



City of Seattle
Seattle Public Utilities

The Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways
Notice of Availability of Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)

Proponent

City of Seattle; Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)

Location

Projects included in the Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways (the Plan) would be located throughout the City of Seattle in the following areas:

- Ship Canal Neighborhoods
- Lake Washington Neighborhoods
- Longfellow Creek/ Duwamish Neighborhoods
- Elliott Bay/ Lake Union Neighborhoods
- Piper's Creek Neighborhoods
- Thornton Creek Neighborhoods

Purpose

The objective of this proposal is to adopt a Plan to reduce overflows and the discharge of pollutants from combined sewers and stormwater runoff, in order to protect public health and the environment and to comply with federal and state regulations. When implemented, the Plan would bring Seattle into compliance with state and federal combined sewer overflow (CSO) regulations and a Consent Decree with the Washington State Department of Ecology, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Justice. Specifically, the Plan would:

- Identify areas of Seattle where projects are needed to reduce combined sewer overflows.
- Evaluate alternatives for reducing combined sewer overflows in these areas.
- Identify additional areas where projects to reduce stormwater pollution would improve water quality.
- Recommend a schedule for designing and constructing projects.
- Estimate program costs and associated impacts on SPU customer bills.
- Consider regulatory, public and stakeholder input.

Proposed Alternatives

SPU identified the following alternatives for evaluation in this EIS:

- No Action Alternative
- Long-Term Control Plan Alternative
- Integrated Plan Alternative

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the City would not implement the Plan. Progress would be made in reducing the number and volume of CSOs through implementation of previously planned CSO control projects identified in the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Waste Discharge Permit and in the 2010-2015 Implementation Plan for the *2010 CSO Reduction Plan Amendment* (2010 Plan Amendment). These projects are currently scheduled for implementation, and they will be completed regardless of whether the Plan is implemented. The City would also continue to implement a portion of two of its CSO reduction strategies: combined sewer system improvements and Natural Drainage Systems. However, the City would not implement any additional projects to further reduce CSOs or reduce stormwater pollution. Under the No Action Alternative, the City would not be in compliance with the Consent Decree. The No Action Alternative is required by SEPA, and serves as a baseline for comparison with the action alternatives.

Long-Term Control Plan Alternative: The Long-term Control Plan (LTCP) Alternative is focused solely on controlling all remaining uncontrolled CSO outfalls. The LTCP presents a comprehensive strategy for reducing the remaining uncontrolled CSO discharges in the city. The City must address these CSOs to protect public health and the environment, and comply with the Clean Water Act and state regulations. The City would implement the projects identified in the LTCP Alternative from 2016 through 2025.

There are four potential combinations of storage facilities, referred to as "options" in the LTCP, that are evaluated in this EIS. Any of these four options would meet the Plan objectives. The options were developed under one of two basic concepts: the City meets its Consent Decree-mandated CSO control requirements through implementation of independent (City only) control projects, or the City participates in one or more shared projects with King County to take advantage of potential cost / impact reduction opportunities. The options vary in terms of the number, size, and potential location of storage facilities considered. The four LTCP options are:

- Neighborhood Storage Option (independent, City only implementation)
 - Neighborhood Tanks/Pipes, or
 - Neighborhood West Ship Canal Tunnel plus Tanks/Pipes
- Shared West Ship Canal Tunnel Option (Shared King County / City implementation)
- Shared Ship Canal Tunnel Option (Shared King County /City implementation)
- Shared Storage Option (Shared King County / City implementation)

Integrated Plan Alternative: The Integrated Plan Alternative includes control of all remaining uncontrolled CSO outfalls and reduction of stormwater pollution. Stormwater runoff is a major contributor to surface water quality issues. The objective of the Integrated Plan is to implement stormwater pollution management projects that would provide greater benefits to surface water quality than those provided by the LTCP CSO reduction strategies alone. The Integrated Plan represents a more comprehensive approach to water quality management by integrating stormwater pollution management with CSO reduction strategies.

Under the Integrated Plan Alternative, the City would still build the CSO reduction projects included in one of the four LTCP options outlined above. However, the City would delay the completion of some of the CSO control projects, to allow earlier completion of high-benefit stormwater treatment technology projects. Six projects to control CSO discharges into the lower Duwamish, Portage Bay and Ship Canal waterways would be delayed until after 2025.

Under the Integrated Plan Alternative, the City would implement three programs/ projects in Seattle neighborhoods to reduce pollution from stormwater runoff in areas that are not part of the combined sewer system, using a combination of stormwater treatment technologies. These programs/projects include:

- Natural Drainage System (NDS) Partnering
- Arterial Street Sweeping Expansion
- South Park Water Quality Facility

Timing of Preferred Alternative Selection and Implementation

Following the release of the Final EIS, the City will identify a recommended LTCP option and recommended Plan Alternative. The City also will continue to implement a public process and outreach to solicit input from the public and other stakeholders during the Plan adoption process. Throughout the spring of 2015, the City Council will review and hold Council hearings and meetings (open to the public) to discuss the Plan. After Plan adoption in May 2015, the Final Plan will be submitted to EPA and Ecology for approval. The Final Plan is anticipated to be approved by EPA and Ecology in late summer 2015, and Plan implementation would commence in late 2015 or early 2016.

Timing of Additional Environmental Review

This EIS is programmatic in nature and has been prepared to disclose probable significant adverse impacts associated with the Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways. As individual projects are identified, site-specific environmental review will be conducted prior to implementation. Depending on the preferred alternative and the amount of time needed to obtain regulatory approval of the Plan, some projects and actions would be ready for site-specific environmental review starting in 2016.

Project Proponent and Lead Agency

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Project Information / Background Data Contact Person

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Date of Issuance of this Final EIS

December 4, 2014

Availability of the Final EIS and Background Materials

The Final EIS is available for viewing at the following locations:

- Seattle Public Utilities, Director's Office Main Reception Area, Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900, 700 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington
- Seattle Central Library, General Reference Section
- Online at www.seattle.gov/CSO

The Final EIS can be downloaded for free from the City's website www.seattle.gov/CSO or purchased on CD for \$10 or in paper form for \$170. Purchased copies will be mailed upon receipt of a check made payable to Seattle Public Utilities.

Additional background materials can be viewed on the City's website: www.seattle.gov/CSO. They may also be viewed in paper form by arranging a time with Ed Mirabella at the number or email listed above.

The Final EIS and the background materials will be available until the close of the appeal period, which is December 4, 2014 through December 19, 2014.

Signature:


Betty Meyer

Issue Date: December 4, 2014

For interpretation services please call **206-684-5959**

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