

Long-term Control Plan Glossary of Terms

control volume – the volume of overflow that would need to be eliminated for the basin to be regarded as controlled.

drainage basins – an area defined by hydrology and hydraulics that drains to a common outfall or outfalls; some drainage basins can include several sub-basins. Sometimes referred to as NPDES basins in reference to the permits that regulate them.

environmental justice/service equity – working to ensure projects, programs and services do not directly or indirectly disproportionately impact human health and economies in communities of color, low-income people, immigrants, and refugees. Our goal is to implement utility programs, projects, and services in ways that equitably distribute risks and benefits across all communities, involving the affected parties in the decision-making process.

green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) – projects that increase the holding capacity of the soil and slow the flow to keep stormwater out of the sewer system and enable it to slowly seep into the ground. Examples of GSI projects include roadside raingardens, green alleys, and the RainWise program, which provides rebates for property owners to install rain gardens and cisterns on their property.

planning areas – areas that combine several drainage basins with related hydrology and/or hydraulics, grouped by receiving water body.

hydraulics – the science of the mechanical properties of liquid, including pipe flow, pumps, and flow measurement

hydrology – the science of movement, distribution and quality of water that informs drainage planning and engineering

independent alternatives – CSO reduction solutions that involve capital improvements and operational changes to manage control volumes for Seattle.

joint alternatives – CSO reduction solutions that involve capital improvements and operational changes to manage control volumes for both Seattle and King County CSOs.

multi-objective decision analysis (MODA) - a technique used to assesses the total bottom line of infrastructure alternatives by comparing the non-monetary environmental and social values to the cost of achieving that value.

NPDES permit – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit that regulates both stormwater overflows and combined sewer overflows.

partially separated – about one-third of the area of Seattle in which street drains were disconnected from the sewer system to reduce CSOs. Street drains in the partially-separated system flow in a separate stormwater pipeline.

retrofits – projects to optimize and repair the existing system to increase capacity and improve function. Examples of retrofits include outfall pipe rehabilitation and weir raising.

right of way – publicly-owned roadways, such as city streets, alleys, parking strips, and sidewalks

triple bottom line (TBL) – a type of analysis that considers three areas of benefits and costs: financial, social, and environmental. Triple bottom line analysis differs from typical financial analysis because it considers benefits and costs accruing to the community as a whole and assigns (where possible) dollar values to non-market-priced social and environmental impacts. SPU has adopted a triple bottom line approach to decision making and economic analysis, assessing the TBL of infrastructure alternatives using a technique called multi-objective decision analysis (MODA).