

Metro/King County Wastewater Treatment: Then and Now

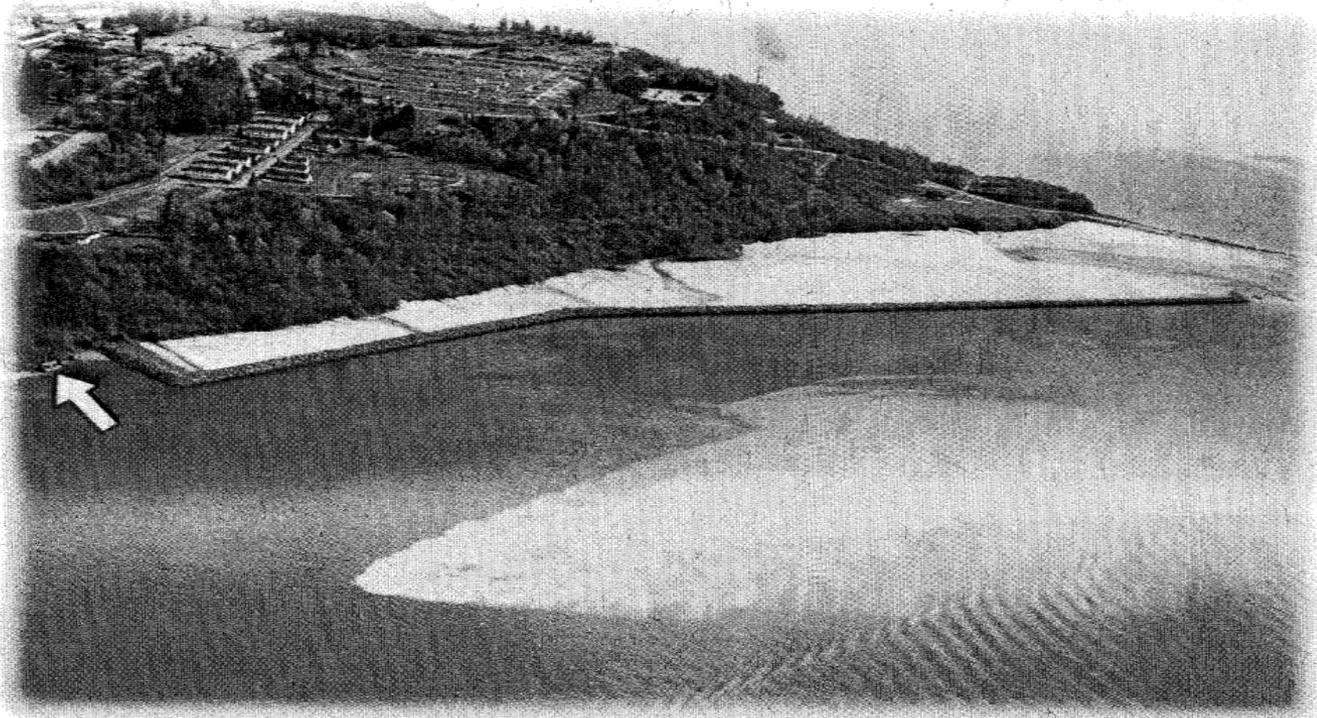
Presented to
Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement
Advisory Committee
October 23, 2019



provision in the law under which the county could do the work or which would allow them all to band together in a common effort.

At the urging of the Municipal League, Seattle's Mayor Gordon Clinton and the King County Board of Commissioners appointed a 48-member citizens group—the Metropolitan Problems Advisory Committee. With Ellis as its chair, the committee went looking for the answer.

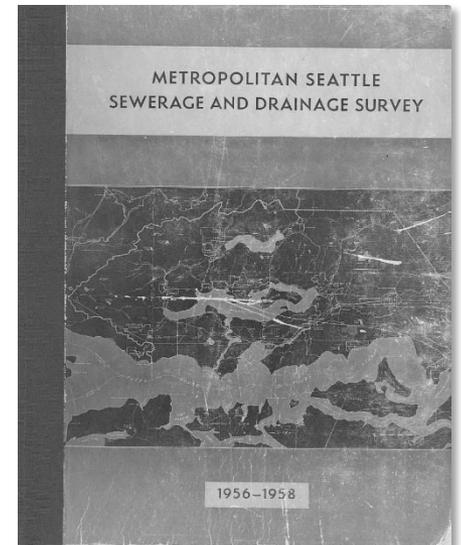
Raw sewage rising from an outfall pipe clouds the water at West Point in 1963. The pollution ended after Metro built a treatment plant at the site to replace the outfall.



Seattle Times Photo

Establishment of Metro

- * 1957 – Legislature approves enabling legislation for Metro and MWPAAC
- * March 1958 – Voters reject Metro powers for transportation, water pollution and comprehensive planning
- * September 1958 – Voters approve formation of Metro for water pollution abatement



Early days of Metro

- * Metro Council adopts comprehensive water pollution abatement plan
- * Initial sewage disposal agreement with Seattle in 1961
- * Closed 10 sewage plants discharging into Lake Washington; ended raw sewage discharges to Elliott Bay and Duwamish
- * Construction begins on 110-mile regional conveyance system and 5 treatment plants



Early Metro Projects

* South Plant

- * Eastside Interceptor 1963 - 66
- * Bellevue Pump Station 1965
- * Kirkland Pump Station 1966
- * Begin secondary treatment 1965
- * Effluent Transfer System 1987



* West Point

- * Elliott Bay Interceptor 1964 - 70
- * WP Submarine Outfall 1965
- * Primary Treatment begins 1966
- * Interbay Pumping Station 1967
- * CSO Regulator Stations 1976 - 1980
- * Secondary treatment 1995



Early Merger Efforts

- * 1990 – Federal Court rules makeup of Metro Council unconstitutional and orders revision of council selection
- * 1990 – King County and Cities meet regarding regional governance
- * November 1991 – First merger vote fails
- * 1992 – County and City delegates reach consensus on proposal, including regional committees
- * November 1992 – Voters approve merger
- * 1994 – Metro and King County merge

Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

- * One of three regional committees of the King County Council created by Charter during merger
- * Suburban Cities, City of Seattle, Sewer Districts and King County Council represented on RWQC
- * Jurisdiction over County-wide policies and plans relating to regional water quality
- * Vice-chair position must be a non-King County Councilmember

Regional Wastewater Services Plan

- * Robinswood Agreement, executed in 1998, to guide funding of future capital projects
- * RWQC adopts the Regional Wastewater Services Plan in 1999
- * Plan provides policies that govern the regional wastewater system thru 2030



Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Projects



- * Metro purchased and constructed regional CSO facilities
- * Over 90% reduction of 20 – 30 billion gallons CSO discharged annually in early 1960's
- * Federal Consent Decree mandates completion of projects by 2030

Wastewater Treatment Division today

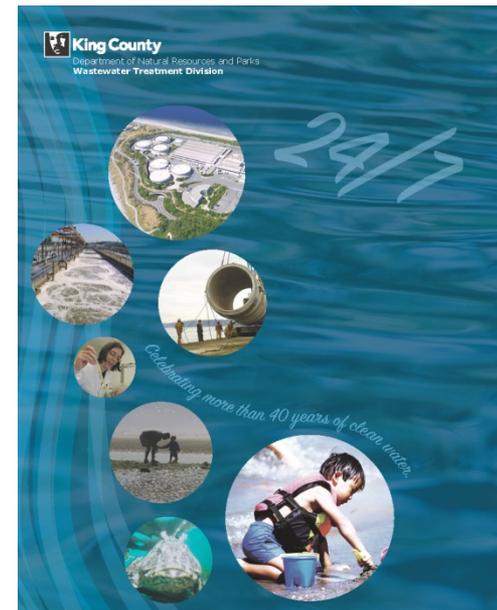
- * Serves 34 local sewer agencies
- * 424 square mile area with approximately 1.8 million residents
- * 391 miles of pipes
- * 25 regulator stations
- * 47 pump stations
- * 39 CSO outfalls



Bellevue Pump Station

WTD's Future

- * Building Capacity to Serve Growth in the Region
- * Maintaining the Region's Wastewater Treatment Assets and Investments
- * Clean Water Plan



Questions?

