Inventory Area 9 (WRIA 9)

Potential Issues for the Program Review

Although this CSO Control Program Review is new for 2010-2012, the public involvement activities described in this program are really a continuum of a public involvement effort that has been underway by King County for over two decades. Below are some of the concerns we've heard from stakeholders in the past. We are incorporating these views and suggestions into our review, and these comments have also been used to shape the public involvement program.

- Water quality is a very high priority for the citizens of King County. Surveys consistently show that citizens believe King County should prevent the release of storm water and

diluted sewage into local water bodies. In the most recent water quality survey, 74 percent of those taking the survey said King County should prevent these releases into Puget Sound, even if it requires an increase in sewer rates to do so.

- In addition to diluted sewage, some stakeholders are particularly interested in the oil, chemicals, and other toxins that may be present in stormwater. These are also “pollutants of concern” during CSO events.
- Most people seem to agree that it is too costly to try to completely rebuild the sewer systems in the older areas of Seattle; they are supportive of CSO control projects as an alternative to this rebuilding. Cost, community impact and facility design become concerns for stakeholders in considering specific CSO control projects.
- Responsible use of ratepayer money is a top priority for decision makers and regional leaders
- Citizens expect that King County and the City of Seattle will work together on CSO controls, knowing that in some instances this may save both time and money.
- Some interest groups have urged King County to explore the most up-to-date technologies available for CSO control.
- The Plan Update produced as a result of the CSO Program Review should be coordinated and comply with the findings of USEPA’s audit of King County’s CSO control program. The audit could result in redefined priorities for the program, including changes in schedule and facility design.
- The Program Review will need to reflect an awareness of stakeholder concerns raised during the Lower Duwamish Sediment Superfund Cleanup
- Some stakeholders expressed concerns about the level of community involvement in the 2008 review and update of the CSO Plan. Based on the scope of the current CSO Program Review, King County has expanded its public involvement program for the 2010-2012 review process.

Messages About the CSO Control Program

General messages are listed here to ensure that all products developed as part of this plan are consistent in content. These will be used to craft specific messages for each audience and media.

- CSOs occur in the oldest parts of our region where stormwater and wastewater flow in the same pipe to a treatment plant. During very heavy rains, these pipes can overflow, sending untreated sewage diluted with stormwater directly into waterways.
- CSOs were built into pre-1950 sewer systems to protect public health and property by providing a relief point for high flows and preventing sewer backups into homes and businesses.
- CSOs are closely regulated by the Washington State Department of Ecology and the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the federal Clean Water Act. Ecology has mandated that CSOs must be limited to no more than one overflow on average per outfall per year by 2030. The County began working to meet this goal before the law was promulgated in 1988 and is on-target to meet the goal.

- Reducing CSOs provides cleaner water for aquatic life and people.
- Since the 1950s, the County’s citizens have invested over \$3 billion dollars and reduced the volume of sewage overflows into area waterways from approximately 20 billion gallons per year to less than one billion gallons.
- King County’s CSO reduction efforts are governed by a CSO Control Plan which is updated every five years. The CSO Program Review is the process by which the plan is updated. The review is used to validate the direction and make mid-course corrections.
- The CSO Control Program Review will evaluate:
 1. A range of CSO control options including on-site treatment, adding storage or other capacity to send more flows to a regional treatment plant and alternatives for reducing stormwater that enters the system, including Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)
 2. The priorities and order in which King County CSO control projects will be built
 3. The cost of required infrastructure
 4. Options for siting and constructing CSO projects south of downtown, near the Duwamish River, and near the Ship Canal.
- King County is committed to working with the public to implement CSO solutions. The CSO Plan Review, and the CSO Plan Update will reflect and incorporate public opinion about how CSO Control should be accomplished.
- Once the CSO Plan Update is finished, communities in close proximity to specific CSO projects will be encouraged to be actively involved in siting and design decisions related to those projects. King County is not selecting final project sites in the CSO Program Review or Plan, but will review potential siting areas in order to evaluate feasibility and constructability and develop high-level cost estimates for the proposals.
- King County is working closely with the City of Seattle on CSO controls to ensure appropriate coordination. The two jurisdictions are responsible for different CSO outfalls throughout the older parts of Seattle. To save money and improve efficiency, the two governments may make joint decisions and undertake joint projects.
- The final CSO Program Review will be transmitted from the County Executive to the King County Council for approval. The approved CSO Control Plan Update must be submitted to Ecology by 2013.
- King County is interested in exploring “green” stormwater infrastructure alternatives for CSO Control. However, because King County doesn’t have experience with this type of technology, regulators require the County to also identify “gray” (pipes and tanks) alternatives in the plan.
- King County’s CSO Control Plan will be completed in 2030, at which time all of the County’s CSOs will be controlled to required levels.

Example Public Involvement Tool: Initial Stakeholder Interviews

An early and on-going public involvement tool for this program will be stakeholder interviews. Questions will be developed to gather input at specific key milestones in the planning process. Here is a sample list of questions that may be used in initial interviews, which will help refine both the public involvement process and the planning process for the CSO Review.

- What do you know about CSOs? County staff will provide a short 5-8 minute explanation and update on the issues and leave behind a handout with key facts and figures.
- What are the key questions or concerns you might have about CSOs? What do you want to know more about?
- How would you like to be involved in the CSO Program Review? How would you like us to provide information to you?
- Can you suggest other stakeholders/organizations that might be interested? What is the best way to reach them?

As the level of knowledge grows through the public involvement process, the following questions will also be discussed with stakeholders:

- What are the key issues, from your perspective, that KC should consider in the CSO Review?
- Do you have any comments on the priority areas for CSO control?
- What are your concerns and recommendations for consideration in the financing of our projects?
- What construction impacts are most concerning in your area?
- Here is an overview of our public involvement objectives and goals. Do you have any feedback on them?
- Other questions could focus on program schedule, project locations, joint projects, commenting on SEPA, policy changes, GSI preferences, etc.

Other tools outlined in the following activity chart will be developed for each phase of the Review process.

Activities for the CSO Control Program Review Public Involvement Plan

| PHASE 1: REVIEW, ANALYZE CSO CONTROL PRIORITIES | | |
|--|---|--|
| When | Public involvement activity | Materials (Italicized materials created by project team or other, and are not included in the PI task/ budget.) |
| Q1-2 2010 | <p>Lay Groundwork (internal)</p> <p>Identify public involvement goals and objectives</p> <p>Define project outreach area</p> <p>Background research</p> <p>Groups, points of contact</p> <p>Identify issues – e.g. costs, siting, environmental, technical, regulatory</p> <p>Develop public involvement plan</p> <p>Build public involvement schedule</p> <p>Identify and clarify opportunities for collaboration with SPU</p> <p>Designate stakeholders as either “in-depth” or “far-reaching for initial outreach (plan to adjust after initial interviews)</p> <p>Gain approval from WTD project team on roles and responsibilities</p> | <p>Public Involvement Plan</p> <p>Public Involvement Schedule/Activity List</p> <p>Basin maps</p> <p>Stakeholder list</p> <p>In-depth</p> <p>Far-reaching</p> <p>Meetings with SPU</p> |

| PHASE 1: REVIEW, ANALYZE CSO CONTROL PRIORITIES | | |
|--|---|--|
| When | Public involvement activity | Materials (Italicized materials created by project team or other, not the PI task/ budget.) |
| Q2 2010 – Q3 2011 | <p>Initial outreach</p> <p>In-depth:</p> <p>SPU collaboration</p> <p>Stakeholder interviews</p> <p>Email updates</p> <p>Fall 2010 workshop on project's environmental priorities</p> <p>Fall 2010 workshop on treatment technologies</p> <p>Far-reaching (all include opportunities to comment):</p> <p>Mail project information/introduction</p> <p>Offer community group briefings</p> <p>WTD Water Quality Survey</p> <p>WTD media relations</p> <p>CSO program Web page updates</p> <p>CSO information in treatment plant tours</p> | <p>Project web page with online input form</p> <p>Maps of CSO locations; priority areas (done); update map indicating new geo-priorities</p> <p>CSO control methods - board & handout</p> <p>Chart of uncontrolled CSOs under review in the plan</p> <p>Program review public involvement overview brochure</p> <p>Interview scripts (see sample in plan) & Interview summaries</p> <p>Consultant project plan for workshop coordination</p> <p>Stakeholder invitee list</p> <p>Listserv invitation/e-mail to announce to those who had expressed interest</p> <p>Workshop agenda/facilitation</p> <p>Workshop summary</p> <p>Conducting Stakeholder Interviews</p> <p>Questions for Water Quality Survey</p> <p>Web content and/or fact sheets (& translations), issues may include:</p> <p>Purpose and need</p> <p>Public's impact on plan to date and moving forward</p> <p>Costs</p> <p>Siting</p> <p>Environmental, technical, regulatory issues</p> <p>Treatment plant tours</p> <p>Attendance at relevant community meetings/events</p> <p>Media talking points</p> <p>News releases</p> <p>Potential: Op-eds, editorial boards</p> |

| PHASE 1: REVIEW, ANALYZE CSO CONTROL PRIORITIES | | |
|--|---|--|
| When | Public involvement activity | Materials (<i>Italicized materials created by project team or other, not the PI task/ budget.</i>) |
| Q4 2010 Or upon request | WTD Manager briefings Issues and recommendations SPU collaboration Update on public response Next steps | PowerPoint Project status report with recommendations on next steps Cost estimates Summary of public involvement in Phase I (Interviews, Meetings, comments, survey data, etc.) |

PHASE 2: DEVELOP PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CSO CONTROL

(the order in which CSOs will be controlled, and approaches to be used to control them)

| When | Public involvement activity | Materials (Italicized materials created by project team or other, not the PI task/ budget.) |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Q1 – Q3 2011</p> | <p>Stakeholder Follow Up</p> <p>In-depth outreach: Email project updates Individual Meetings Margaret@na-company.com Stakeholder workshop: Preliminary recommendations (Q2)</p> <p>Far-reaching outreach: Email project updates Community briefings as requested Web updates</p> | <p>Consultant project plan for workshop coordination</p> <p>Stakeholder invitee list</p> <p>Listserv invitation/e-mail to announce to those who had expressed interest</p> <p>Workshop agenda/facilitation</p> <p>Workshop summary</p> <p>Updated contact list</p> <p>Boards demonstrating recommended alternatives/ evaluation criteria; maps of service areas; control approaches</p> <p>Fact sheet handouts as needed</p> <p>Issue/question log</p> <p>Individual and community meetings summaries</p> <p>Update web page, inc. Web comment form</p> <p>Any public involvement activities required to support the SEPA process</p> |
| <p>Q4 2011 or upon request</p> | <p>Decision maker briefings</p> <p>Share Draft Program Review with proposed recommendation on schedule, siting and costs</p> <p>Update on public response</p> | <p>PowerPoint</p> <p>Project status report with recommendations on next steps</p> <p>Cost estimates</p> <p>Draft Program Review</p> <p>Summary of public involvement in Phase II</p> |

| PHASE 3: PRODUCE DRAFT CSO CONTROL PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT | | |
|---|--|--|
| When | Public involvement activity | Materials (Italicized materials created by project team or other, not the PI task/ budget.) |
| Q1 - 3 2012 | <p>In-depth outreach</p> <p>Email project update with link to draft plan</p> <p>Individual meetings as necessary</p> <p>Responses to specific concerns</p> <p>Far-reaching outreach</p> <p>Public Meeting on draft Program Review, recommendations, costs, how/when do you want to be involved in siting? (Q1)</p> <p>Mailing announcing availability of draft Program Review</p> <p>Community group briefings upon request</p> <p>Media</p> | <p>Draft Program Review Summary (Public Information Document)</p> <p>Media release</p> <p>Consultant project plan for workshop coordination</p> <p>Stakeholder invitee list</p> <p>Listserv invitation/e-mail to announce to those who had expressed interest</p> <p>Workshop agenda/facilitation</p> <p>Workshop summary</p> <p>Update web page inc. Web comment form</p> <p>Updated contact list</p> <p>Boards demonstrating recommended alternatives/ evaluation criteria; maps of service areas; control approaches</p> <p>Fact sheet handouts as needed</p> <p>Issue/question log</p> <p>Individual and community meetings summary</p> <p>Emailable project updates</p> <p>Newsletter</p> |

| PHASE 3: PRODUCE DRAFT CSO CONTROL PROGRAM REVIEW REPORT | | |
|---|--|---|
| When | Public Involvement activity | Materials (Italicized materials created by project team or other, not the PI task/ budget.) |
| Q3 - 2012 | Decision maker briefings Share Program Review and public comment | Program Review PowerPoint Program Review Executive Summary (Public Information Document) Summary of public involvement in Phase III |
| Q3 - 2012 | Share Program Review report with public In-depth outreach Email project update with link to draft Final Plan Individual meetings as necessary Responses to specific concerns Announce transmission to King County Council Far-reaching outreach Mailing announcing availability of draft Plan Update Community group briefings upon request Media | Post Program Review report on Web; offer in alternate formats Executive summary of Program Review (Public Information Document) Emailable project update Summary of next steps in the CSO Control Program Process News releases Op-eds PowerPoint or materials for briefings. |

Addendum: Outreach Overview for Publication of the WTD Recommended CSO Control Plan, September 2011

July 12, 2011

Late in September 2011 WTD will publish a brochure-type document that lays out the WTD Recommended CSO Control Plan summarizing key information which will be in the upcoming Executive Preferred Plan and CSO Control Program Review Report.

The outreach proposed for this release is part of the larger CSO Program Plan Review Public Involvement Plan. Throughout the planning process (2010-11), the team has met with a number of individuals, organizations and agencies to brief them and listen to their feedback. The WTD Recommended Plan reflects these conversations.

Purpose of the outreach:

1. Solicit public response and comment to inform the Executive.
2. Consolidate and share responses with the public.
3. This public response also informs the final CSO Control Program Review Report.

Desired outcome:

1. Input on WTD plan informs Executive Preferred Plan so that it has “informed consent” when it is released.
2. Community knows the recommendations presented in the WTD Recommended CSO Control Plan.
3. Community has a way to know more.

Schedule:

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 7/11 – 9/11 | Plan, schedule meetings, develop Web and print materials and translations (and WTD media plan) |
| 9/30/11 | Est. publication of WTD recommended plan Completion of Web presentation pages and [translated] one-pager Media release |
| 10/11-11/20/11 | Outreach and comment |
| 12/1 – 12/15 | Summary of public opinion provided to Executive |
| 12/30 | Add summary of comments and FAQs to the WTD Recommended Report posted on the Web |
| Spring 2012 | Public Meeting on CSO Plan Review Report |

Dissemination of document

1. Robust online presentation on WTD Web CSO pages with online form for comments.

2. Email link to stakeholder list serve.
3. Offer to mail print version per request.
4. Mail with a letter to elected officials
5. Repository in local libraries
6. WTD media release will link to Web.
7. Translated version or a translated shorter presentation brochure that would allow us to launch as the publication launches (E.g., Spanish; Vietnamese; Chinese; others per census data).

Outreach techniques:

1. Meetings and briefings with stakeholders who have been involved in the process to date and those who have not met with us yet.
2. Short, clearly-written summary materials for meetings, Web pages, and translations.
3. Community meetings, festivals and fairs.
 - i. Ship Canal – Sustainable Seattle Festival Ballard 9/11 if applicable
 - ii. Duwamish – Possible Duwamish Alive! 10/11 and/or Georgetown and South Park community councils and Manufacturing Industry Council
4. Smaller targeted briefings to 10-25 interested groups; orgs – Community Councils, business groups, environmental organizations.
5. Continued WTD staff meetings with elected officials; MWPAAC.
6. Informational meeting/workshop with WTD staff.
7. Coordination with WTD media for release of document.

Gathering and sharing responses of the public:

Vehicles for commenting:

- Online form
- Letter/email
- Summaries of meetings with WTD staff

Post a summary of comments and FAQs on the WTD Recommended Report on the Web

Key messages for WTD recommended plan outreach:

- CSOs are a legacy from the past and occur in the oldest parts of the wastewater system.
- King County has been working for decades to meet state regulations for reducing CSOs, and we're on-target to finish by the 2030 deadline.

- The recommended plan responds to what we heard from the public about the order of the remaining projects and CSO control technologies, including Green Stormwater Infrastructure.
- The remaining CSO projects are the most expensive and most complex.
- WTD recognizes completing the CSO control program is expensive and we've done a number of things since the last plan review to bring the cost of projects down, including:
 - Combining projects
 - Reviewing the latest technologies to identify the least expensive options
 - Evaluating where Green Stormwater Infrastructure can reduce costs
 - Partnering with the City of Seattle on some projects
- In surveys, people consistently tell us they want to prevent CSOs.

Appendix B

2010-12 CSO Control Program Plan
Public Involvement Activities,
2010-2011

The following outreach and participation activities have occurred through November 2011

| Date | Organization or Event | Purpose/Audience |
|------------------------|---|--|
| 11/5/09 | Lower Duwamish Waterway Source Control Work Group – joint presentation with Seattle | CSO Control Program Briefing/Q&A |
| 1/13/2010, 12/14/11 | Ballard District Council | Briefing/Q&A for Incl reps from Ballard Chamber of Commerce; Ballard Landmark Residents Association ; Ballard Place Condominiums; Ballard Rotary |
| 3/10/10 | EOS Alliance Urban Green Infrastructure Forum | Briefing/Q&A - :incl. DRCC, Antioch University, Port of Seattle, City of Seattle, Seattle City Councilmember, engineers, numerous architects and landscaping co. , local industries, residents |
| 4/7/10 | Puget Sound Partnership | Briefing to Special Assistant to the Director; Watershed/Habitat Recovery Coordinator |
| 4/26/10 | Sustainable Ballard | Briefing/Q&A - 40 attendees |
| 5/7/10 | Port of Seattle: Working Waterfront Workshop: Environmental Leadership, Stewardship and Collaboration | Workshop - appox 40 attendees |
| 6/5/10 | U.S. EPA Region 10: Environmental Health Fair, South Park, | Expo/booth - 7 attendees |
| 6/23/10 | ECO-NET | Interview |
| 7/21/10 | People for Puget Sound - director and urban bays lead | Interview |
| 8/31/10 | Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) | Interview |
| 9/16/10 | University Sunrise Rotary Club | Briefing/Q&A - 20 attendees |

| Date | Organization or Event | Purpose/Audience |
|-------------|---|--|
| 9/23/10 | Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition | Interview with Director |
| 9/29/10 | KC CSO Control Program: Environmental Priorities Workshop | KC workshop - 30 attendees; Incl. People for Puget Sound, DRCC, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Tribes, U.S. EPA, Ecology, WTD plant personnel, Pam Elardo, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| 11/2/10 | University of Washington | Environmental Health and Safety, Facilities Management, and Capital Planning Staff |
| 11/2/10 | University of Washington class | Briefing/Q&A - 40 attendees |
| 11/10/10 | Port of Seattle - Sr. Environmental Program Manager | Briefing/Q&A |
| 11/17/10 | KC CSO Control Program Treatment Technologies Workshop | KC workshop - 30 attendees; Incl. People for Puget Sound, DRCC, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, Tribes, U.S. EPA, Ecology, WTD plant personnel, Pam Elardo, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers |
| 1/19/11 | U.S. EPA Region 10: | Discussion Plan with Community Involvement Coordinator |
| 3/14/11 | Queen Anne/Magnolia District Council | Briefing/Q&A |
| 3/21/11 | Georgetown Community Council - 40 residents and representatives of organizations and agencies | Presentation/Q &A |
| 3/28/11 | Sustainable West Seattle | Meeting - 10 attendees |
| 4/26/11 | Manufacturing Industrial Council – Executive Committee | Briefing Q&A |
| 5/7/11 | 2011 Western WA Regional Short School | Seminar: “Green Stormwater Infrastructure Planning- Urban Stormwater Retrofits for CSO Control” |

| Date | Organization or Event | Purpose/Audience |
|-------------|--|---|
| 5/16/11 | Sustainable West Seattle Community Forum | Stormwater panel including King County - CSO Program, DRCC, Stewardship Partners, The Whale Trail |
| 5/20/11 | Environmental Protection Agency | Participated in tour of the Duwamish to answer questions |
| 5/23/11 | University of Washington – joint presentation with Seattle | Briefing to External Affairs, Environmental Health & Safety, Facilities Management, Engineering and Capital Facilities Planning Staff |
| 5/26/11 | Washington State Dept of Transportation | Coordination with 520 Bridge Replacement project team |
| 6/1/11 | Puget Soundkeepers' Alliance | Stakeholder briefing and interview - Executive Director, Pollution Prevention Coordinator |
| 6/8/11 | City of Seattle Restore Our Waters | Panel presentation: Managing Rainwater at Home and in the Community |
| 7/11/11 | Ballard Seafood Festival, Seattle | Wastewater Treatment Division booth & display about sewer system including CSO information for large community festival |
| 7/11/11 | Fremont Fair, Seattle | Wastewater Treatment Division booth & display about sewer system including CSO information for large community festival |
| 7/11/11 | Montlake Landfill Oversight Committee with SPU CSO staff - joint presentation with Seattle | Briefing/Q&A |

| Date | Organization or Event | Purpose/Audience |
|-------------------------------|--|---|
| 7/14/11 | Seattle Parks Dept. | Briefing - Project Coordinator, Major Transactions Manager, and Project Manager, |
| 8/23/11 | Toxics Cleanup Program - Washington State Department of Ecology NWRO | Meeting: - GSI in Industrial areas - Source Control Project Manager, Project Manager |
| 9/7/11 | Design Build Association of America - NW | Public Owners Project Pipeline Panel presentation on the project sequence, schedule and next steps about the WTD Recommended Plan |
| 9/7/11 | Lower Duwamish Waterway Source Control Work Group - attended by EPA, Ecology, SPU, Port Of Seattle, Puget Sound Clean Air | CSO Control Program – GSI—Briefing and discussion |
| 10/20/11 | GSI stakeholder group | |
| 11/2/11 | Industrial Waste Advisory Committee - permitted industries | Presentation/Q&A on recommended plan |
| 11/7/11 | 2011 Source Control Stormwater & Contaminated Sediment Conference | Conference presentation and panel discussion to Approx. 100 attendees from state and local agencies and private businesses |
| 11/9/11 | King County Informational meeting and open house on the Wastewater Treatment Division's Combined Sewer Overflow Recommended Plan | Open House, presentation and Q&A - approx. 28 attendees |
| 11/10/11 | Montlake Community Club - joint presentation with Seattle | Briefing/Q&A |
| 11/14/11 | Sightline - Environmental Think Tank | Briefing on recommended Plan |
| 11/21/11 | Georgetown Community Council -16 attendees | Rec Plan Briefing – Brandon Michigan Alternative |
| 2009-2011; 3-4 times per year | Ecology - NWRO WQ Permitting and Headquarters Toxics Cleanup Program | Briefing on CSO Control Program and Sediment Management integration |

| Date | Organization or Event | Purpose/Audience |
|--|--|--|
| 2009-2011; 4-6 per month | City of Seattle - Seattle Public Utilities (numerous staff meetings– shared early notification, collaboration, project planning) | Coordination meetings, briefings and workshops |
| 2010 - 5/25; 6/15; 9/28; 10/19; 2011 - 1/25, 2/15, 3/8 | City of Seattle - Seattle Public Utilities citizens' Sounding Board meetings - formed to guide the development of the City's Long Term CSO Program. | Members were recruited from throughout the city to provide a diverse set of perspectives/ to provide constructive advice about important investment decisions. |
| 3/16/2011, 5/8/2011, 8/30/2011 | Duwamish stakeholders - Reps from EPA LDW Source Control, Ecology LDW Source control, Duwamish River Cleanup Coalition (DRCC), People for Puget Sound Urban Bays, ERDA Environmental Services Inc., Environmental Coalition of South Seattle (ECOSS) | Meeting to discuss order of CSO projects in the Duwamish and update on CSO control plan Review |
| Ongoing | King County Wastewater Treatment Division presentations throughout King County | Educational events and treatment plant tours explaining wastewater system and CSOs - about 3000 contacts per year |
| Ongoing | Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee | Approx. 4-6 briefings/Q&As per year to reps of 34 component agencies |

Appendix C

2010-12 CSO Control Program Plan
Summary of 2010 Public Involvement
Activities

King County

2010-12 CSO Control Program Plan Review

Summary of 2010 Public Involvement Activities

Prepared by Margaret Norton-Arnold and Company

January 28, 2011

Overview

Throughout 2010, staff from King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks solicited input on the County's CSO Control Program Plan Review from a wide variety of individuals and organizations. This review, which is scheduled for completion in 2012, is a comprehensive evaluation of the CSO control projects that are anticipated to be built by 2030. The consultant/King County team is looking at all available data to determine if these upcoming projects have been sized and located appropriately, if they are prioritized correctly, and if the estimated costs to construct them are accurate. Because the City of Seattle is also responsible for some of the CSO outfalls in the system, both entities are also collaborating closely to determine where there might be opportunities for greater system wide efficiencies.

Public involvement is a critical component of the Plan Review. King County is actively seeking the opinions and perspectives of interest groups and agencies as it evaluates the CSO control program. The public involvement effort has been designed to offer numerous opportunities to listen to the questions, concerns, and priorities of these organizations, and to incorporate their suggestions wherever possible.

To date, King County staff have met with and interviewed some 16 individuals working for ten different interest groups and agencies. Staff have also made group presentations to eight different organizations, with attendance at those presentations ranging from 7 - 40 individuals. In addition, staff has participated in three workshops hosted by others where they have shared information about the CSO program with some 400 attendees. Finally, King County sponsored and hosted two of its own workshops, with 80 people attending these.

Prevalent Themes

What follows is a brief summary of the discussions conducted to date. Detailed notes on the interviews and presentations are also available upon request.

- 1) Although stakeholders understand the regulatory pressures to control CSOs, some are concerned that the "bigger picture" of stormwater management isn't being fully addressed. They assert that if stormwater was better contained and kept out of our surrounding water bodies, the need to also control CSOs would be significantly reduced; they view CSOs, in effect, as a subset of a larger stormwater program. These stakeholders question the focus on CSO controls, and believe more regulatory and programming emphasis should be placed on stormwater controls.
- 2) Another broad theme relates to King County/City of Seattle coordination. Because outfalls are jointly owned by both the city and county, those interviewed want to make sure the two entities are collaborating as closely as possible on CSO solutions. There are some concerns that this coordination isn't as robust as it should be.
- 3) There is strong recognition that the continued evaluation of scientific data is important. For example, stakeholders are supportive of the fact that King County will move control projects along the Duwamish River higher in the priority rankings, and that these projects will be built earlier than originally anticipated. This is particularly important to interest groups in the Duwamish area, because people consume fish from the river and because the lower Duwamish is a superfund cleanup site. Data on the possible effects of CSOs on fish populations and habitats was not available during previous program reviews, and has been a beneficial addition to the 2012 analysis.

- 4) Likewise, there is strong support for the more advanced technologies that King County is proposing to use for water disinfection and treatment at its CSO facilities. There is broad recognition that these technology upgrades are essential to effective control and treatment, given the volume of flows and the number of contaminants present in uncontrolled CSOs.
- 5) Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) is an area of increasing interest, and stakeholders hope this control alternative is employed as often and as effectively as possible. There is a growing interest in using every available opportunity to build CSO facilities as community amenities, and GSI offers the landscaping and aesthetic elements that can help to achieve this goal. Stakeholders also recognize, however, that GSI can sometimes be controversial in neighborhoods where residents are likely to lose parking or have other concerns about streetside raingardens and other GSI facilities. Moving forward, additional regulatory policies may be required in order to ensure that GSI systems can be employed as effectively as possible.
- 6) The introduction of more CSO projects throughout the City of Seattle, whether they be city-generated or county-generated, has increased the overall level of public awareness about CSO issues, but has also generated some controversy. Some neighborhoods have been dismayed to learn that CSO facilities will be located in their area. Stakeholders urge that greater care be taken to ensure comprehensive public information and involvement around these projects. Stakeholders understand that significant water quality improvements will be achieved through greater CSO control, and recommend that both the city and county engage the public as extensively as possible in siting decisions, with the desired outcome being enhanced public support and acceptance of these important projects.
- 7) Although stakeholders are supportive of meeting the regulatory mandate of one CSO per outfall per year, and although GSI has a great deal of appeal, stakeholders also caution that CSO control approaches need to be balanced against cost considerations. They are mindful of the many regional investments currently being proposed for public infrastructure improvements, and hope that costs will be kept in mind in order to maintain a reasonable rate structure for the public.