SEWAGE FREE STREETS AND RIVERS

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Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority Long Term Control Plan Fact Sheet

What is at Stake

When it rains in Jersey City, 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 Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA), one of 25 CSO permittees, has submitted a Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) proposing large water infrastructure projects to reduce and/or eliminate CSOs. As of October 2020, the plan is under review by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) and will be finalized in 2021.

Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission (PVSC) is the sewer treatment plant that treats the combination of sewage and stormwater from Jersey City along with seven other communities with combined sewer systems in the region. Most of these communities have agreed to work on a regional Long Term Control Plan. They have six additional months to finalize the financing of the regional plan, but if they can not come up with an agreement they will revert to municipal-only plans. Many of the projects in the regional and municipal plans will remain the same. This fact sheet reflects the projects that would only be in a regional plan, the projects that would be the same in a regional and municipal plan, and the municipal-only projects. The financing for the regional plan has not been decided, so the financing options below reflect the cost of a municipal-only plan.

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 in Jersey City

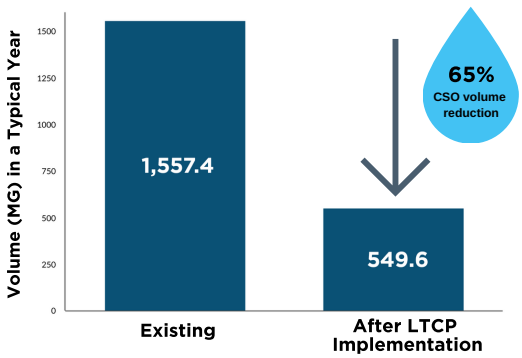


Figure 1. Annual CSO volume (million gallons) in Jersey City. In a typical year under existing conditions, Jersey City has 1,557 million gallons of overflow. The anticipated overflow volume after LTCP implementation is 550 million gallons, representing a volume reduction of 65%.

Jersey City Projects by Capital Cost

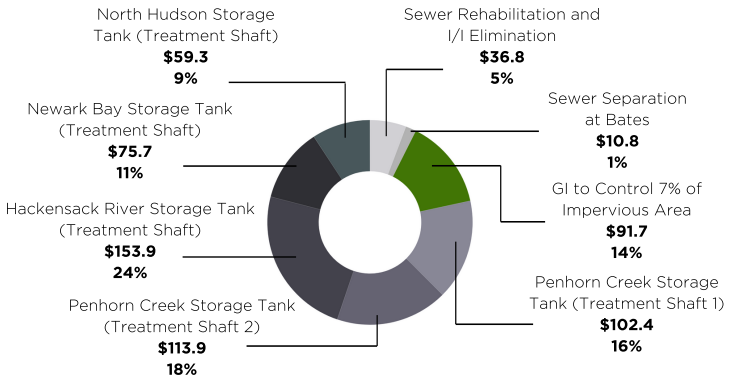
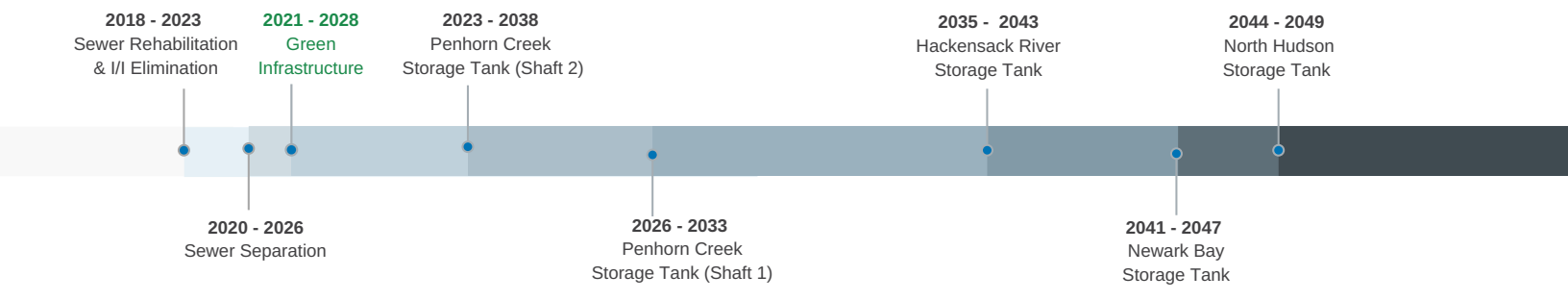


Figure 2. Jersey City plan projects by capital cost ($ million), with relative percentages by cost. Collectively, this municipal plan would cost $644.5 million. Considering present worth costs, which include capital costs, land costs, and O&M costs over a 20-year period or life of the project, this plan will cost $671.8 million. Note that these costs are based on the individual municipal plan, as opposed to the PVSC regional plan. Refer to Table 2 in the appendix for a full list of projects and associated costs.

Project Timeline



Green Infrastructure (GI)

The plan proposes to use green infrastructure (GI) to manage 7% of runoff from hard surfaces. These projects would be implemented within the first seven years of the plan.

Financing

The plans would be funded through rate increases, bonds, and loans. An extended implementation schedule of 30 years was proposed to ease the burden on Jersey City residents, especially for the 12.4% of households that make less than $25,000 per year.

Public Participation

Five public meetings were held in Jersey City on the Development and Evaluation of Alternatives Report by the JCMUA and Arcadis, the consulting firm working on the plan. The JCMUA participated in the regional Supplemental CSO Team meetings. The report notes that GI was one of the most requested CSO abatement measures for this LTCP by several attendees of the Supplemental CSO Team and community public meetings during 2018 and 2019.

Environmental Justice Considerations

Environmental justice is not mentioned in the plan.

Climate Change Considerations

Precipitation: Rainfall data is used in the evaluation of alternatives to CSOs. Resiliency is also evaluated by reviewing high tide data from 1938 to 2011, in addition to the rainfall and sea level rise data evaluated in the evaluation of alternatives report.

Sea Level Rise: High tide data from 1938 to 2011 and analyses of 100 years of tidal data are used in the evaluation of alternatives.

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

- JCMUA LTCP website
- Jersey City CSO contact: JCMUA Chief Engineer Richard Haytas, r.haytas@jcmua.com
- Long Term Control Plan submittals
- Jersey Water Works CSO Review page

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

Sewage-Free Streets and Rivers is organized by its partners and an advisory board, with the support of New Jersey Future.

Appendix

Table 1. Jersey City LTCP Basics - Outfalls, Overflows, and Total Costs

Outfalls	21
Annual overflow volume — existing conditions	1,557.4 MG
Annual overflow volume — after implementation	549.6 MG
Percent overflow volume reduction	65%
Percent capture after implementation, as reported in the plan (min. of 85% required)	88.3%
Project costs	$644.5 million

*MG = million gallons

Table 2. Jersey City LTCP Project Costs and Implementation Schedule

Project	Capital Cost ($ million)	Start Year	End Year
Sewer Rehabilitation and I/I Elimination	36.8	2018	2023
Sewer Separation at Bates	10.8	2020	2026
GI to Control 7% of Impervious Area	91.7	2021	2028
Penhorn Creek Storage Tank (Shaft 1)	102.4	2026	2033
Penhorn Creek Storage Tank (Shaft 2)	113.9	2032	2038
Hackensack River Storage Tank	153.9	2035	2043
Newark Bay Storage Tank	75.7	2041	2047
North Hudson Storage Tank	59.3	2044	2049
Total	**644.5**	**32 years**	

*GI = Green Infrastructure