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/ssip/tours


San Francisco’s Wastewater Treatment Facilities

Serving over 800,000 customers, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) owns and operates San Francisco’s combined sewer system, which collects and treats both sewage and stormwater runoff.

On a typical day, a vast network of pipes creates a “city under the City” that transports and delivers San Francisco’s wastewater to one of our two local treatment plants: the Southeast Treatment Plant or the Oceanside Treatment Plant. During a storm North Point Wet-Weather Facility is activated to treat additional flow. Each treatment facility plays an integral role in handling and treating the City’s flows before being discharged into the San Francisco Bay or the Pacific Ocean.

Stormwater enters the combined sewer system through the thousands of catch basins along the street. Since most of San Francisco is paved over, the rainwater that falls from the skies usually ends up in our sewers. Each non-rainy day an average of 70 million gallons of wastewater is collected and transported to one of the two treatment plants. When it rains, our wastewater system can collect and treat up to 575 million gallons a day (MGD).

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ABOUT THE SSIP: The SSIP is 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.
North Point Wet-Weather Facility

Located near Fisherman’s Wharf on Bay Street, the North Point Wet-Weather Facility (NPF) is the City’s oldest facility and was the main treatment facility until 1983. As part of the 1972 Clean Water Act upgrades, the NPF was converted to an only wet-weather treatment facility. This facility provides pretreatment and primary treatment with disinfection of wastewater collected in the northeast part of the City. The NPF operates when the Southeast Treatment Plant approaches capacity, approximately 250 million gallons per day (MGD). As the exclusive wet-weather treatment facility dedicated to reducing the rain’s impact on the City’s system, it is vital that NPF and associated facilities maintain reliable and safe operation.

Needed Plant Improvements Underway

Built in 1951, the NPF is functioning with outdated equipment which impacts the operational reliability of the City’s system. The SSIP will address this aging infrastructure to ensure the NPF continues to serve San Francisco’s wastewater needs. SSIP upgrades to the NPF include:

- Redundant wet weather pumps
- Clarifier structural and seismic improvements
- Disinfection efficiency upgrade
- Outfall rehabilitation

The SSIP’s infrastructure improvements will ensure that the North Point Facility, North Shore Pump Station, and North Point Outfalls will remain operationally compliant with State and Federal regulatory requirements to protect public health and the environment. The improved facilities will be more reliable by using the latest technology and trends in wastewater treatment.

PLANT AT A GLANCE

- Built in 1951
- Treats wastewater only during wet weather
- Capacity up to 150 MGD during rainstorms
- Located at the intersection of Bay Street and The Embarcadero

PROJECT BENEFITS

- Ensured regulatory compliance
- Operational reliability and efficiency
- Effective odor control
- Seismic improvements
- Upgraded equipment and technology
- Redundancy for critical functioned neighborhood impacts