Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities

King County Wastewater Treatment | Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Program

Overview

Most of King County has a network of pipes that carry wastewater to treatment plants, where the water gets cleaned. In older parts of the system such as in Seattle, rainwater and wastewater share the same pipes. This is called a combined sewer system. During heavy storms, these pipes can fill up. When that happens, overflow pipes are designed to release a mix of rainwater and sewage into local rivers, lakes, and other waterways. These overflow pipes help stop sewage from backing up into homes, streets, and businesses. They also create health risks for people and the environment.

King County is building the Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities to reduce overflows at five locations. This summary shares what we heard from the community during the planning phase. That phase ran from January 2024 to May 2025.

Outcomes

During the planning phase, King County suggested a plan for this project. It includes:

- A new wet weather treatment station in SODO. This building will clean extra rainwater and sewage during storms before it goes into the river.
- A new underground storage tank in West Seattle. This tank will hold extra water during storms. After the storm, the water is sent to West Point Treatment Plant for full cleaning.
- A new outfall between SODO and Harbor Island. This underwater pipe will release cleaned water into the river.
- New pipes and support facilities. These will connect the future wet weather treatment station and storage tank to the sewer system and help move water where it needs to go.

The graphic below shows how we worked with community during this phase. We announced our proposed plan and shared what to expect during field work. We also talked about how your ratepayer dollars fund projects to keep water clean.

Lessons learned

Now that we have a plan for this project, we will move forward with next steps:

- **Engineering report:** We will write an engineering report and send it to the Washington State Department of Ecology. This report is needed to get approval for our work ahead.
- **Environmental review:** This review helps us understand possible impacts.
- **Design:** We will start designing the plans for this project.

We will use our lessons learned from planning to better engage with you during design.

Lessons learned	Recommendations
Many projects are planned in SODO and West Seattle. Neighbors are already feeling the effects of planning and construction.	Our team will pursue a coordinated approach with other agencies. We will collaborate to make it easier for community members to get the information they need.
Most people want updates every few months or at key milestones.	We'll keep sending updates by email or mail every few months and at key milestones. We are also happy to provide briefings, at any time.
We didn't ask for feedback about our engagement during the planning phase.	We will ask community members to provide feedback to our team during design. We want to know whether community members felt informed about how to share input and how we use input. At the end of design, we will want to know whether you see your priorities reflected in the design. If not, we will want to know if you understand why they are not reflected.
Controlling CSOs is complex and technical, but the way we describe the project doesn't have to be.	During design, we will work to make project messages easier to understand. We will do this by using plain language and more visuals, when possible.

Building relationships

During planning, we worked with community groups in the project area. We held briefings with these groups to introduce the project and answer questions. Here are some of the groups we met with during the planning phase.

Contact us

Contact Bibiana Ocheke-Ameh at **DWetWeafacilities@kingcounty.gov** or **206-477-5604** with questions or to request a briefing for your organization.

Visit **kingcounty.gov/MDWetWeatherFacilities** or scan the QR code to learn the latest updates, access project materials, and join our email list.