Seattle Public Utilities and King County are working together to build an underground storage tunnel to reduce the amount of polluted water that spills into the Lake Washington Ship Canal from Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, and Queen Anne. The 2.7-mile, 18’10” diameter tunnel will capture and temporarily hold more than 29 million gallons of stormwater and sewage during heavy rains. When the storm passes, flows will be sent to King County’s West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant in Magnolia.

The illustrations below show why this project is needed. In dry weather conditions, all sewage flows to the treatment plant to be treated and discharged. During wet weather conditions, polluted runoff can exceed the pipe’s capacity and send a mixture of stormwater (90%) and sewage (10%) to outfalls that flow into the nearest water body.

These combined sewer overflows, or CSOs, contain contaminants that can make people sick and harm fish, wildlife, and the environment. State and federal law requires that we reduce these overflows to no more than one per outfall per year on average.

Where will this project be located?

Projected timeline

The project is currently in the design phase. Early construction work is anticipated to begin in 2018, and construction will be complete by 2025.

Stay in touch

For questions or comments about this project:

Contact: Keith Ward, PMP, P.E., Project Executive
Call: 206-615-0734 Email: Keith.Ward@seattle.gov
Website: www.seattle.gov/util/shipcanalproject

Sign up to receive project email updates
www.seattle.gov/lists/shipcanalproject.htm

For interpretation services please call 206-233-7029