KING COUNTY CITY OF SEATTLE EPA U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Denny Way/Lake Union CSO Control Project

What is a CSO?

Combined Sewer Overflows are discharges of wastewater and stormwater that occur during storms. CSOs are now discharged at the outlet in Myrtle Edwards Park about 50 times per year and contain pollutants that present health risks to humans and aquatic life. CSOs also occur on Lake Union at city and county outfalls.

Why do we have CSOs in Seattle?

Seattle's sewer system was constructed long before any wastewater treatment plants were built. The collection system pipes do not have adequate capacity to convey storm flows to the plants and were built with overflow points to surface water bodies. Although this was considered acceptable in the past, it does not meet current environmental standards.

When will the CSO project be built?

Construction of the project will begin in spring of 2000 at this site. The entire project, from Lake Union to Elliott Bay, is scheduled for completion in 2003.

How will this project benefit the people and environment of Seattle?

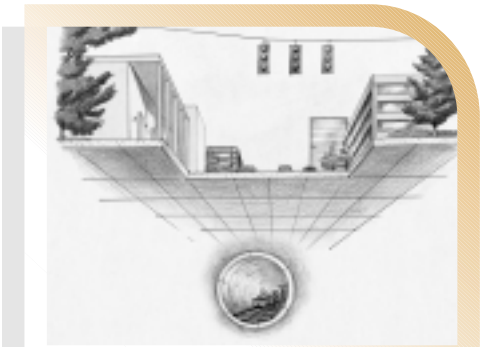
Water quality will be improved in Lake Union and Elliott Bay by reducing discharges of combined wastewater and stormwater.

For more information contact:
(206) 269-0229 or
www.metrokc.gov/dennyway

How will the new system work?

1. During dry weather, wastewater will continue to flow in the existing collection system. As levels rise in the pipes during storms, flows will be diverted into a 6,200-foot long tunnel under Mercer Street. During many storms, flows will be stored in the tunnel until the storm subsides. After the storm, the flows will be transported to the West Point Treatment Plant.
2. Sometimes during large storms the tunnel storage will fill up—on average 10 to 20 times per year. When this happens, flows will undergo CSO treatment here at the Elliott West Facility. After treatment, flows will go to the Denny Regulator in Myrtle Edwards Park. They will then be discharged 500 feet offshore through an outfall that is 60 feet deep.
3. During the largest storms—on average, once a year—flows may exceed the pumping capacity of the Elliott West Facility. When this happens, excess flows will be discharged untreated, 100 feet from shore through an outfall that is 20 feet deep. Treated flows will continue to be discharged through the deeper outfall as well.

Artist's rendering of the CSO Control Facility located at 545 Elliott Avenue West.



The depth of the Mercer Street Tunnel varies from 155 feet deep near 1st Avenue N. to 38 feet deep at the West Portal at 545 Elliott Avenue West.

Two new outfalls will be installed at the Denny Regulator in Myrtle Edwards Park. One outfall is 500 feet offshore and 60 feet deep; the other is 100 feet offshore and 20 feet deep. The existing overflow at the shoreline will be removed.