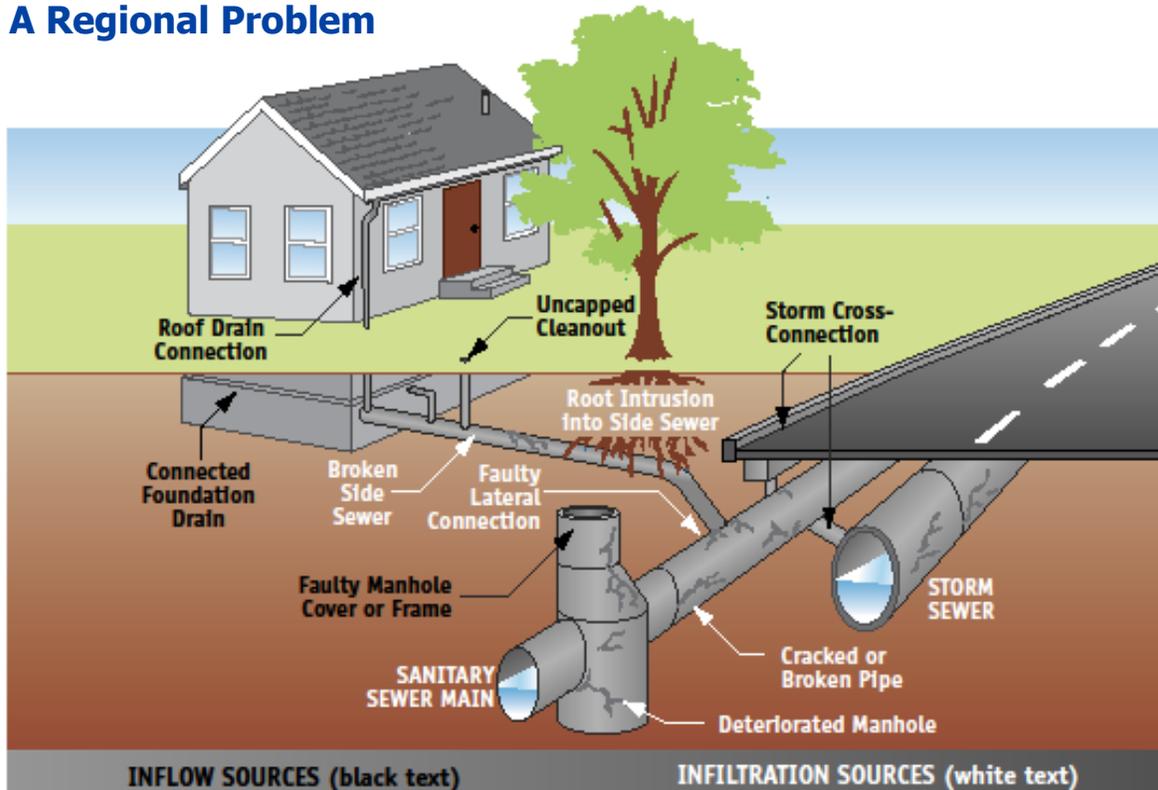




Central Basin Inflow and Infiltration Pilot Project

Stormwater and Groundwater in Sewers: A Regional Problem



Courtesy of King County

What is Inflow and Infiltration?

Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) is excess water that flows into sewer pipes from groundwater and stormwater. Groundwater (infiltration) seeps into sewer pipes through holes, cracks, joint failures, and faulty connections. Stormwater (inflow) flows into sewers from roof drain downspouts, foundation drains, storm drain cross-connections, and through holes in manhole covers. Most I/I is caused by aging infrastructure on public and private property that needs maintenance or replacement.

What is a "side sewer"?

A "side sewer" is your privately owned and maintained sewer pipe that connects your home to the public sewer main located in the alley. Wastewater from bathrooms, kitchen sinks, and washing machines flows into the side sewer.

Why do you need to be on my property?

We need to access your property in order to work on your side sewer. Defective side sewers on private property are the greatest source of groundwater and stormwater entering the sewers, contributing up to 75% of peak wet-weather flow to the sewer system. Reducing the flow of groundwater and stormwater into side sewers on private property is necessary to reduce or eliminate the need for large sewer-capacity-expansion projects.

How do I benefit from the project?

There will be no cost to the property owner to have their side sewer replaced. The work will be funded by the City of Bellingham and done only with permission from the property owner. A new side sewer reduced the potential for service problems such as backups or blockages.



Will every property within the project area have the side sewers replaced?

Properties may be excluded for the following reasons:

- An adjacent property shares the side sewer or crosses the property line, and the adjacent property has not provided a signed Right-of-entry Agreement.
- It is not possible to access the side sewer. For example, there may be no way to get equipment into the backyard.
- Not enough Right-of-entry Agreements are signed to reach a viable number of services to make the project feasible.
- The side sewer was recently replaced.

What if I have other connections to my side sewer?

The purpose of this project is not to penalize homeowners. If there are downspouts or other storm drains improperly connected to the sewer, the City will redirect these connections to appropriate facilities wherever feasible at not cost to the property owner. These connections can be a significant contribution to stormwater entering the sewer. They contribute to additional loads at the sewer plant and are a source of higher sewer rates for all residents.

How will my property be impacted during construction?

To minimize construction impacts, the City will use trenchless construction methods that require limited excavation, whenever possible. Any disturbed area will be restored as closely as possible to its pre-existing condition. Photos will be taken of the project area on your property prior to construction. Property owners will be responsible for watering and maintaining new vegetation on their property as a result of this project.

When do I need to have the Right-of-Entry form signed and turned in?

The City would like all right-of-entry Agreements signed and returned by Wednesday, November 30, 2011.



Por favor, para información en Español, comunicarse con el Departamento de Obras Públicas al Telefono (360) 778-7905. Gracias.