



CITY OF ASTORIA  
Water/Sewer Department  
1095 Duane Street  
Astoria, OR 97103  
(503) 338-5172  
(503) 338-6630 - Fax  
www.astoria.or.us

## COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW MANDATED BEGINNING 2002

***QUESTION: What is the CSO Surcharge that appears on the utility bills?***

### **Background.**

The City of Astoria has a combined sewer system that combines storm water with sewer flow, which is conveyed to the wastewater treatment plant. During heavy rainfall events, the volume of storm water overwhelms the system and can cause combined sewer overflows into the water bodies surrounding Astoria.

### **Goal**

The City is under a State and Federal mandate to develop and implement a Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Facilities Plan. The goal of the Plan is to achieve a 96% reduction in CSOs over a period of 26 years.

### **Funding**

The estimate for expenditures for implementation of the CSO Facility Plan is \$40-50 million.

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has authorized a number of loans to the City through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund for the first three phases of the Plan. The Business Oregon Infrastructure Finance Authority has provided a combination of loan and grant funding for the last two projects. The first project in Phase 4 of the Plan is currently being constructed by Emery & Sons Construction Group. The final project is expected to be completed by 2028.

To pay for the capital improvements and operation and maintenance of the CSO program, the City of Astoria established a CSO surcharge for water and sewer customers. According to the Plan, the surcharge will continue to be in effect until the project loans are paid off. Loan payoff is expected to be 25 years after the completion of the final project, which would be 2053.