



Mouth of the Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities



Virtual Public Meeting

June 18, 2024

King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) is progressing plans to control pollution from five combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls in the area of the mouth of the Duwamish River. King County held a virtual public meeting on June 18, 2024, from noon – 1 p.m. to provide an online opportunity for community members to receive a project update and engage with the Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities team.

Summary

During the virtual public meeting, King County presented the content outlined below, offering poll questions throughout. At the end of the presentation, King County facilitated a Q&A session to answer questions from the audience. In total, five attendees joined the virtual public meeting on June 18, 2024.

Welcome, Logistics, and Agenda

King County welcomed participants, reviewed Zoom-Webinar logistics, and facilitated introductions to the project team before reviewing the meeting agenda. Additionally, the introduction included an overview of services provided by King County WTD. King County WTD protects public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a healthy and thriving Puget Sound Region.

Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities Overview

We are working to control the frequency of combined sewer overflows at each outfall to no more than one untreated release per year over a 20-year average. This goal aligns with an agreement we have (called a Consent Decree) with Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Justice. It's also an investment to fix the legacy of pollution that CSO releases have left in our waters for many decades.

King County is studying options for Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather facilities that include a combination of storage (store it), treatment (treat it), and new pipelines (move it). Options include new facilities, a new outfall structure for treated water, and pipelines that connect flows along the way. We are also looking at an option combining new facilities and integrating with existing combined sewer overflow facilities.

We are currently in the planning phase for this effort. During the planning phase, we are studying options that include new facilities, a new outfall structure for treated water, and pipelines that connect flows along the way. We are also looking at an option combining new facilities and integrating with existing combined sewer overflow facilities. Each option may include facilities that are above ground, below ground, or a combination of both. For any option, we will need to purchase property for a facility in SODO. This could range from approximately four to eight acres, depending on the option. We may also need to acquire permanent and temporary easements for pipelines, outfalls, and other system needs.

Our Commitment to Community

No matter which solution King County identifies, we anticipate that construction will impact community members who live, work, and travel through the SODO neighborhood. To deliver benefits and minimize negative impacts, as much as possible, King County is working to understand the values of community members who live, work, or travel in the SODO neighborhood.

Since this project began in late 2023, the outreach team has reviewed more than 60 community plans and reports across King County and other local jurisdictions to better understand the values of the Duwamish Valley community members. During that review, there were several community values that rose to the top.

Poll question

Which community values are most important to you? Select all that apply.

- **Healthy built and natural environments:** 80% (4/5)
- **Connection and access to the Duwamish River:** 20% (1/5)
- **Safe and efficient transportation:** 20% (1/5)
- **Community and public safety:** 60% (3/5)
- **Strong, vibrant neighborhoods:** 40% (2/5)
- **Family wage jobs:** 60% (3/5)
- **Other:** 0% (0/5)

Identifying the Best Solution

The system we choose must control the CSO outfalls and meet regulatory and environmental requirements. As we work to select the best solution, we are considering five main factors: Community and social impact, cost, environmental impacts, operations and maintenance, and schedule. Our goal is to identify a solution that addresses pollution from the five outfalls and supports a healthy and thriving Puget Sound region.

Poll question

Of the factors that King County is considering, which factor are you most interested in learning more about? Select all that apply.

- **Community and social impact:** 67% (4/6)
- **Cost:** 50% (3/6)
- **Environmental impacts:** 83% (5/6)
- **Operations and maintenance:** 17% (1/6)
- **Schedule:** 67% (4/6)

Next Steps

This work is in the planning phase. Between now and early 2025, King County will narrow options and select the best solution to reduce CSOs at the five Mouth of Duwamish outfalls. The project will then move into design, and then construction, as soon as King County selects the best solution.

We are committed to providing opportunities for you to ask questions and share your thoughts and concerns at every step of the way.

Poll question

King County is committed to developing facilities that are integrated into the surrounding community. What types of community integration elements would you like to see in the facilities? Select all that apply.

- **Trees and recreation:** 83% (5/6)
- **Pedestrian infrastructure:** 83% (5/6)
- **Clean air and green space:** 83% (5/6)
- **Freight access and mobility:** 17% (1/6)
- **Public art and cultural initiatives:** 50% (3/6)
- **Other:** 0% (0/6)

Poll question

As we share more about the project, what are you interested in learning about? Select all that apply.

- **Stormwater pollution prevention:** 83% (5/6)
- **Resource recovery from wastewater:** 50% (3/6)
- **Wastewater rates:** 50% (3/6)
- **Water quality protection:** 33% (2/6)
- **Other:** 17% (1/6)

Q&A

Attendees were given the chance to submit questions through the Q&A feature on Zoom as well as raise their hands to directly ask project team members their questions. Discussion during the Q&A session is summarized below.

- One participant asked whether King County is considering building separate stormwater pipes to control CSOs. King County conducts Long-Term Control Plan efforts to examine the feasibility of different CSO control options, including stormwater separation. Stormwater separation would require replacing the entire network of pipes in the Mouth of Duwamish basin, which would not be

possible to complete within the timeline required by the consent decree with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Washington State Department of Ecology. For this reason, stormwater separation is not a feasible CSO control method for Mouth of Duwamish outfalls.

- One participant asked how King County plans to control PCBs and other contaminants from entering the East Waterway Superfund Site. While King County WTD is a proponent of pollution source control, this project does not currently have a pollution source control element. The [Lower Duwamish Superfund Site](#) cleanup is one of many efforts that include pollution source control to reduce PCB and other contaminants from entering stormwater that would eventually be treated by Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities.
- One participant asked whether Mouth of the Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities would be similar in size to the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. Mouth of Duwamish Wet Weather Facilities are likely to have up to three times the treatment capacity of the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station.