



SEWAGE FREE STREETS AND RIVERS

Your Waterways, Your Neighborhood, Your Money, Your Voice

The City of Elizabeth and the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties Long Term Control Plan Fact Sheet

What is at Stake

When it rains in Elizabeth, the combined sewer system overflows into nearby waterways and localized flooding can have a combination of sewage and stormwater. This is known as a combined sewer overflow (CSO). The Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties is the sewer treatment plan that is responsible for serving the City of Elizabeth. The City of Elizabeth and the Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties, two of 25 CSO permittees, have submitted a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) proposing large water infrastructure projects to reduce and/or eliminate CSOs. As of October 2020, the plans are undergoing review by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and will be finalized in 2021.

Each of the selected options will cost millions of dollars and impact neighborhoods for decades. Please use this fact sheet to assist in developing comments to submit to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection.

The Basics

Annual CSO Volume by Receiving Water Body

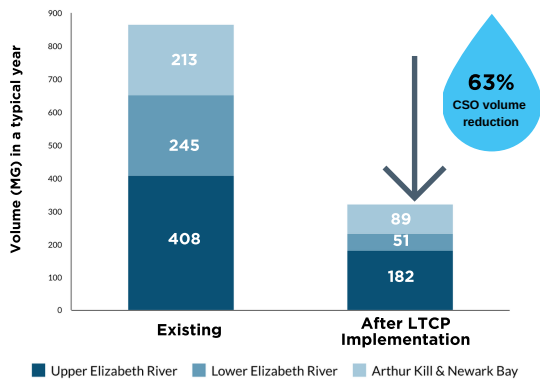


Figure 1. Annual CSO volume (million gallons) by receiving water body. In a typical year under existing conditions, the total overflow volume is 866 million gallons. The anticipated overflow volume after LTCP implementation is 322 million gallons, representing a volume reduction of 63%. Refer to Table 1 in the appendix for totals in table form.

Joint Meeting of Essex and Union Counties and Elizabeth Projects by Category and Cost

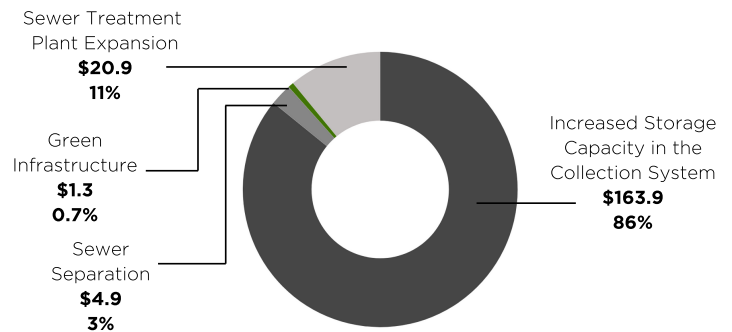
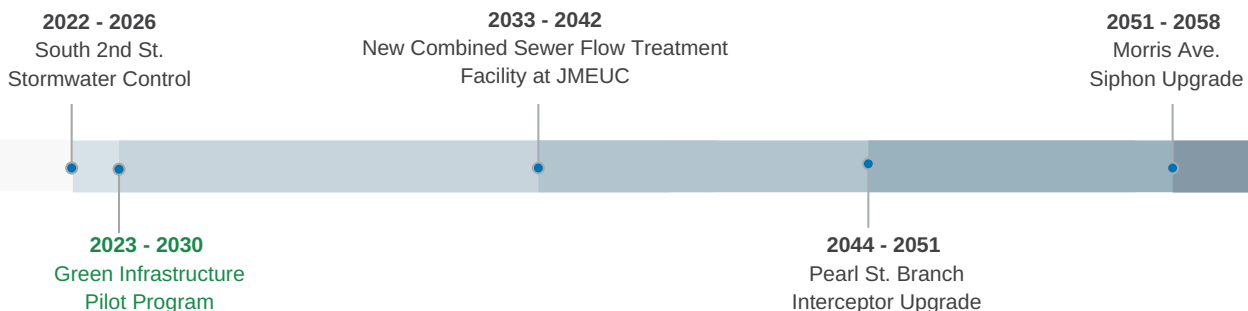


Figure 2. JMEUC/Elizabeth projects, by category and capital costs, with relative percentages by cost (\$ million). Collectively, this plan will cost \$190.9 million. Refer to Table 2 in the appendix for totals in table form.

Project Timeline





Green Infrastructure

The plan proposed a green infrastructure (GI) pilot program to reduce runoff volumes, peak flows, and pollutant loads. GI is not being relied on in the plan to reach the CSO LTCP volume reduction targets.



Financing

The plan is being funded by a proposed 3.5% rate increase per year over the first 30 years, bonds, and grants and loans from the NJ Infrastructure Bank. The City of Elizabeth may investigate creation of stormwater utility.



Public Participation

According to the report, the public participation process included Supplemental CSO Team meetings, public meetings, presentations to the city council, regional and watershed based partnerships, community organization and school events, flyers, posters, handouts, and news releases and media coverage.



Environmental Justice Considerations

Siting of stormwater control projects were selected based on vulnerability to flooding and not other factors. Proposed GI locations for the pilot program will be selected based on suitable site conditions, considerations will be taken to ensure that the sites are distributed throughout the city equitably.



Climate Change Considerations

The report states that projects provide an opportunity to convey higher flows due to climate change. Changes in precipitation and sea level rise will be considered throughout the implementation of projects to reduce sewage overflows and will be modified to consider these impacts.



How to Submit Comments

- Download and Review Long Term Control Plans at <https://www.nj.gov/dep/dwq/cso-ltcpsubmittals.htm>
- Comments on the LTCPs can be submitted to these NJDEP CSO Team Leaders.
Copy Susan Rosenwinkel
Susan.Rosenwinkel@dep.nj.gov, bureau chief of surface water permitting at NJDEP, and the relevant permittee contact.
- NJDEP will review comments through January 31, 2021.
- After submitting comments to NJDEP and your CSO permit holder, make sure to share your comments with your local officials, environmental commission, and planning/zoning boards.



Additional Information

- [City of Elizabeth CSO webpage](#)
- Elizabeth CSO contact: City of Elizabeth Engineer Daniel Loomis, dloomis@elizabethnj.org
- [Long Term Control Plan submittals](#)
- [Jersey Water Works CSO Review page](#)

For more information, visit <https://sewagefreenj.org>

Appendix

Table 1. JMEUC/Elizabeth LTCP Basics - Outfalls, Overflows, and Total Costs

Outfalls	29
Annual overflow volume — existing conditions	866 MG
Annual overflow volume — after implementation	322 MG
Percent overflow volume reduction	63%
Percent capture after implementation, as reported in the plan (min. of 85% required)	¹ 85.1% ² 92.9%
Project costs	\$190.9 million

MG = million gallons

1 = Elizabeth only

2 = Full JMEUC system

Table 2. JMEUC/Elizabeth LTCP Project Costs by Category

Project Category	Capital Cost (\$ million)
Increased Storage Capacity in the Collection System	163.9
Sewer Separation	4.9
Green Infrastructure	1.3
Sewer Treatment Plant Expansion	20.9
Total	190.9

Table 3. JMEUC/Elizabeth LTCP Partial Implementation Schedule

Project	Capital Cost (\$ million)	Start Year	End Year
South Second Street Stormwater Control	2.8	2022	2026
Green Infrastructure Pilot Program	1.3	2023	2030
New Combined Sewer Flow Treatment Facility at JMEUC	20.9	2033	2042
Pearl Street Branch Interceptor Upgrade	5.5	2044	2051
Morris Avenue Siphon Upgrade	2.1	2051	2058
Total	--	37 years	

*This is a sample of the projects, including the first and last, chronologically.

Please refer to the [LTCP](#) (pg. 9-3 / pg. 176 out of 198) to see the full list of 22 projects.