



Protecting Seattle's Waterways

Recommended Alternative for the Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways

Creeks, Drainage and Wastewater Advisory Committee Briefing
February 11, 2015

Briefing Objective and Agenda

Update on the Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways recommended alternative for compliance with the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) requirement in the Consent Decree as part of SPU's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Program.

Agenda

- What is the Integrated Plan Alternative
- Why did SPU select the Integrated Plan Alternative
- Next Steps

Background

Federal Consent Decree to control Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO) to State standard by 2025.

Consent Decree allows SPU to propose and Integrated Approach to CSO and stormwater control

SPU developed two options for Consent Decree Compliance

- Long Term Control Plan – CSO control
- Integrated Plan – CSO control and Stormwater Treatment

Why do an Integrated Plan?

- Significant water quality benefits over CSOs alone
 - Cost effective mass pollutant reduction
- Get in front of future stormwater regulations
- Stakeholder and public pressure to deal with stormwater

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Last sewer-outflow pollution worth \$1B to stop?

With rising costs, diminishing returns and limited budgets, officials in King County, Washington state and around the country are questioning further work to control combined sewer overflow.

By Lynda V. Mapes
Seattle Times staff reporter

With billions of dollars at stake, local and state officials around the country are questioning the cost and benefit of continued work to control combined sewer overflow (CSO), including here in Seattle, where more than \$1.2 billion in ratepayer dollars are on the table.

King County has outlines of a control plan to limit pollution from overflows of small amounts of raw sewage from some storm drains during heavy rain. CSO work has been under way in Seattle and King County for decades, and pollution from overflows already is greatly reduced.

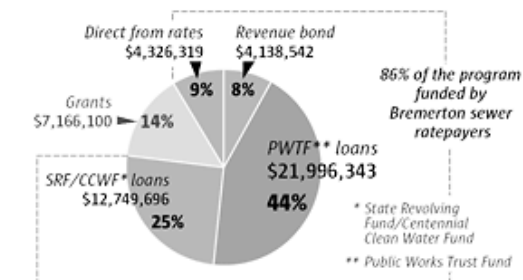
But getting the last percentages of control is very expensive. It's so expensive that it could siphon off the region's capacity to do other environmental work, local officials say, even though study after study has shown stormwater runoff, not the remaining volume of combined sewer overflows, is the largest source of pollution to Puget Sound.

The high cost of CSO control

Bremerton's beaches were clean enough to harvest shellfish there by 2003. But the city kept spending millions of dollars on control projects to satisfy a lawsuit and the state standard.

Bremerton CSO reduction program funding sources (1992-2009)

TOTAL: \$50,377,000



Source: city of Bremerton

enlarge

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Related

- [King County's combined sewer overflow control plan and supporting technical documents](#)
- [City of Seattle's plan](#)

What is the Integrated Plan Alternative?

- Innovated approach to addressing water quality issues
 - Allows Seattle to propose stormwater and CSO projects, prioritized and sequenced in order to achieve equal to or better benefits for water quality than would otherwise be achieved with CSO investments alone
- Achieve human health and water quality objectives of the CWA by identifying efficiencies in capital investments
- Does NOT remove requirements to comply with the CWA or lower existing standards
- Complies with the Consent Decree and NPDES Wastewater Permit to develop a Long Term Control Plan

Integrated Plan - SPU's Recommended Alternative

Primary goal is early return of environmental benefits to receiving waters by prioritizing CSO and stormwater investments to improve water quality

- ✓ The Joint SPU/King County West Ship Canal Tunnel Option in the Long Term Control Plan constructed by 2025
- ✓ Four Neighborhood CSO storage projects from the Long Term Control plan completed by 2025
- ✓ Six Neighborhood CSO storage projects from the Long Term Control Plan deferred 5-years for completion by 2030
- ✓ Three Stormwater Projects completed by 2025

Recommended Alternative

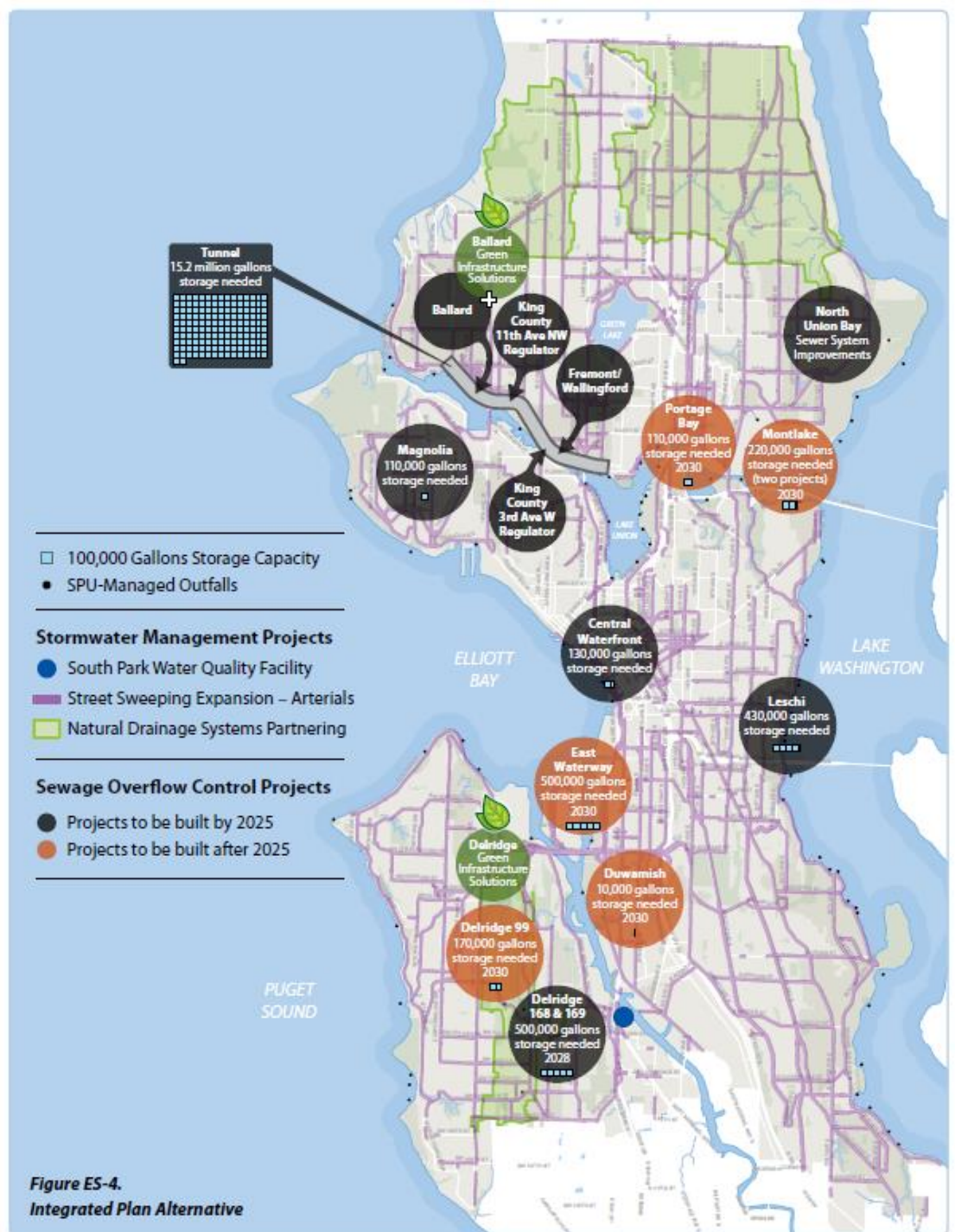


Figure ES-4.
Integrated Plan Alternative

Integrated Plan Stormwater Projects

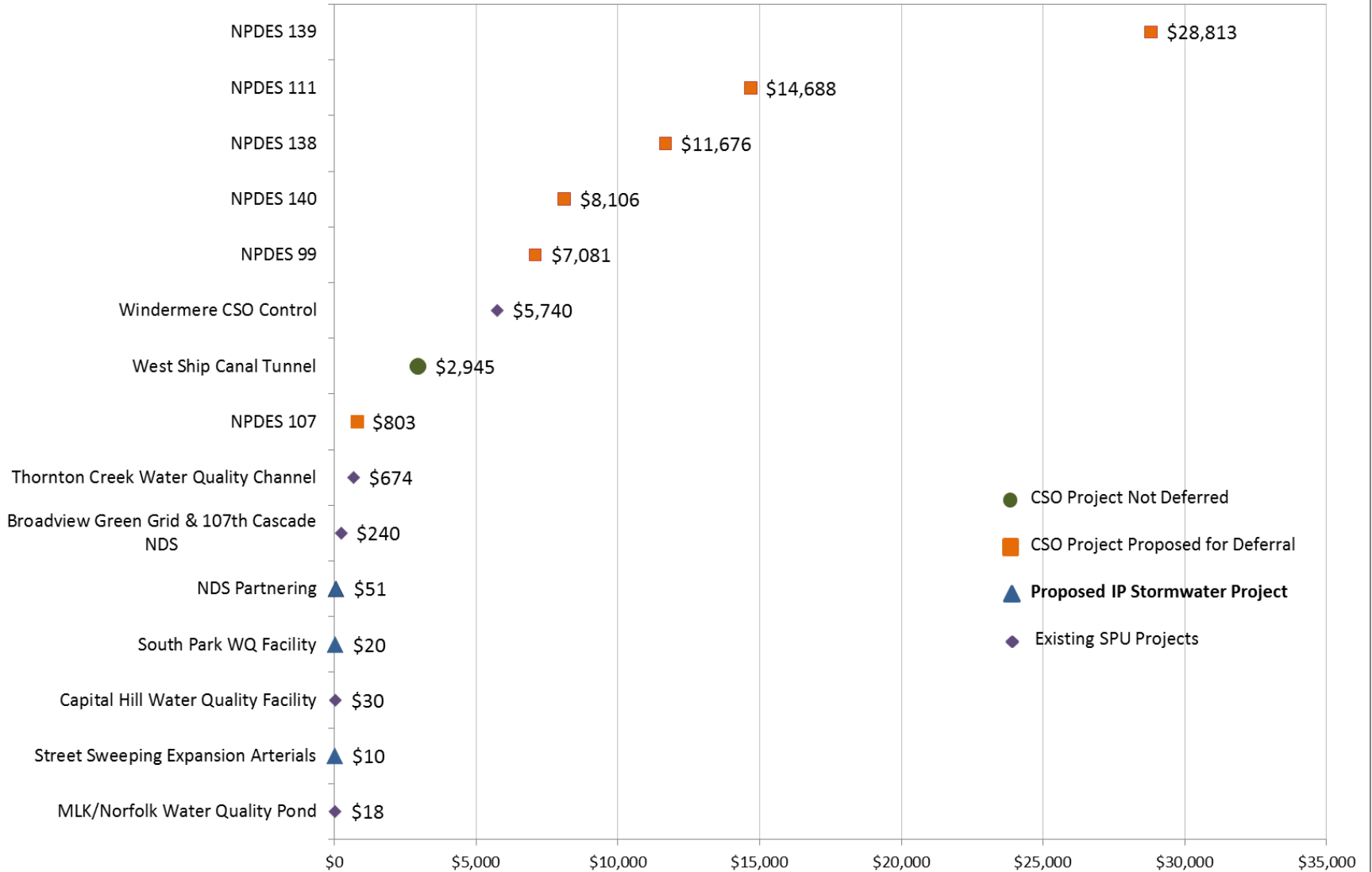


- **Street Sweeping Arterials** – Expansion of existing program
- **South Park WQ Facility** – stormwater treatment prior to discharge into Duwamish
- **NDS Partnering** – Roadside rain gardens and community benefits (mobility, traffic calming)

Integrated Plan provides significant water quality benefits compared to deferred CSO projects

| | Three Integrated Plan Projects | Six Deferred CSO Projects |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| Annually, the projects would treat: | | |
| | 108 Million Gallons of Stormwater | 2.4 Million Gallons of sewage and stormwater |
| Annually, the projects would remove: | | |
| Fecal Coliform Bacteria | 71 billion fecal coliform | 5.6 billion fecal coliform |
| Zinc | 100 pounds | 1 pound |
| PCBs | 0.2 pounds | 0.001 pounds |
| Phosphorus | 150 pounds | 15 pounds |
| Total Suspended Sediment (TSS) - solids that are suspended in stormwater. Pollutants tend to attach to the suspended solids in stormwater. | 130,000 pounds | 1,100 pounds |

Present Value \$/Annual lbs TSS



Moving forward with Approval Process

| Date | Key Milestone |
|-------------|--|
| December 19 | Final EIS issued and appeal period closed |
| Mid-January | City Council/ Mayor briefings |
| February 1 | draft Final Plan to EPA/Ecology |
| February 27 | Final Plan to Council |
| By March 27 | Draft legislative package reviewed by Mayor's office |
| By May 8 | Council Committee considers legislation |
| By May 22 | Full Council approves legislation and Final Plan |
| May 29 | Final Plan to EPA/Ecology for Approval |

Questions?

