

## *Investing in Puget Sound's health and the Region's future*

February 2022



### **Project Background**

Seattle Public Utilities and King County Wastewater Treatment Division are building an underground storage tunnel to significantly reduce the amount of polluted stormwater and sewage that flows into the Lake Washington Ship Canal, Salmon Bay, and Lake Union from our sewer system during storms.

The tunnel is 2.7-miles long, running from Ballard to Wallingford, and approximately 18-ft, 10-in diameter wide. It will temporarily hold more than 29 million gallons of sewage and stormwater during heavy rains. When the storm passes, the stored sewage and stormwater will be sent to King County's West Point Treatment Plant.

### **Our Commitment to the Environment**

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) are committed to building and operating facilities that benefit our communities and the environment. We are building infrastructure to keep polluted water and sewage out of our waterways using sustainable methods, materials, and equipment.

Check out what our team is doing to serve the community and the environment through this project:

#### **Community**

We are striving to work with communities where we'll be doing construction and to leave neighborhoods safer and more welcoming. As part of this work, we'll be:

- Sharing information before impacts happen whenever possible through email updates, on our website, and in conversations with residents, businesses, and community groups.
- Proactively replacing and/or repairing aging infrastructure in the project area when possible to reduce future construction impacts to the community.

- Translating materials for non-English speakers.
- Upgrading intersections in the project area to make them more accessible and pedestrian friendly.
- Incorporating temporary and permanent public art by local artists in our project areas.
- Working with affected tribes to minimize impacts to tribal fishing.

#### **Environment**

Both SPU and King County WTD are committed to protecting public health and the environment. This project will help by minimizing polluted sewer and stormwater from getting into the Ship Canal. But we're going even further by:

- Using mostly locally sourced materials, including asphalt, aggregate, concrete, tunnel segments, wood panels, and general supplies.
- Using native vegetation and pollinator plants to enhance biodiversity and soil health.
- Removing contaminated soil and groundwater during construction.
- Using recycled materials and energy-efficient equipment.
- Replacing the 24th Ave pier in Ballard in a way that will reduce water contamination and improve habitat for our water-loving plants and animals.



## Going Beyond Standard Practices



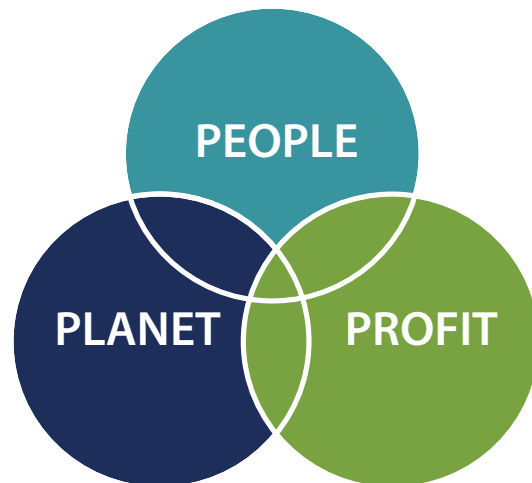
Institute for  
Sustainable  
Infrastructure

The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's Envision Rating System recognizes sustainable performance of projects. Envision helps teams think through

decisions, such as what materials to use or what to do with removed dirt, with sustainability as a central criterion. The project received the Envision Platinum award in 2021 – the highest level of recognition.

Envision recognizes projects that go beyond current standard practices and recognizes significant contributions to sustainability. It has 60 criteria (also called credits) arranged in five categories:

- **Quality of Life** – including things like improving public safety, enhancing public spaces, and developing the local workforce.
- **Leadership** – including things like providing opportunities for community involvement and extending the life of the infrastructure.
- **Resource Allocation** – including using recyclable and regional materials.
- **Natural World** – including managing stormwater, controlling invasive species, and restoring disturbed soils.
- **Climate and Risk** – including reducing emissions and planning for climate change.



*Envision uses the “triple-bottom line” to think about non-monetary impacts to communities and the environment*

Envision also gets teams to consider the “triple bottom line” framework of people in our communities, our planet and environment, and profit for our local economy. Sustainable practices are documented and rated for all phases of the project including planning, design, construction, and long-term operations. This helps agencies implement projects that reduce long-term operations costs and provide multiple benefits to the communities they serve by taking the entire life cycle of the things we build into account. Envision was helpful in getting our team to ask questions in a new way and think about how our decisions impact the sustainability of the project.



## Contact

**For questions or comments about this project:**

**Call:** 206-701-0233

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**Website:** [spushipcanal.participate.online](http://spushipcanal.participate.online)

For interpretation services please call **206-386-9778**

如需要口譯服務 請撥電話號碼

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