Upgrading Our City’s Aging Sewer System

For the past 100 years, the City of San Francisco has protected public health by operating a sewer system that reliably treats and disposes of sewage and street runoff to the Bay and Pacific Ocean.

Routine repairs are not sufficient to keep pace with our aging and seismically vulnerable infrastructure. It is critical that we embark on these investments today to help ensure that we have a well-functioning sewer system that will continue to protect public health, the environment and our local economy now and for generations to come.

Building for the Future
After eight years of public feedback along with expert third-party analysis, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) is moving forward with the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP), a 20-year, citywide investment to upgrade our aging infrastructure to ensure a reliable, sustainable, and seismically safe sewer system now and into the future.

Grey. Upgrading critical grey infrastructure like sewer pipes, pump stations, and treatment facilities.

Green. Building green infrastructure to use natural processes to reduce stormwater flows into our system.

Clean. Improving our infrastructure to protect the health of our communities and the environment.

The SSIP is divided into three overlapping phases to maintain affordability. To date only Phase 1 has been approved by our Commission representing $2.9 billion. This first phase is comprised of 70 grey and green projects all over the City.

Our Combined Sewer System
San Francisco is one of two cities in California that has a combined sewer system. The system collects and treats both sewage and stormwater before it is discharged to the Bay and Pacific Ocean, protecting public health and the environment.
Sewer System Improvements to Protect Our San Francisco Neighborhoods

**OUR COMBINED SEWER SYSTEM**
- 3 Treatment Plants
- 1,000+ Miles of Pipes
- 70 Million Gallons Treated Non-Rainy Day
- 575 Million Gallons Treated Rainy Day

**SSIP PHASE 1 PROJECTS**
- Treatment Plant Projects
- Central Bayside System Improvement Project
- Large Sewers, Tunnels, and Odor Control
- Pump Stations and Force Main Improvements
- Flood Resilience Projects
- Combined Sewer Discharge Structures and Transport/Storage Boxes
- Green Infrastructure and Early Implementation Projects
- Interdepartmental Projects

**Oceanside Treatment Plant**
- Structural and seismic improvements
- Westside Pump Station Reliability improvements
- Odor control and energy efficiency enhancements

**Oimestone Treatment Plant**
- Enhancements

**STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROJECTS**
- Build new biosolids digesters facilities
- Replace headworks facility
- Improvements for odor control
- Enhance visual aspects
- Structural, seismic, and treatment process improvements

The SFPUC is building green infrastructure projects in each of San Francisco’s eight watersheds. These projects will reduce stormwater’s impact on our sewer system, while also providing community benefits such as public open spaces and beautified neighborhoods.
Committed To A Measurable, Results-Driven Approach

The Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP) will use specific, measurable Levels of Service (LOS) goals and objectives to prioritize projects and evaluate program success.

Provide a Reliable and Resilient System that can Respond to Catastrophic Events. Ensuring treatment of flows within 72 hours of a major earthquake.

Integrate Green and Grey Infrastructure to Manage Stormwater and Minimize Flooding. Reducing stormwater impacts on neighborhoods and the sewer system.

Provide Benefits to Impacted Communities. Alleviating odors and other impacts while providing both economic and job opportunities.

Modify the System to Adapt to Climate Change. Building facilities with climate change design criteria to respond more effectively to the rising sea level and other impacts.

Achieve Economic and Environmental Sustainability. Reusing and conserving the by-products of our wastewater and stormwater treatment systems.

Maintain Ratepayer Affordability. Keeping customer bills less than 2.5% of an average household income for a single-family residence.

Supporting Our Community

As we make critical investments in our infrastructure, we aim to be a good neighbor by strengthening the communities we serve. Guided by our Community Benefits and Environmental Justice Policies and a robust Project Labor Agreement, the Sewer System Improvement Program (SSIP) is an opportunity to leverage our infrastructure investments to create construction jobs and contracting opportunities for local residents.

Learn more at sfwater.org/jobs.

Discover the city under the City!

Our wastewater treatment plant tours are currently on hold due to extensive construction underway. For now, we hope you will view some of our exciting videos to learn more about our amazing sewer system at sfwater.org/tour.

Stay Informed

Be “in the know” about what’s going on with the SSIP. Sign up for our newsletter at sfwater.org/signup. For more information or to have us present at your next meeting, please call (415) 554-3289 or email ssip@sfwater.org.