

2015 Plan to Protect Seattle’s Waterways

Financial Impacts Summary

1/15/2015

Background

The City of Seattle created two alternatives for complying with the Consent Decree requirement to implement its Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) reduction program. The first is the Long Term Control Plan Alternative, which would implement a comprehensive program by 2025 to control overflows at all of the City’s 86 CSO outfalls. The Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) would construct the Shared West Ship Canal Tunnel in partnership with King County and CSO control using tanks and pipes associated with specific CSO outfalls by 2025. The Integrated Plan Alternative would implement the CSO control measures contained in the LTCP and three stormwater treatment projects. Six relatively small CSO control projects would be delayed up to five years while the stormwater projects are implemented. The Integrated Plan alternative leads to great improvement in water quality, and represents a more comprehensive approach to water quality management.

Financial Impact of Implementing the Consent Decree Requirements

The budget estimate for completing SPU’s CSO Reduction Program by 2030 ranges from \$182 million to \$627 million (*2010 CSO Reduction Plan Amendment, p. 5-18*). For purposes of estimating the financial impact of the Consent Decree, SPU has conservatively assumed remaining Long Term Control Plan program expenditures will be approximately \$500 million.

Rate Impact of Implementing the Consent Decree Requirements

Based on the planning level cost estimates prepared and the implementation schedule for the projects, Long Term Control Plan and Integrated Plan, the City analyzed how the recommended alternative may affect monthly City wastewater and drainage rates between 2015 and 2045. The table below shows the total monthly estimated rates (baseline and recommended alternative) between 2015 and 2045.

Monthly Wastewater and Drainage Rate Estimate for the Integrated Plan							
LTCP Option	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045
Total Baseline Rate	\$80.31	\$110.64	\$127.80	\$140.46	\$156.68	\$174.44	\$193.88
Integrated Plan (West Ship Canal Tunnel With Integrated Plan)	\$81.49	\$115.48	\$135.43	\$147.04	\$163.35	\$181.31	\$200.99