



King County

**Protecting Our Waters**

*Doing our part on rainy days*

## Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study now under way

### ***Project Update, December, 2013***

In September 2013, the King County Council adopted the scope of a [Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study](#) to ensure that future projects to control pollution are well-planned and timed to improve water quality.

The scientific assessment will examine water quality at relief points in the sewer system called “[combined sewer overflows](#),” or CSOs, where sewage mixed with stormwater can flow to area waterways on very rainy days. The assessment will examine local water quality concerns near King County’s CSOs in Elliott Bay, Lake Union/Ship Canal, and the Duwamish.

The assessment has several elements:

1. a review of existing data and literature
2. additional monitoring studies to fill data gaps
3. a synthesis report to pull the information all together
4. an independent Science and Technical Review team to ensure quality work
5. a transparent public process

### ***Independent Oversight***

To ensure a high quality study, an independent Science and Technical Review Team will provide an objective review of study methods and results. Review Team members will be technical experts in water quality and environmental science and engineering from throughout the west coast.

### ***Public Participation***

Input from interested parties, including residents, businesses, environmental organizations, elected officials, local sewer utilities, and technical staff, helped shaped the scope of the assessment. Briefings and meetings will continue to be scheduled at project milestones. You are invited to follow and participate in the study.

- Find out more on [the web](#)
- Join the [email list and/or make a comment](#) via the web site
- Join us at a future meeting to discuss findings
- Contact **Erika Peterson**, at 206-477-5525 or [Erika.peterson@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Erika.peterson@kingcounty.gov) with questions, suggestions, or to schedule a briefing or add your name to the list for updates.



### ***Why an assessment?***

The assessment will assist **Protecting Our Waters**, King County’s program to prevent pollution caused by excess stormwater in the sewer system on rainy days.

Between now and 2030, King County expects to invest about \$1 billion in projects to prevent these overflows. Since 1979, King County has reduced overflows by 90 percent. The last projects are required by federal and state regulations, including a federal Consent Decree, and are the most complex projects we’ve done to date.

The assessment will examine how upcoming water quality projects can be sequenced and integrated to get the most out of this investment.