Seattle Public Utilities | King County | Protecting Seattle's Waterways

Ship Canal Water Quality Project Update

Seattle Freight Advisory Board

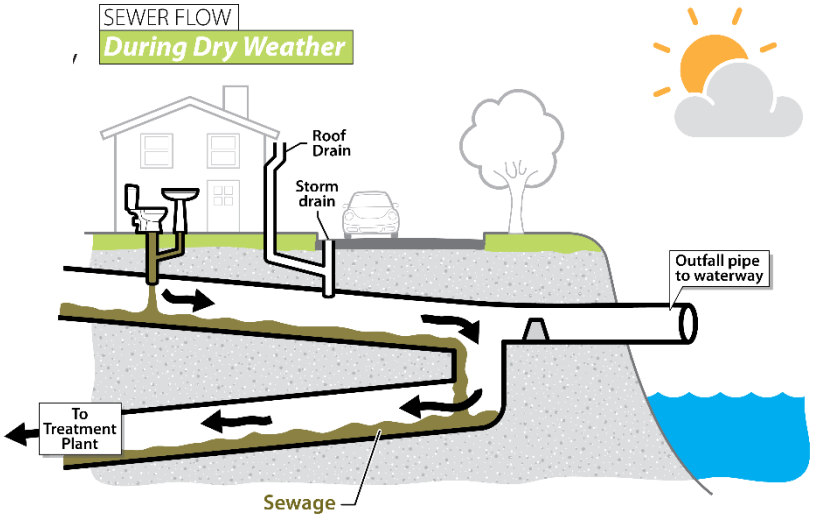
August 18, 2015

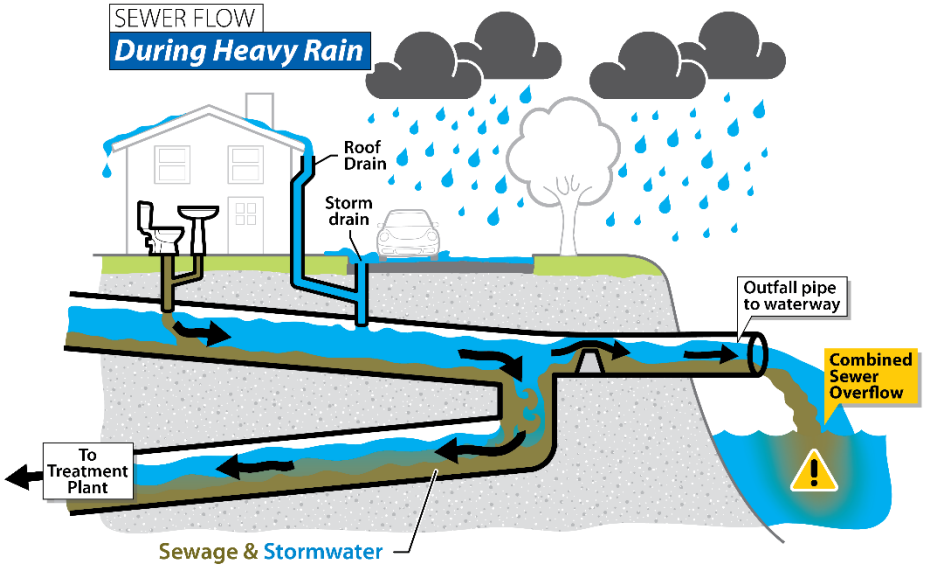
Agenda

- Background
- Project overview
- Timeline
- Public involvement

Background

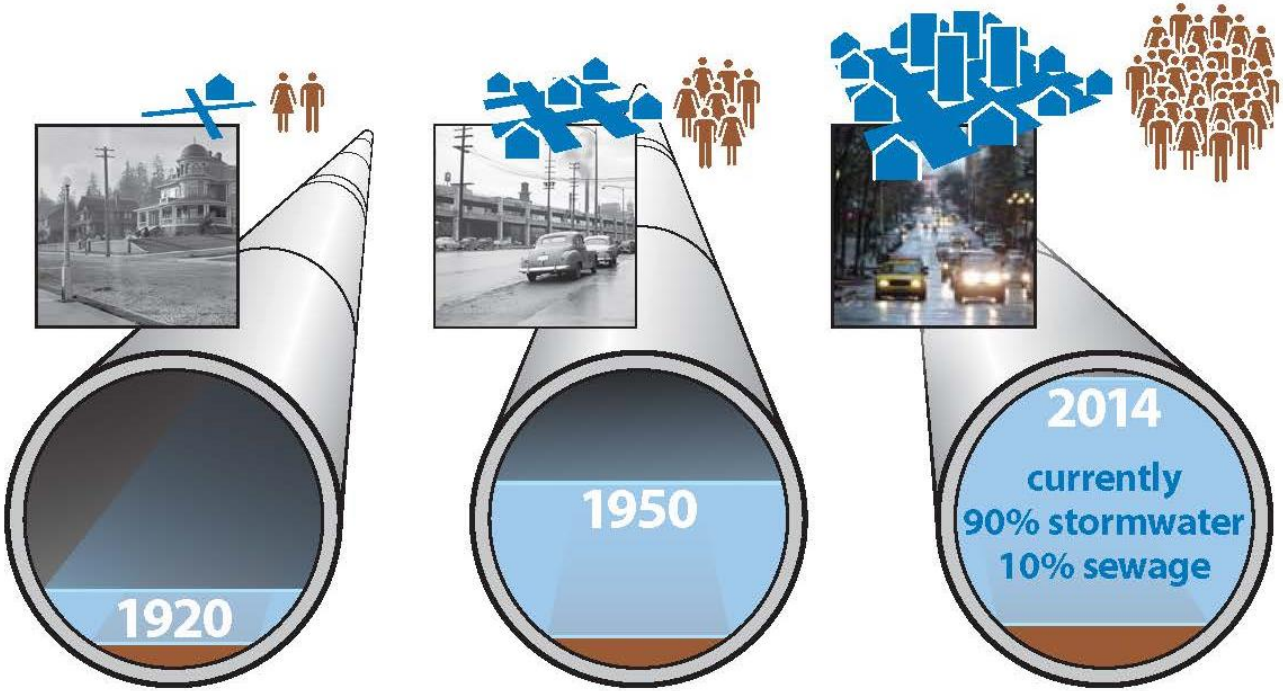
What is a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO)?





Stormwater Runoff is the Problem

There's plenty of room in the pipe for sewage, but not for stormwater



Stormwater

Sewage

Since 2009, new development has had to manage its own runoff. Nevertheless, we still have to manage the runoff generated from hard surfaces built **before 2009** because the sewer system wasn't built for this much runoff.

SPU has invested $130M in CSO reduction since 2010

- Sewer system improvement
- Sewer storage project
- Conveyance / flow transfer
- Green Infrastructure project

Integrated Plan Selected Alternative

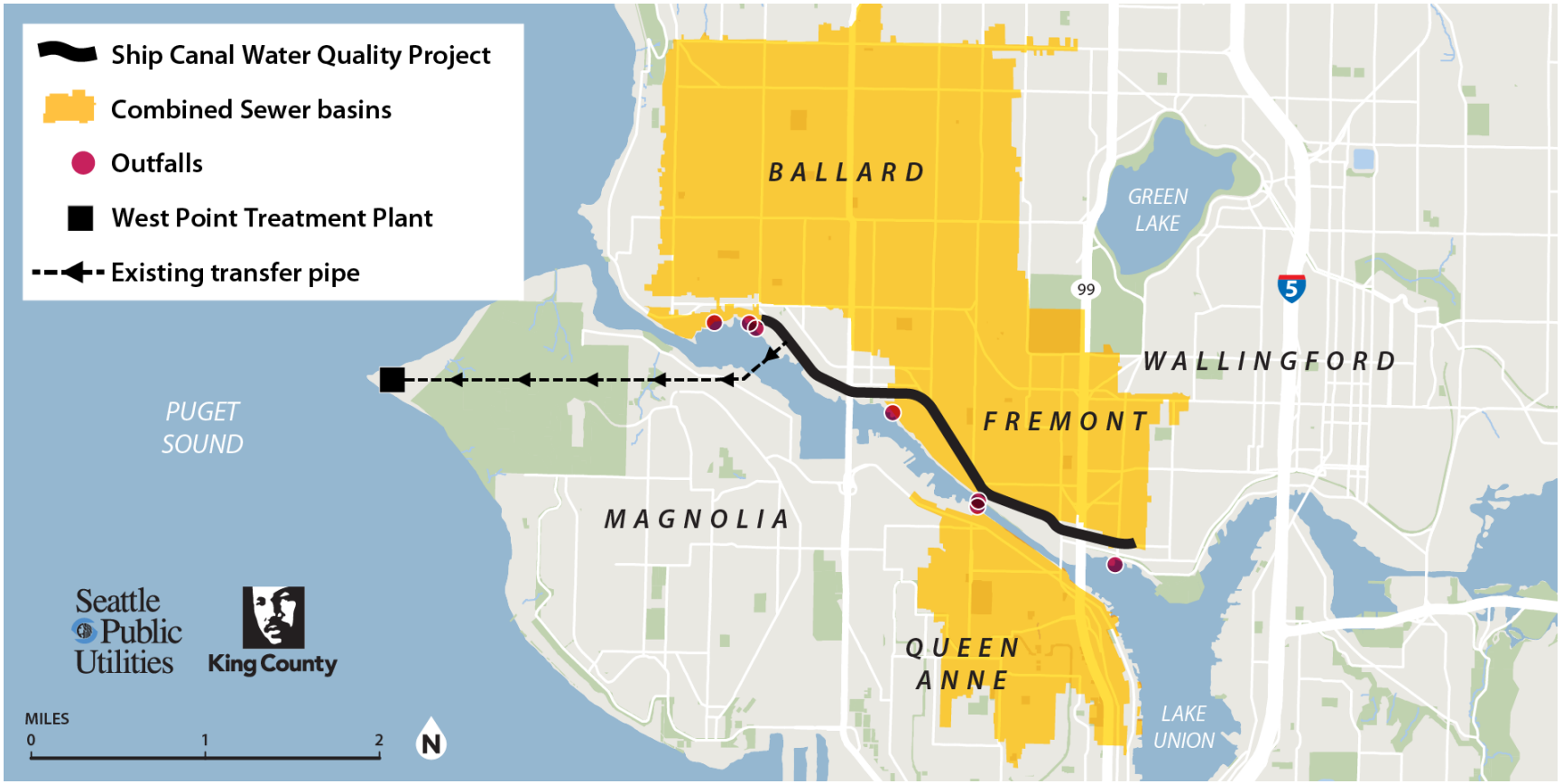
- Sewer system improvements by 2020
- Ship Canal Water Quality Project with King County by 2025
- 5 storage projects by 2025
- 5 storage projects by 2030
- Stormwater projects

Project overview

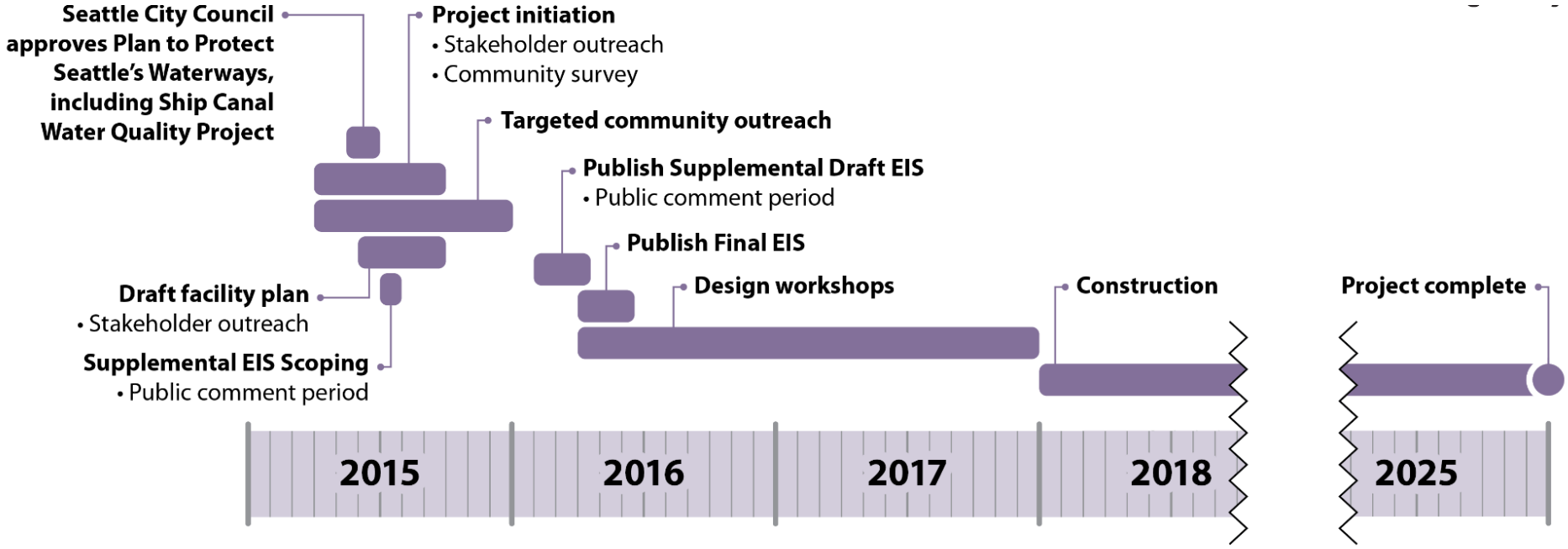
- Combines four separate projects into one shared project with King County
- 2.7 mile underground tunnel between Ballard and Wallingford
- 15 million gallons of storage capacity
- Prevents 134 sewer overflows each year (about 50 million gallons)

Video

Where will the tunnel be located?



Project timeline

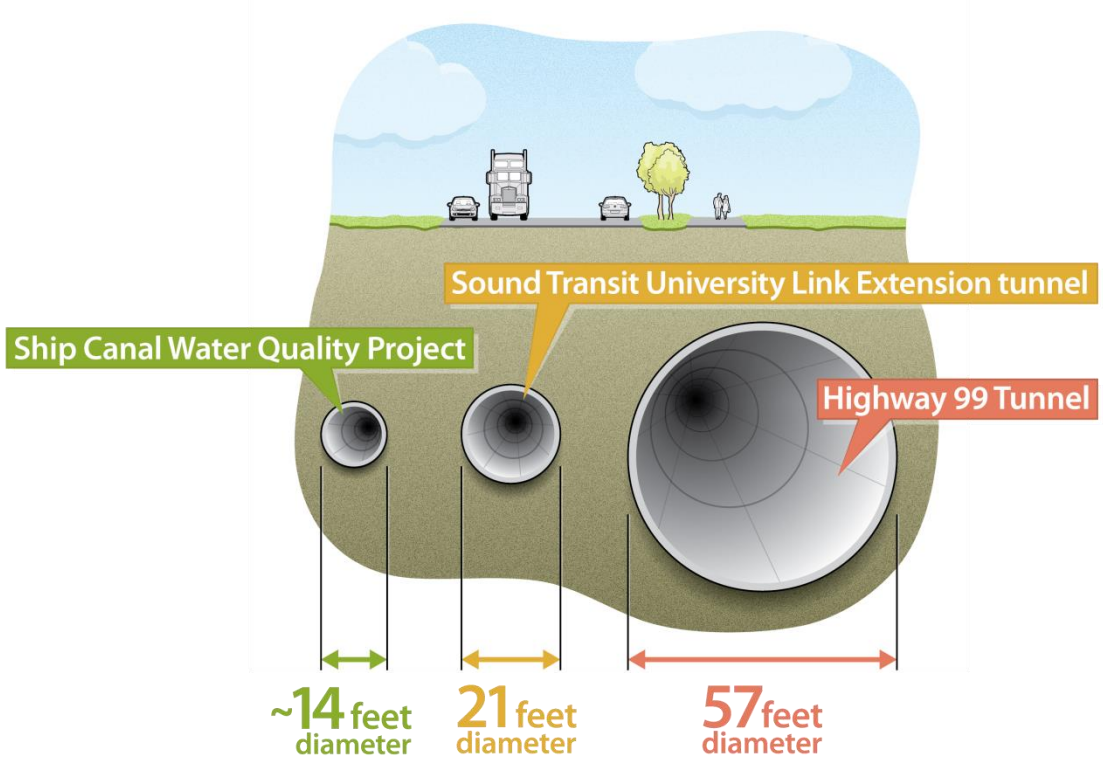


Project benefits

- Fewer construction impacts than separate tank projects
  - Less open-trench construction
  - Less excavation and hauling
  - Fewer truck trips
- Reduces overflows from seven outfalls by about 95 percent
- Supported by our regulators and stakeholders
- Smaller footprint, leaving more land in the community

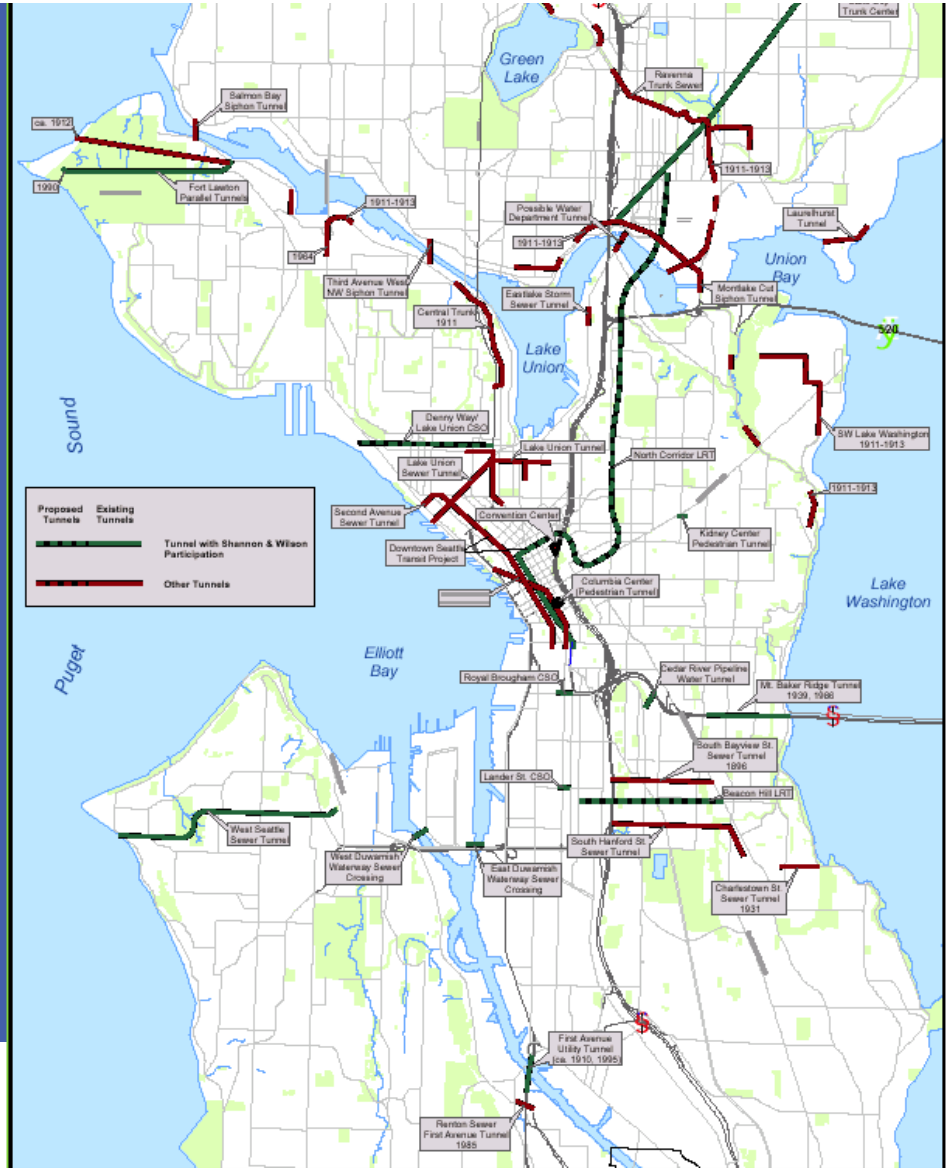
Comparison of relative tunnel sizes locally

- Size of Shared West Ship Canal Tunnel compared to other projects
  - 16 times smaller than the Highway 99 tunnel
  - 2.5 times smaller than the Sound Transit University Link Extension Tunnel



Local Seattle tunnel context

- Since 1880s, 150 tunnels (70+ miles) built for sewers, utilidors, transit
- Numerous successful projects
- Apply lessons learned from prior construction projects to mitigate risks



Engaging the public

- Planning phase
- Stakeholder interviews (April-July) representing:
  - ✓ Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, and Queen Anne
  - ✓ Range of sectors (Industrial, Retail, Neighborhoods, Bikes and Parks)
  - ✓ Key issues and organizations
- Community survey (May/June)
- Scoping comment period (July-August)
- Briefings and direct project outreach (Summer)

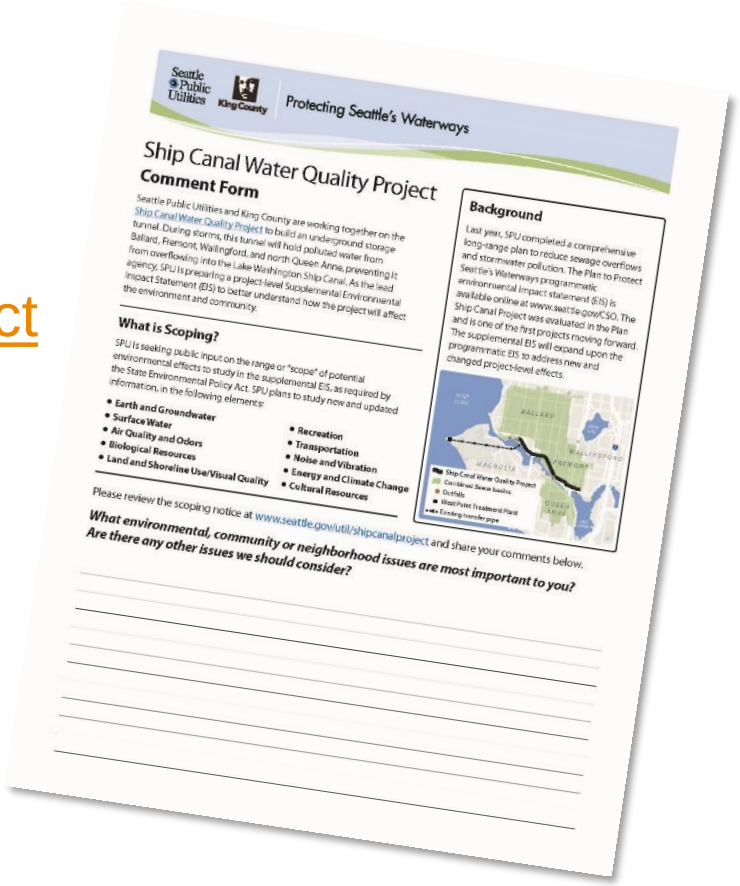
What we've heard

- Stakeholder and direct outreach
  - General support
  - Interest in construction impacts: traffic, business access, parking, noise, air quality

- Community survey
  - Random sample mailing to 10,000 households; 1,570 surveys completed.
  - 95% support the project
  - *Key issues:*
    - Keep public informed
    - Construction impacts (traffic, noise, air quality/odor, access)
    - Project cost

How to submit scoping comments?

- We're seeking public input on the range of potential environmental effects to study in the SEIS.
- Review the scoping notice at www.seattle.gov/util/shipcanalproject
- Submit a comment form today, by mail, or email before August 24, 2105.
  - betty.meyer@seattle.gov
  - Seattle Public Utilities,
    Attention: Betty Meyer
    SEPA Responsible Official
    Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900
    PO Box 34018
    Seattle, WA 98124-4018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Ship Canal Water Quality Project

Comment Form

Seattle Public Utilities and King County are working together on the Ship Canal Water Quality Project to build an underground storage tunnel. During storms, this tunnel will hold polluted water from Ballard, Fremont, Wallingford, and north Queen Anne, preventing it from overflowing into the Lake Washington Ship Canal. As the lead agency, SPU is preparing a project-level Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to better understand how the project will affect the environment and community.

Background

Last year, SPU completed a comprehensive long-range plan to reduce sewage overflows and stormwater pollution. The Plan to Protect Seattle's Waterways programmatic environmental impact statement (EIS) is available online at www.seattle.gov/CSO. The Ship Canal Project was evaluated in the Plan and is one of the first projects moving forward. The supplemental EIS will expand upon the programmatic EIS to address new and changed project-level effects.

What is Scoping?

SPU is seeking public input on the range or "scope" of potential environmental effects to study in the supplemental EIS, as required by the State Environmental Policy Act. SPU plans to study new and updated information, in the following elements:

- Earth and Groundwater
- Surface Water
- Air Quality and Odors
- Biological Resources
- Land and Shoreline Use/Visual Quality
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Noise and Vibration
- Energy and Climate Change
- Cultural Resources

Please review the scoping notice at www.seattle.gov/util/shipcanalproject and share your comments below.

What environmental, community or neighborhood issues are most important to you? Are there any other issues we should consider?

Questions?

For more information, contact:

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  daniel.enrico@seattle.gov
  (206) 684-7413
- **Website:**
  www.seattle.gov/util/environmentconservation/projects/drainagesystem/shipcanalwaterquality/
- Sign up for the project listserv to receive updates:
  http://www.seattle.gov/lists/shipcanalproject.htm