



City of Seattle
Seattle Public Utilities

**Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of EIS
Henderson Basin 44 CSO Reduction Project**

Description of Proposal: The City of Seattle is required to reduce the number of untreated overflows from its combined sewer system to meet State and Federal regulations. In a combined sewer system, wastewater (from homes and businesses) and stormwater (from rooftops and streets) flow into a single pipeline. During heavy rains, wastewater and stormwater volumes can exceed the system's capacity, causing a combined sewer overflow (CSO) into the nearest waterway. CSOs are a public health concern because they carry pollutants—primarily untreated sewage and stormwater runoff—into the receiving water bodies.

Reducing CSOs from Henderson Basin 44 is one of the highest priorities for Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), the department that operates and maintains the City's sewer system. In 2010, there were 16 overflow events from Henderson Basin 44, discharging a total of approximately 9.9 million gallons of sewage and stormwater into Lake Washington, just south of Seward Park. SPU's objectives are to reduce the volume and frequency of Basin 44 CSOs and to meet State law and regulations that limit CSOs to a long-term average of no more than one untreated discharge per outfall per year.

Three alternatives have been identified and will be evaluated in an environmental impact statement (EIS):

Alternative 1 – Storage under Seward Park Parking Lot. SPU would construct a 2.4-million-gallon tank under a parking lot on the south side of Seward Park and associated pipelines that would store and convey excess combined sewer flows until the flows could be gradually released back into the sewer system as system capacity becomes available. When construction is complete, the parking lot would be restored to its current size and function.

Alternative 2 – Storage under Seward Park Tennis Courts. SPU would construct a 2.4-million-gallon tank under the Seward Park tennis courts and adjacent parking lot and associated pipelines that would store and convey excess combined sewer flows until the flows could be gradually released back into the sewer system as system capacity becomes available. When construction is complete, the parking lot and tennis courts would be restored to their current size and function.

No Action Alternative – The project would not be built.

Proponent and Lead Agency: Seattle Public Utilities is the project proponent and is serving as the SEPA lead agency.

Location of Proposal. The Henderson Basin 44 area extends along the west shoreline of Lake Washington adjacent to Andrews Bay and Seward Park. Basin 44's boundaries are defined by the geographic area that contributes CSOs from Basin 44 to Lake Washington. The east boundary is Lake Washington. Basin 44's other boundaries vary, but are approximately 52nd Avenue South on the west side, approximately South Hudson Street on the north side, and approximately South Morgan Street on the south side. The proposed project would be located at one of two sites in Seward Park, which is located within the boundaries of Basin 44.

EIS Will Be Prepared. SPU, as the lead agency, has determined that this proposal may have a significant adverse impact on the environment. Although it may be shown that the impacts would be temporary or could be mitigated, SPU has voluntarily decided to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS).

SPU has identified the following areas for discussion in the EIS:

- Recreation
 - Park use and access
 - Parking
 - Special events
 - Safety
- Transportation
 - Construction traffic
 - Emergency services
 - Community cohesion/disruption

In addition, SPU has identified the following environmental elements for brief discussion or summary in the EIS: Earth, Air, Water, Plants and Animals, Energy, Environmental Health, Land and Shoreline Use, Cultural Resources, and Other Public Services and Utilities.

Scoping. SPU invites agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The methods and deadline for submitting comments on the scope of the EIS are as follows:

Respond via e-mail or in writing postmarked by June 16, 2011, to:

Seattle Public Utilities
Attention: Betty Meyer, SEPA Responsible Official
Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
betty.meyer@seattle.gov

Respond in person at the public scoping meeting to be held at the following time and location:

June 7, 2011
6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Seward Park Environmental & Audubon Center
5902 Lake Washington Boulevard South
Seattle, WA 98118

Project-related information can be reviewed on SPU's website:
<http://www.seattle.gov/CSO>. Click on "Henderson Basin" under Large Storage Projects.

SEPA Responsible Official:

Betty Meyer
Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
(206) 386-1999
betty.meyer@seattle.gov

Signature:


Betty Meyer

Issue Date: May 26, 2011

For interpretation services please call **206-733-9396**
Para servicios de interpretación por favor llame al **206-733-9396**
Về dịch vụ phiên dịch xin gọi **206-733-9396**

