
Chapter 5

Next Steps

This CSO program review reaffirms the priorities of protecting public health, the environment, and endangered species that shaped the development of the RWSP CSO control program. It also has added weight to WTD's practice of transferring as many CSO flows as possible to regional treatment plants for best available treatment.

In mid 2006, predesign will begin on the first four CSO control projects on the list—South Magnolia, Murray Avenue, Barton Street, and North Beach.¹ These projects are storage or conveyance projects that will transfer flows to regional treatment plants. The County has been awarded State Revolving Fund loans to develop facility plans for the Murray Avenue, Barton Street, and North Beach projects. At the recommendation of the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), WTD will reapply for loans for the South Magnolia project.

Improvements to the program and facilities, identified as a part of this review, have been implemented or are in progress. The hydraulic model used to predict the effectiveness of CSO control and to design CSO control projects is being updated and recalibrated as the result of discrepancies between modeled and monitoring data found during this review. The updated model, expected to be ready in 2007, will provide more accurate information on remaining control needs.

This review revealed upward cost pressures on the CSO control program. Changes in regulatory guidance may have raised regulatory targets for the CSO control program approach, requiring further exploration of new technologies and subsequent changes to design of CSO control facilities. New technologies, such as variations on high-rate sedimentation treatment processes, that offer some promise for greater cost-effectiveness will be piloted between 2006 and 2009.

When the hydraulic model is updated, projects may be resized, any necessary technology changes will be incorporated, and new cost estimates will then be developed. Some of this information, including any recommended schedule changes to address new scientific information, may not be available for the 2008 plan update; all the information should be available for discussion ahead of the next CSO control program review in 2010—and well ahead of commitments to Ecology for the CSO plan update that follows the review.

¹ The SW Alaska Street project is no longer needed; updated monitoring and modeling data indicate that this CSO is already controlled.