

# Combined Sewers in Washington State, USA

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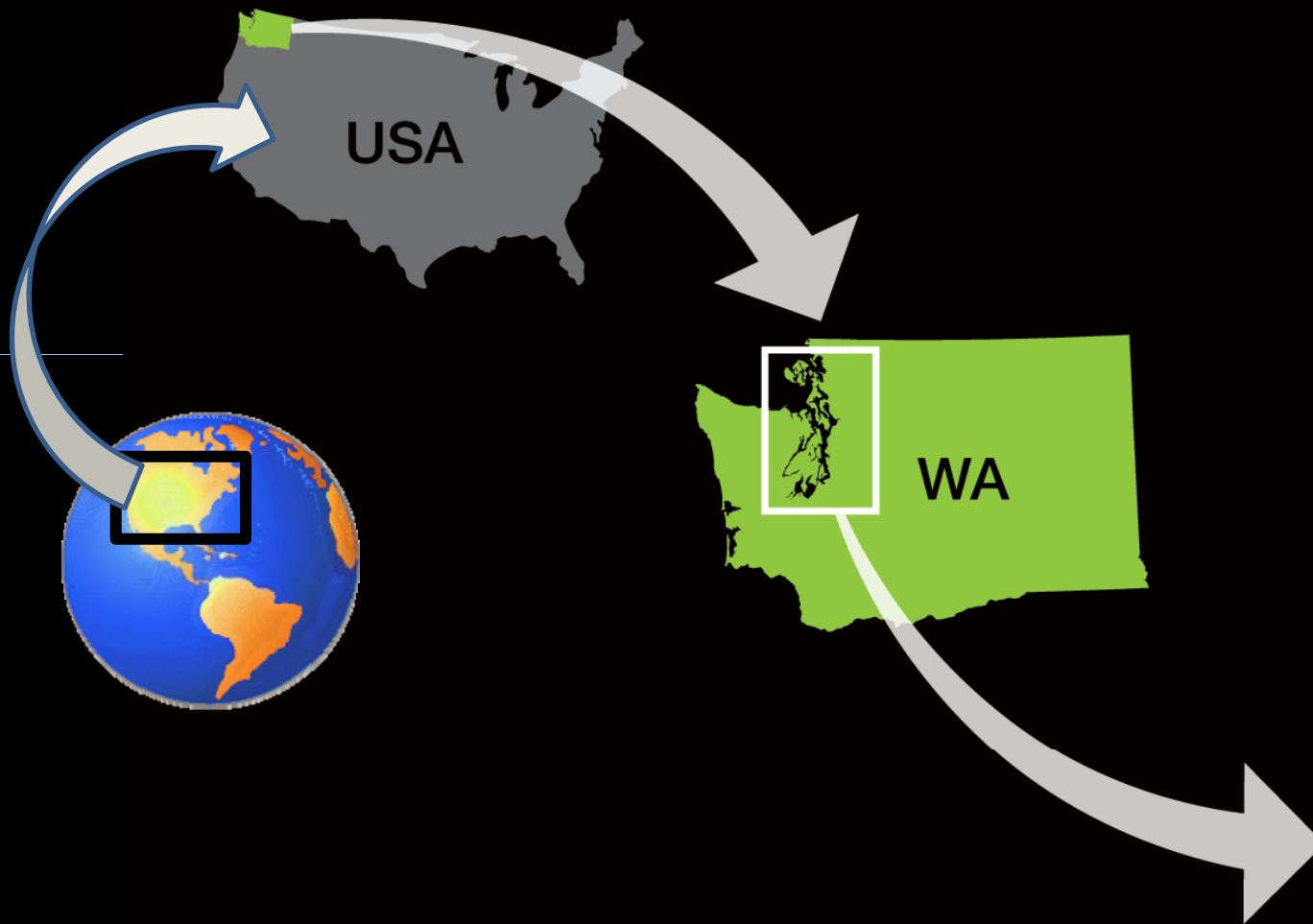
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**Puget Sound**

**King County  
Wastewater  
Service Area**

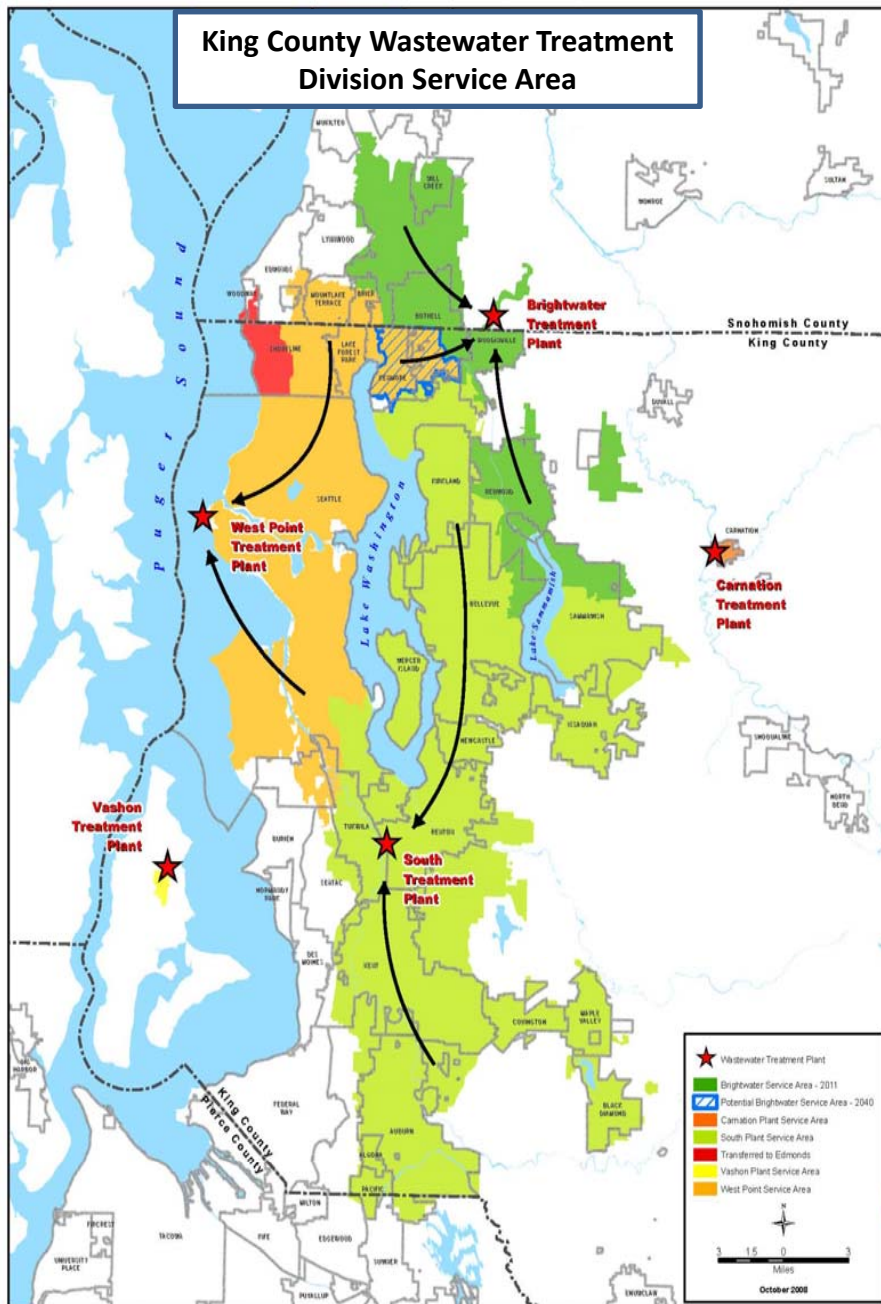
**SEATTLE**



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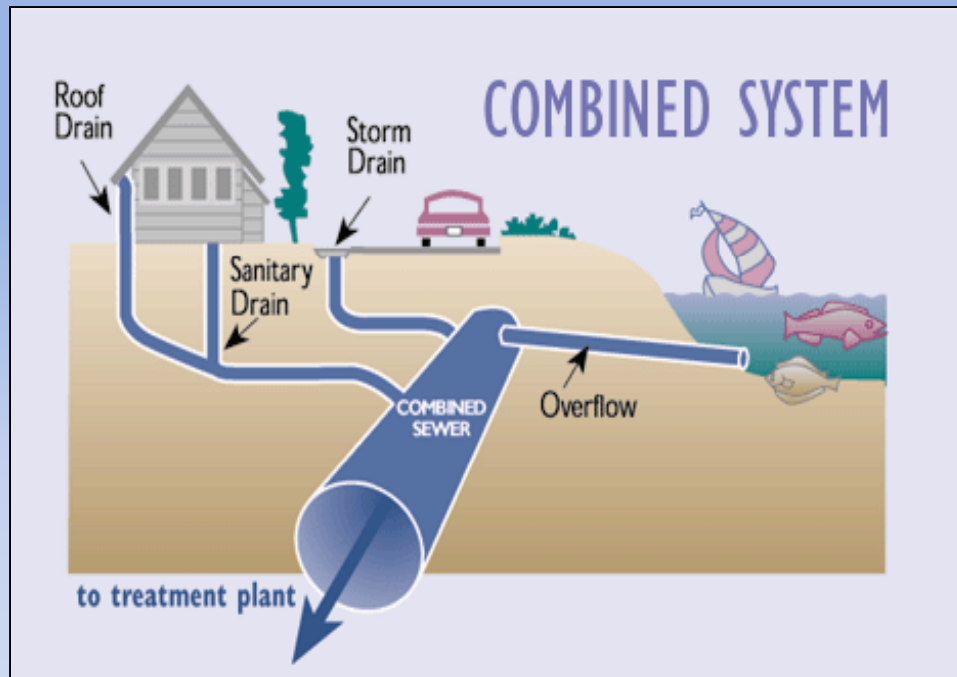




# Regional Service

- 1.5 Million customers
- 600 employees
- 350 miles (540 km) conveyance pipelines
- 5 treatment plants
- 43 pumping, 19 regulator stations
- Resources created:
  - Fertilizer (biosolids)
  - Energy (biogas)
  - Reclaimed water
- Flows:
  - 220 MGD (0.8 Mm<sup>3</sup>/d) base flow to
  - 840 MGD peak flow (3.2 Mm<sup>3</sup>/d)

# What are Combined Sewer Overflows?

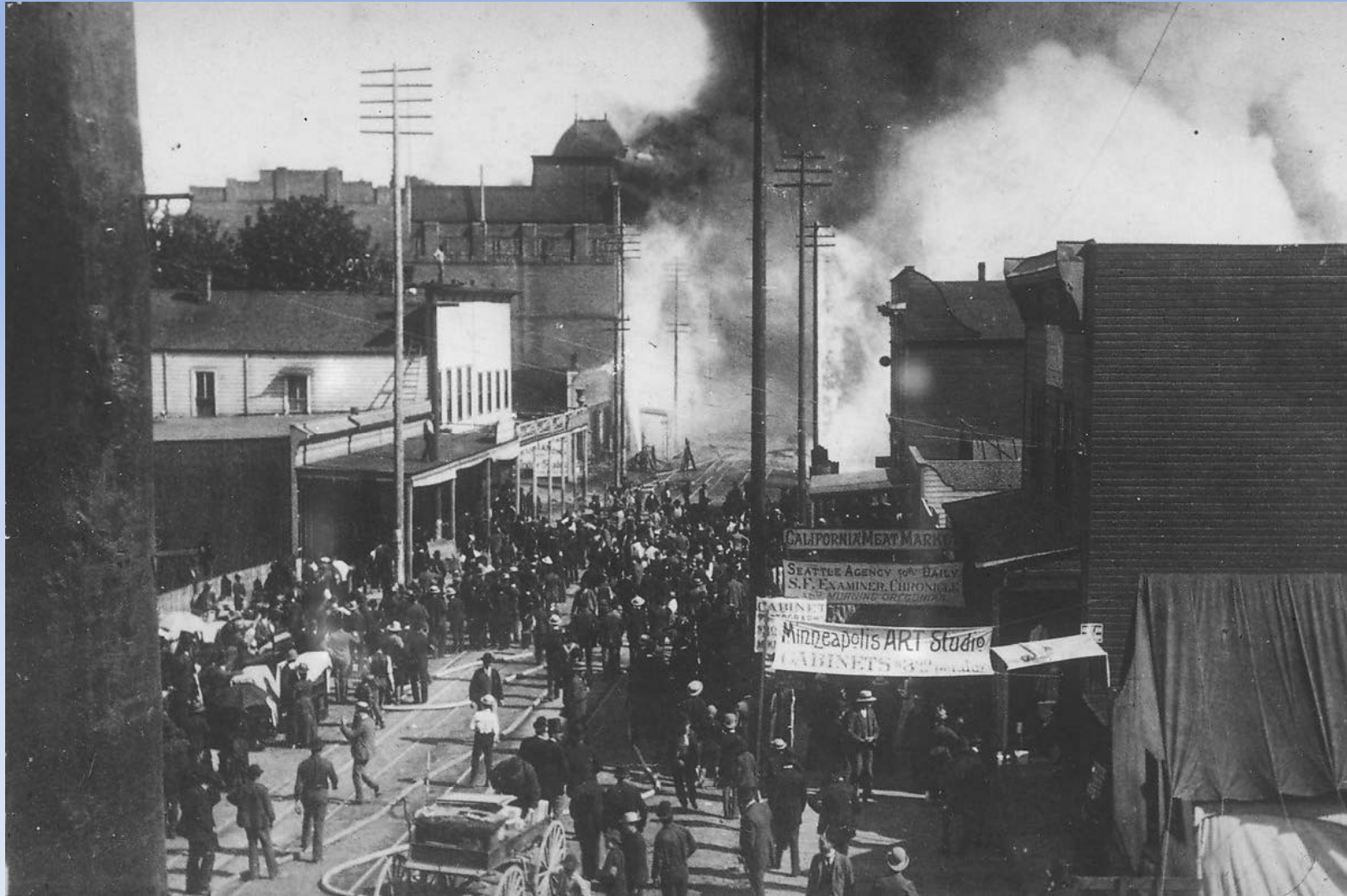


- In older cities, sewage and stormwater flow in the same combined sewer pipe
- Only Seattle has a combined system in the County's service area
- CSOs are designed relief points that allow untreated discharges during heavy rains

# Separate vs Combined

- Late 1800's
  - Seattle's population grew from 300 – 5,000
  - Sanitation was a concern; public sewer system debated and started in 1885
  - Great Seattle Fire 1889
    - Quickly rebuild the city
    - Separated system lacked enough capacity
    - Use combined sewers to convey sanitary & stormwater

# Great Seattle Fire 1889





# Separate vs Combined

- 1890 Seattle Chartered as a City and Washington becomes a State
- 1891 construction began on combined sewer system
- 1891 – 1900  
*45.5 miles (73.2 Km) of pipe constructed*





# Overloaded Sewers



1927 – City engineers argued for separated sewer systems

1949 – Water conditions near popular beach areas not satisfactory

1955 - Improvements to sewer system and charges a monthly rate (\$1.00/month)

1958 - Voters approve taxes for metropolitan system

1967 - Over 20 small treatment plants and multiple direct discharge pipes replaced

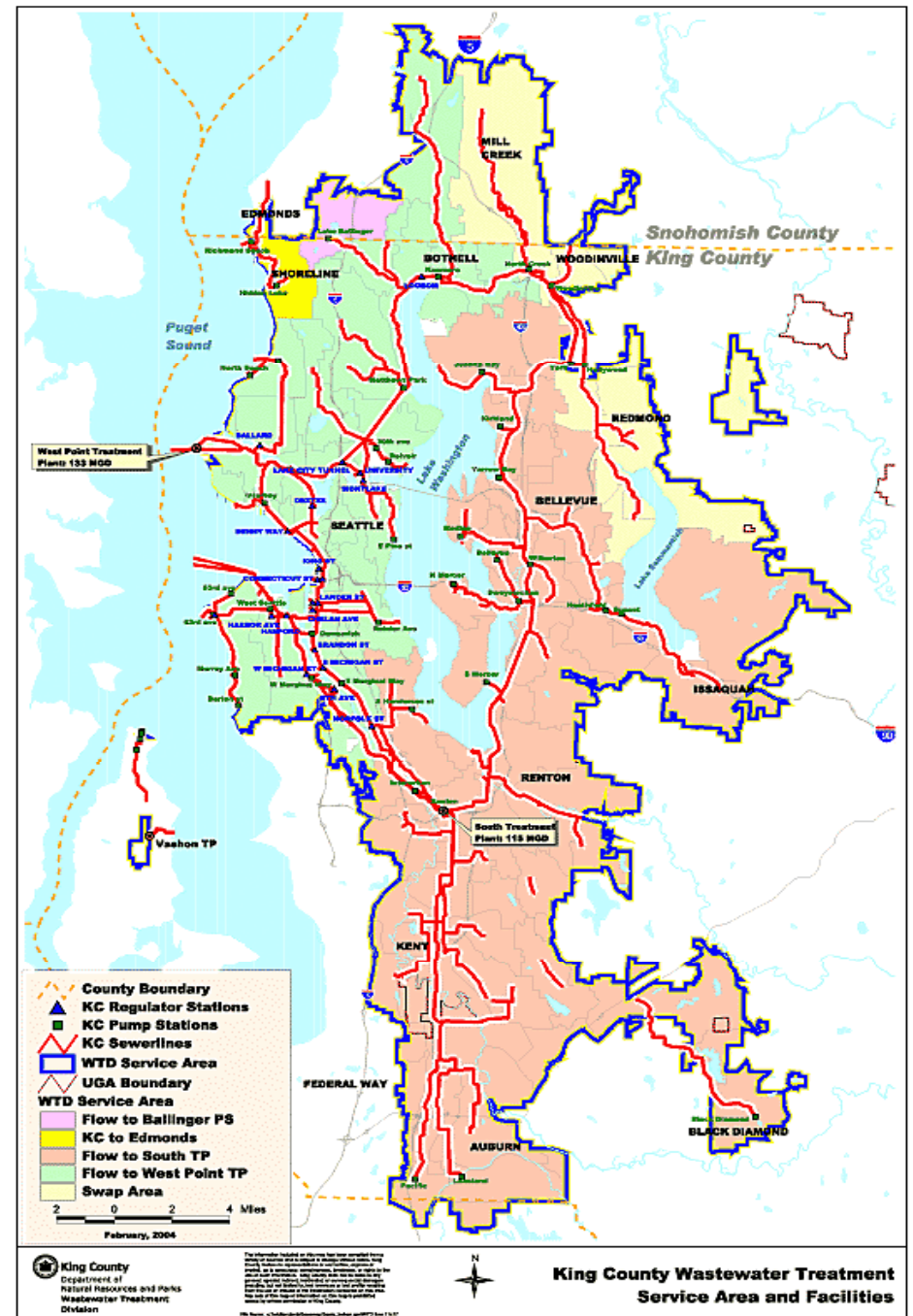
# Regional Wastewater Management System

- Clean up Puget Sound and Lake Washington
- Close 29 smaller treatment plants
- Regional network of pipes to convey flow to regional treatment plants



# Provide wholesale wastewater service to 34 local agencies

- **collects** the water in our interceptors
- **conveys** the wastewater to plants for treatment and discharge to Puget Sound
- **recycles** by-products





# Our Treatment Plants Today



**West Point 1966/1995**



**Brightwater  
2011**



**South Plant 1966/1987**



**Vashon**

**Carnation**



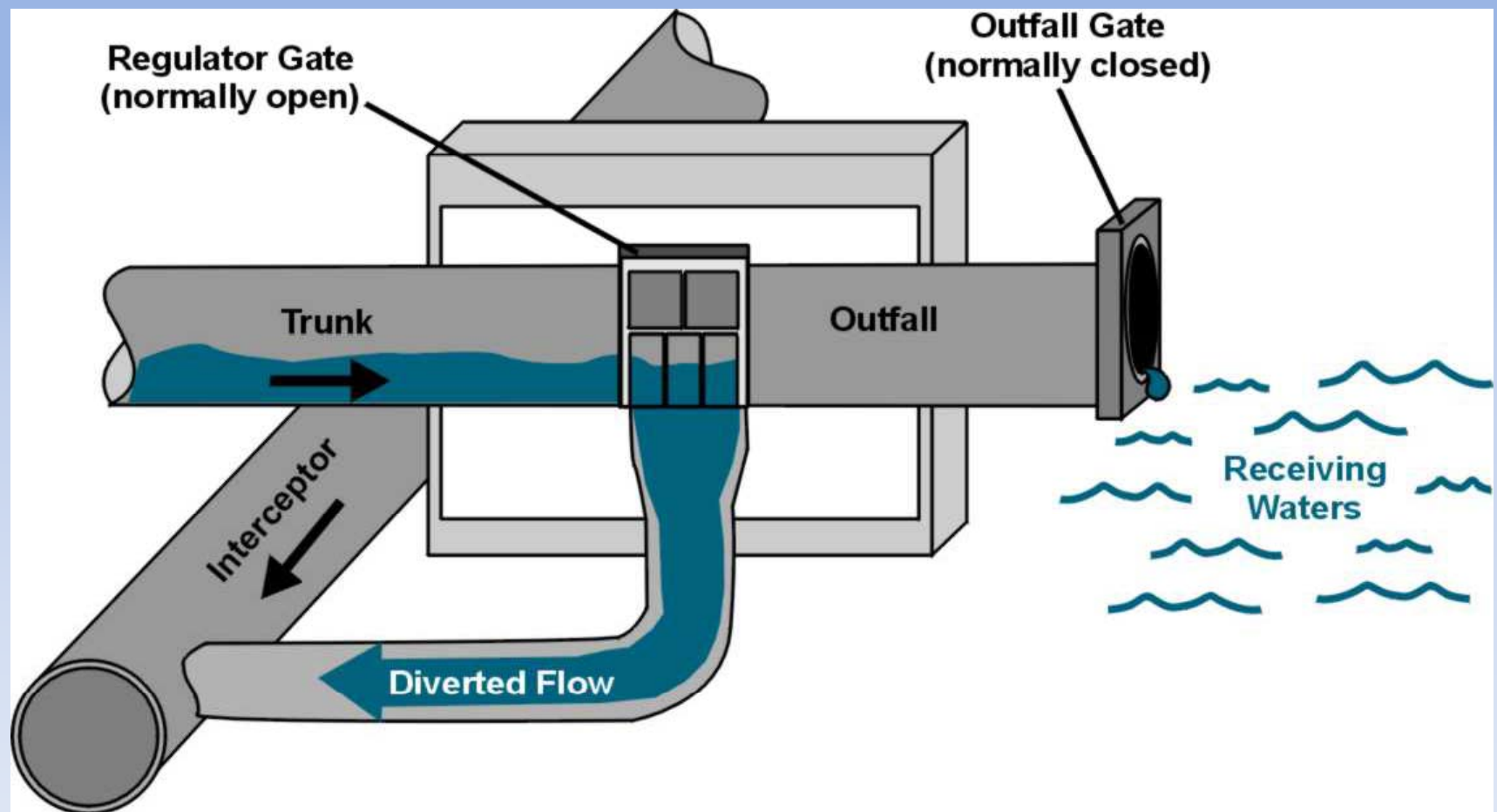


# Region Made Decisions on Sizing the New System

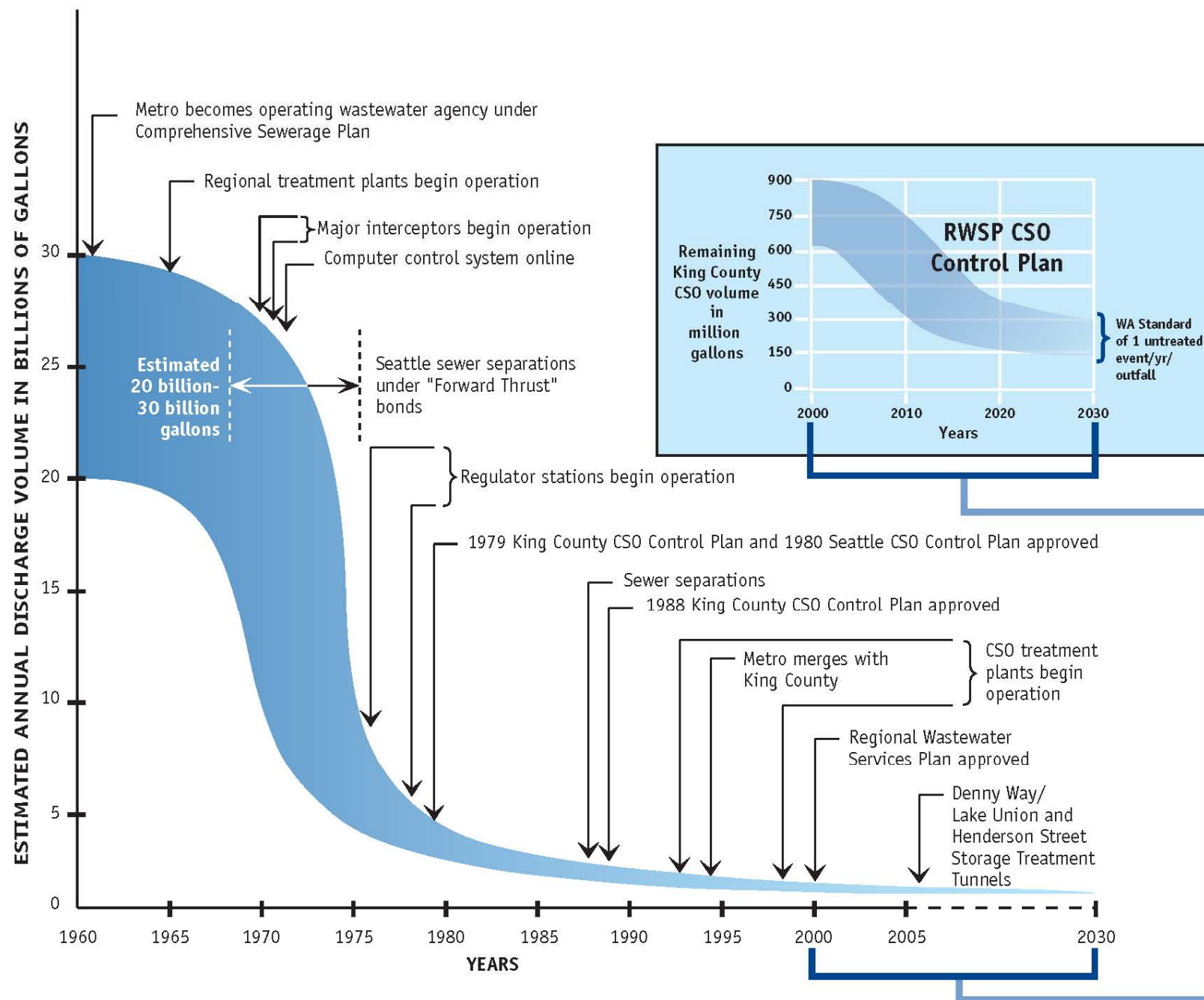


- Sizing pipes to manage wastewater and stormwater is complex
- Design to capture major flow volumes while preventing back-ups into homes and streets
- Must meet standards for operations

# Typical Constructed CSO (Regulator Station)







Produced by: DNR/IT Services, Web Development/Visual Communications Group  
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# Cost Control Measures

- Combined projects
- Analyze technologies to reduce size of treatment facilities
- Green Stormwater Infrastructure to reduce project size and cost - not yet counted
- Working closely with Seattle
- Identify less costly properties

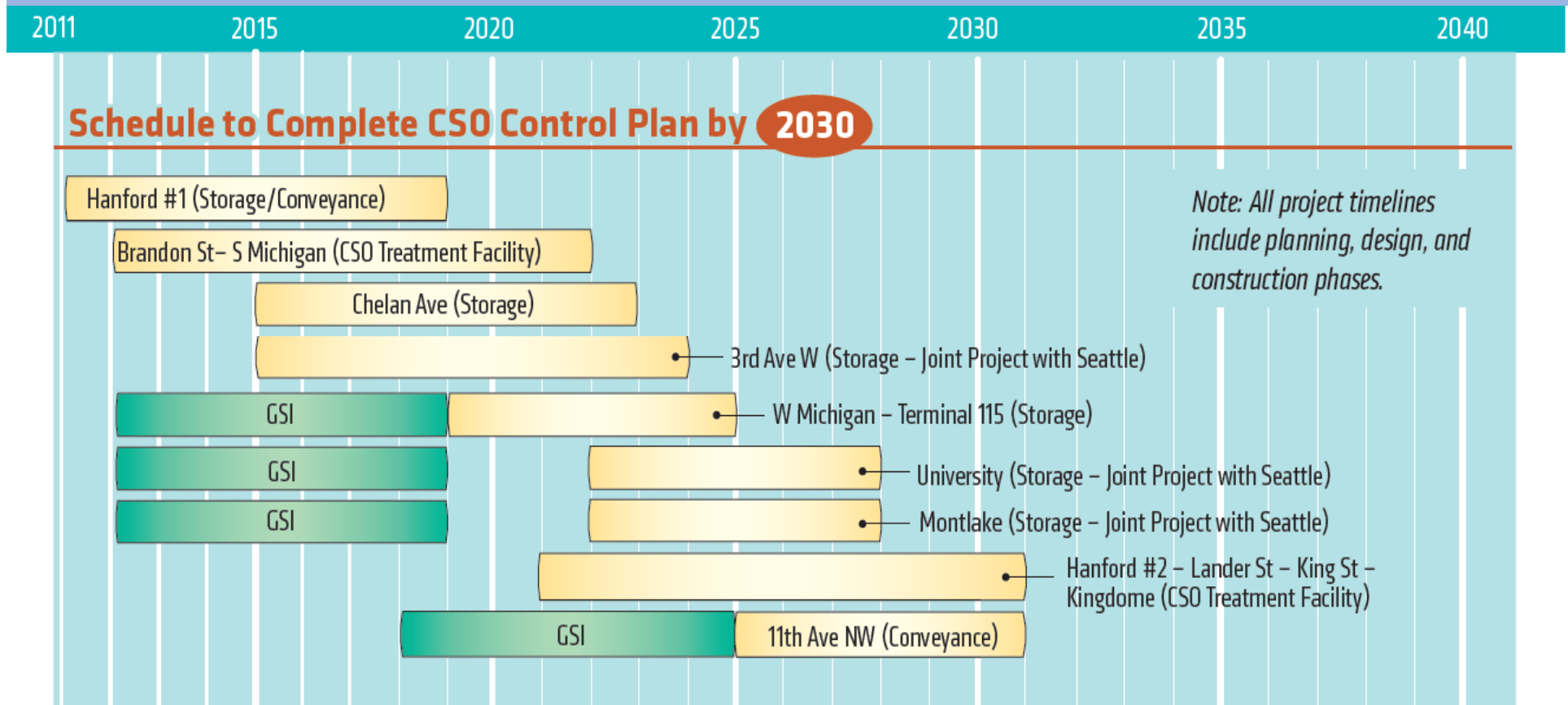
# Public Involvement is Key

- Public trust and acceptance are essential to the conveyance and treatment of wastewater.
- Public involvement professionals educate the public and work to create trust and support.
- Public involvement builds support for new programs, avoids entrenched opposition and supports policy decisions.
- It can help projects stay on time and within budget.

# Prioritization of Projects - Science

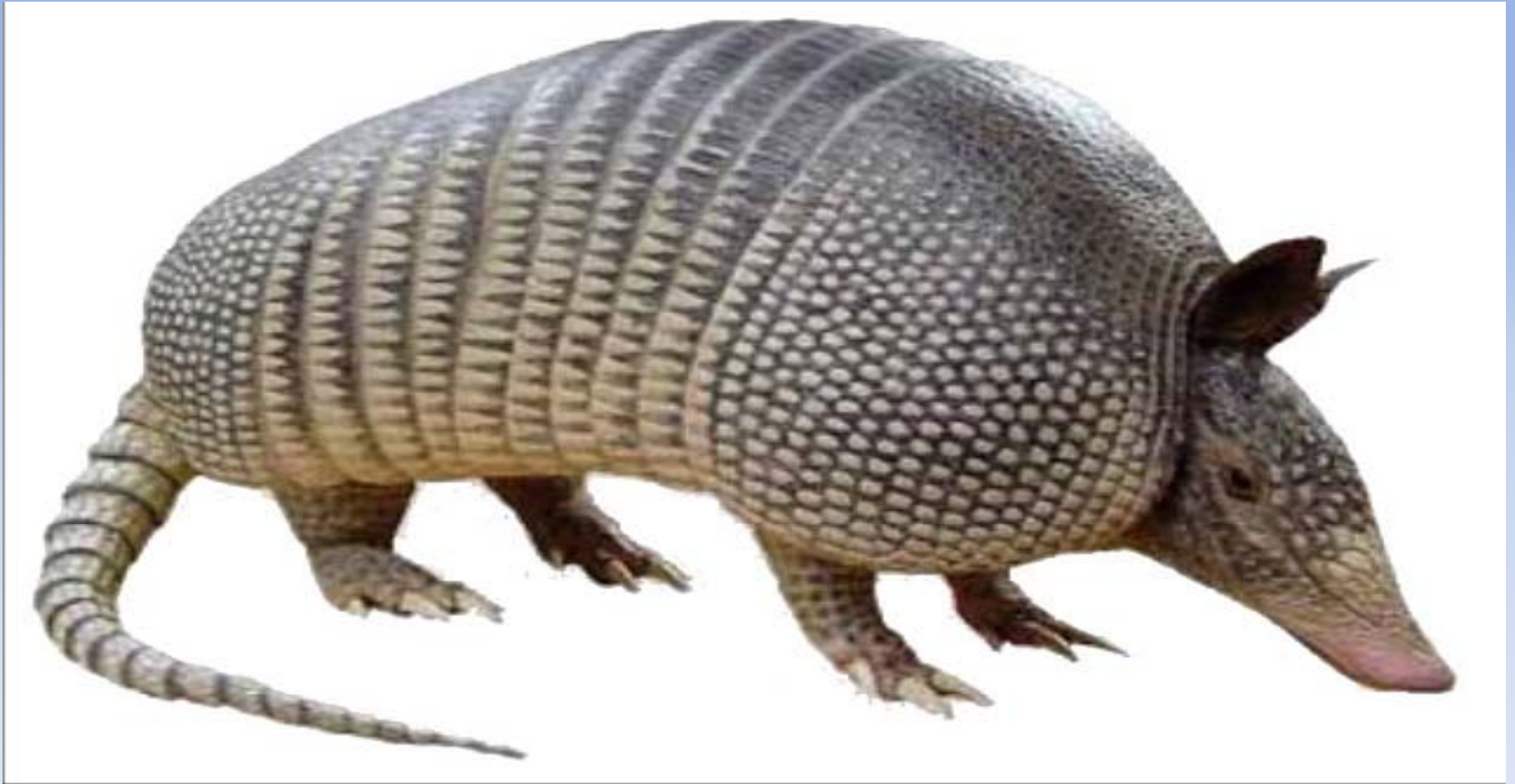
Environmental Priority	CSO Control Area Priority Status			
	Duwamish River/ Elliott Bay Priority	Lake Washington Ship Canal Priority	Montlake Cut Priority	Same Impact
<b>Public Health</b>				
Pathogens				✓
Chemicals	☑			
<b>Environment</b>				
Water Quality				✓
Sediment Quality	☑			
<b>Threatened and Endangered Species</b>	☑			
<b>Climate Change</b>				✓

# Implementation Schedule

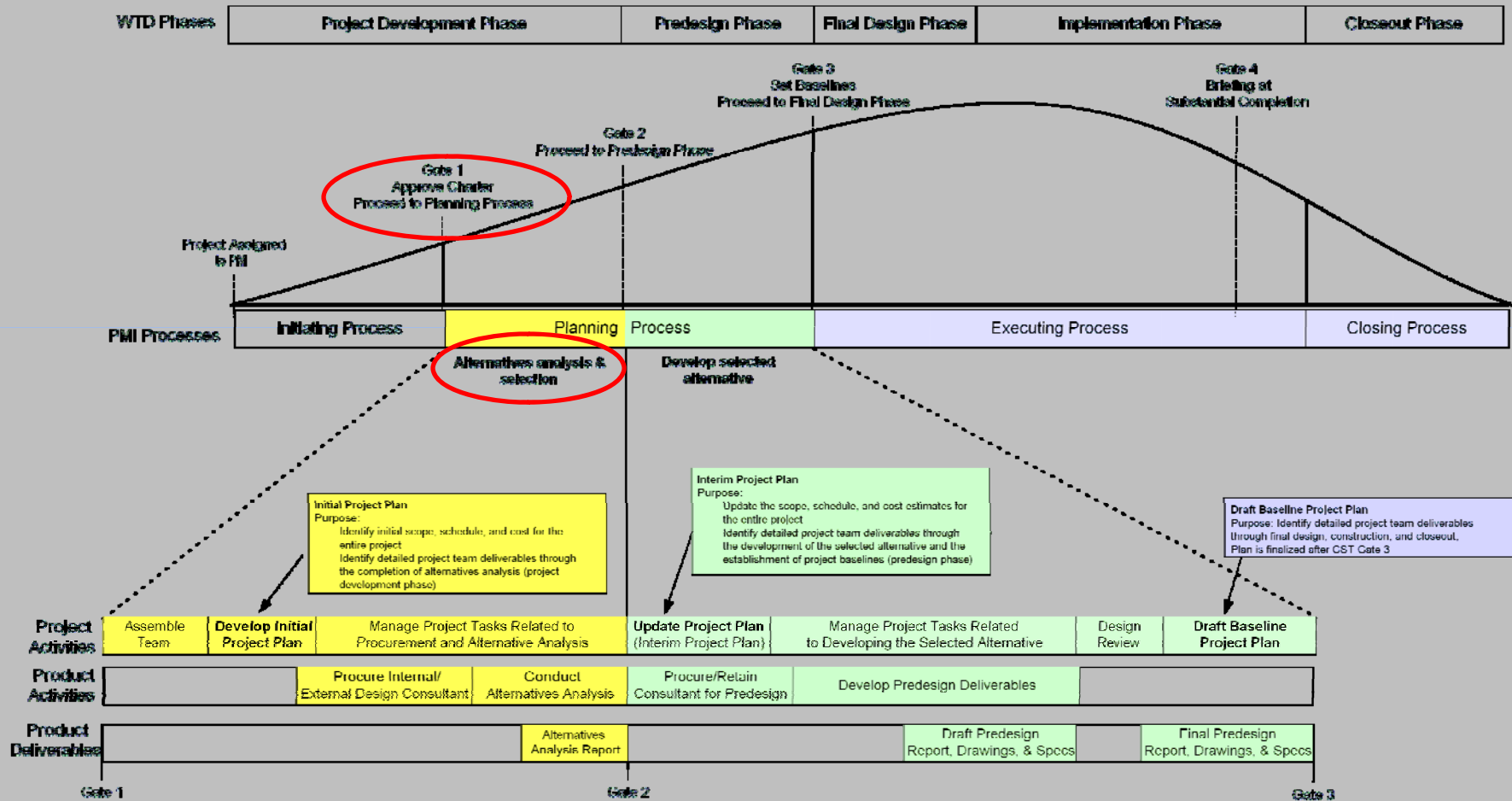




# WTD “Armado”: Framework for Project Management



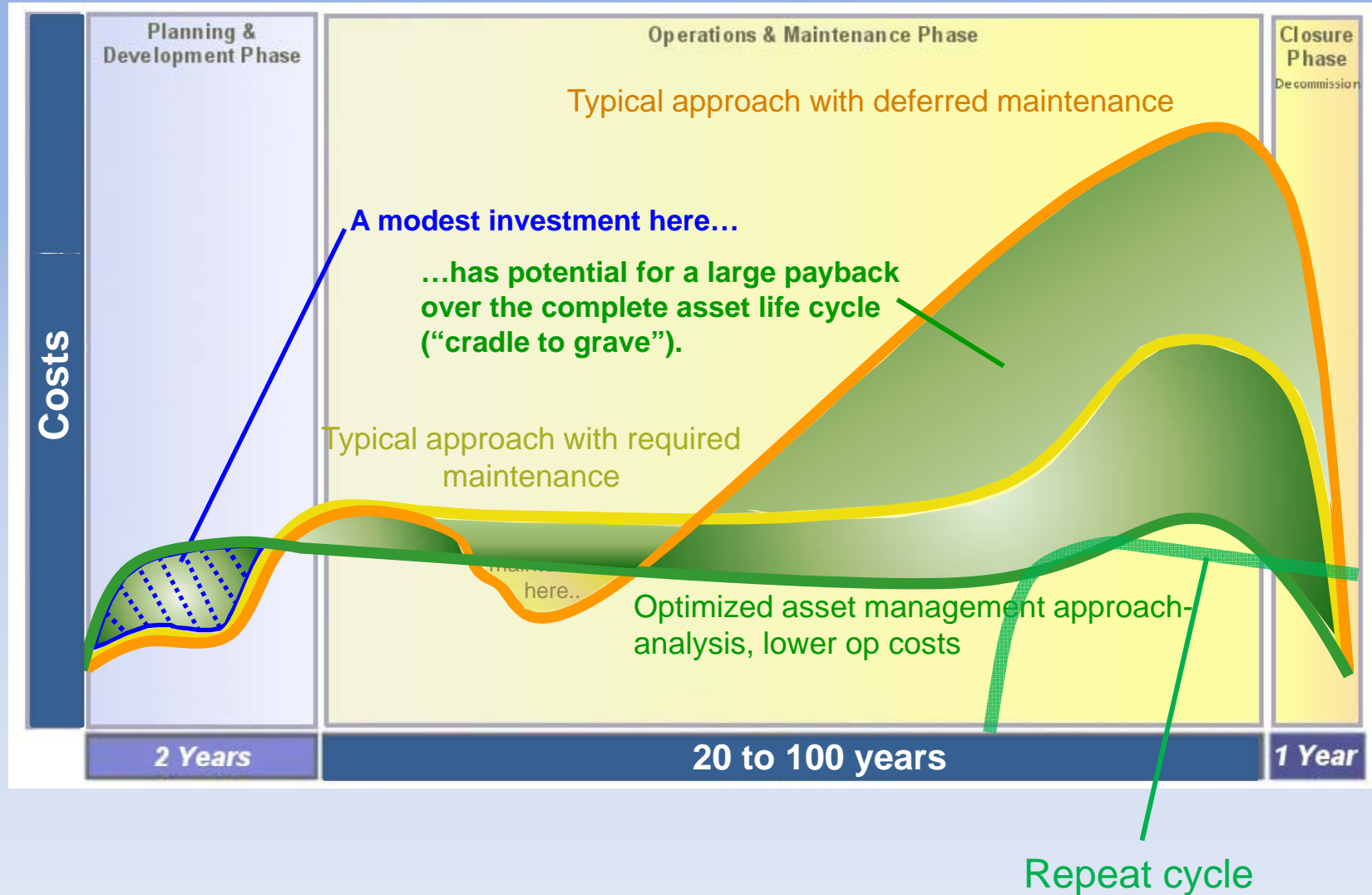
## Proposed WTD Planning Process



# Asset management is essential for sustainability

- understand the **full economic cost** of service.
- understand the long-term capital funding needs (20 to 100 years)
- institute pricing and financing strategies that ensure sustainability
- monitor the condition and performance of assets.
- Select the assets based on performance, **maintainability, operability**, and the customers **ability to pay**.

# Asset Management Life Cycle Costs





# King County WTD | Energy & GHG Emissions (2012)

