

Metro/King County Wastewater Treatment: Then and Now

Presented to
Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement
Advisory Committee
May 22, 2024



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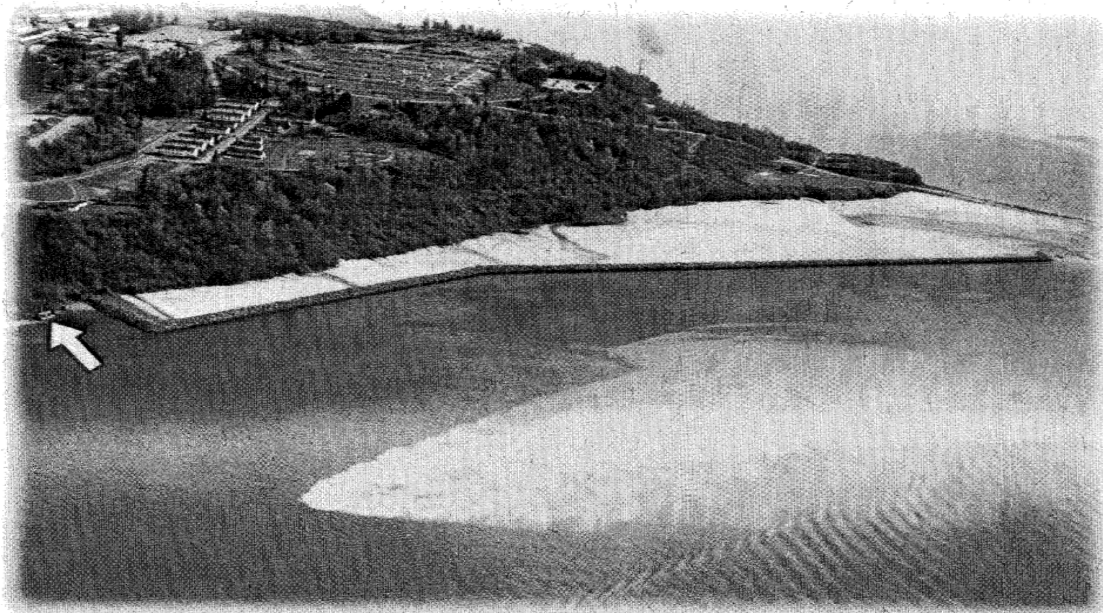
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Pre-Metro Conditions

provision in the law under which the county could do the work or which would allow them all to band together in a common effort.

At the urging of the Municipal League, Seattle's Mayor Gordon Clinton and the King County Board of Commissioners appointed a 48-member citizens group—the Metropolitan Problems Advisory Committee. With Ellis as its chair, the committee went looking for the answer.

Raw sewage rising from an outfall pipe clouds the water at West Point in 1963. The pollution ended after Metro built a treatment plant at the site to replace the outfall.



Seattle Times Photo

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Establishment of Metro

- 1956 – Formation of citizens committee
- 1957 – Legislature approves enabling legislation for Metropolitan Municipal Corporations, including MWPAAC
- 1958 – Voters reject activation of Metro powers for transportation, water pollution and comprehensive planning
- 1958 – Voters approve formation of Metro for water pollution abatement



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Early days of Metro



- 15-member Metro Council adopts comprehensive water pollution abatement plan
- Initial sewage disposal agreement with Seattle in 1961
- Closed 10 sewage plants discharging into Lake Washington
- Construction begins on 110-mile regional conveyance system and 5 treatment plants including South Plant in 1961 and West Point in 1962



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Early Metro Projects

▪ South Plant

- Eastside Interceptor 1963 - 66
- Bellevue Pump Station 1965
- Kirkland Pump Station 1966
- Begin secondary treatment 1965
- Effluent Transfer System 1987



▪ West Point

- Elliott Bay Interceptor 1964 - 70
- WP Submarine Outfall 1965
- Primary Treatment begins 1966
- Interbay Pumping Station 1967
- CSO Regulator Stations 1976 - 1980
- Secondary treatment 1995



Metro Merger

- 1971 – Metro boundary expanded to include all of King County
- 1977 – State Legislature enables County-Metro merger
- 1979 - Voters reject merger
- 1990 – Federal Court rules makeup of Metro Council unconstitutional and orders revision of council selection
- 1990 – King County and Cities meet regarding regional governance
- November 1991 – First merger vote fails
- 1992 – County and City delegates reach consensus on proposal, including regional committees
- November 1992 – Voters approve merger
- 1994 – Metro and King County merge



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Regional Water Quality Committee

- One of three regional committees of the King County Council
- Membership comprised of 3 County Councilmembers, 2 Seattle City Councilmembers, 4 appointees from Sound Cities Association, and 2 sewer district commissioners
- Vice-chair position appointed by majority vote of non-King County committee members
- Develops, proposes, reviews and recommends action on ordinances and motions for countywide policies and plans relating to regional water quality



Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee

- Part of Metro's enabling legislation in 1957 (RCW 35.58.210)
- Charter and bylaws developed and adopted in 2008
- Membership open to cities and districts operating a sewer system within King County's wastewater service area
- Advises Executive and County Council on water pollution abatement, focusing on wastewater treatment
- Provides a forum for discussing a wide range of issues related to regional wastewater treatment services (e.g., project briefings, capacity charge, infiltration/inflow, etc.)



Regional Wastewater Services Plan

- Robinswood Agreement, executed in 1998, to guide funding of future capital projects
- RWQC adopts the Regional Wastewater Services Plan in 1999
- Plan provides policies that govern the regional wastewater system thru 2030



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Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Projects



- Metro purchased and constructed regional CSO facilities
- Over 90% reduction of 20 – 30 billion gallons CSO discharged annually in early 1960's
- Federal Consent Decree mandates completion of projects



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Recent Plants

- 1999 – King County takes over service on Vashon
- 2006 – New treatment plant opens on Vashon
- 2008 – New treatment plant opens in Carnation
- 2011 – Brightwater opens
- 2022 – Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station completed



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Wastewater Treatment Division today

- 34 local agencies (includes 18 cities, 15 sewer districts, and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe)
- Approximately 1.9 million residents over 424 square miles
- About 400 miles of sewer lines
- Five secondary treatment plants, 48 pump Stations and 25 regulator stations
- 39 CSO outfalls
- About 800+ full-time employees



Bellevue Pump Station

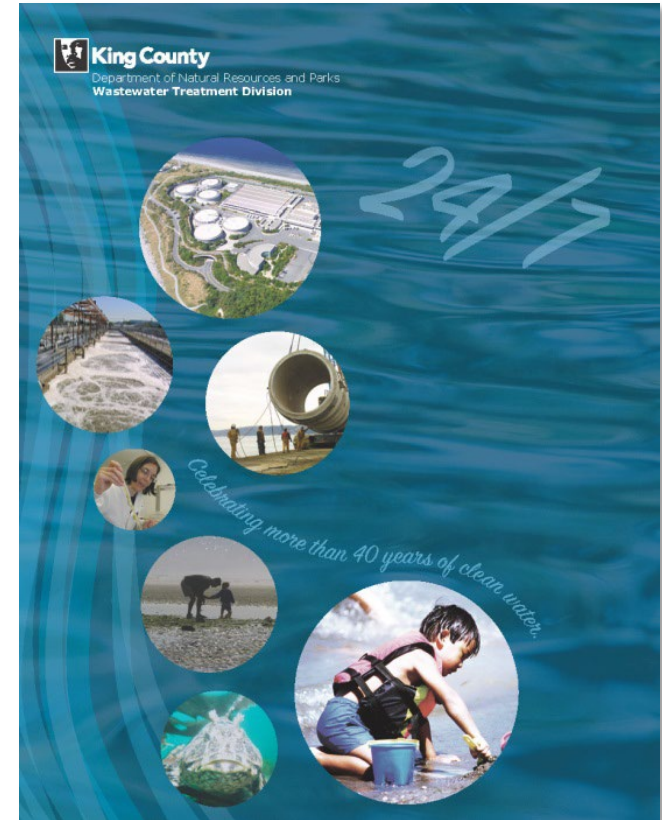


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The Big 3 Drivers of our capital program

- Building Capacity to Serve Growth in the Region
- Maintaining the Region's Wastewater Treatment Assets and Investments
- Address changing regulatory requirements.



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Questions?



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