West Area Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Storage Tunnel Project

Project Overview:
Approximately 85% of Atlanta’s sewer system is separated (with separate pipes that collect wastewater and sewage), mainly in residential areas that have developed within the last 75 years. The remaining 15%, located in the core of the City, is a combined sewer system in which stormwater and sanitary sewer flows (or wastewater) are collected in the same pipe. During dry weather and light rainfall, the combined sewer flows are collected and treated at the wastewater treatment plants. During heavy rainfall, flows exceed the capacity of the sewer pipes. In the 1980s and 1990s, combined sewer overflow (CSO) treatment facilities were constructed to capture and screen out the solids and disinfect the combined sewer flows before they were discharged to streams. However, federal and state regulations govern CSO discharges, and water quality standards have become more stringent over the years.

The City is under a federal Consent Decree to bring CSOs into compliance with federal standards by 2007.

Project Description:
The West Area CSO Tunnel was designed to convey combined sewage and stormwater from the Clear Creek, Tanyard and North Avenue CSO drainage basins to a new, dedicated CSO treatment facility at the R.M. Clayton Water Reclamation Center (WRC) on Bolton Road. The West Area CSO Tunnel project is on part of a comprehensive plan to bring the City’s combined sewer system into compliance with existing water quality standards. The tunnel is part of a storage and treatment system that involves capturing and storing overflows from combined sewers until they can be treated. When completed, the West Area tunnel will be approximately 8.5 miles long with a 24-foot finished diameter, sized to capture up to 177 million gallons of overflow resulting from rainstorms.

The project consists of three intake structures, one each at Clear Creek, Tanyard and North Avenue, where combined sewer flow will be captured and conveyed through two deep rock tunnel legs (Rockdale to Clear Creek and North Avenue to R.M. Clayton) that converge into a single tunnel that carries the flow to the new CSO treatment facility. The alignment of the West Area CSO Tunnel was selected so that wastewater flow could be intercepted from the existing trunk and relief sewers in the Clear Creek, Tanyard and North Avenue basins.

Project Benefits:
The West Area CSO Tunnel project will enable the City to comply with federal and state water quality regulations. The dedicated CSO treatment plant will treat the combined sewer flows to a level that surpasses current screening and disinfection methods.
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**Contractor:** Atlanta CSO Constructors (Joint Venture of Obayashi, Inc. and MassAna LLC)

**Engineer:** JDH Joint Venture (team of Jordan, Jones & Goulding, Inc.; Delon Hampton and Associates, Chartered; and Hatch, Mott MacDonald, Inc.)

**Construction Manager:** JDH Joint Venture

**Contract Amount:** Design – $14.8 million
Construction – $250 million (estimated)

**Notice to Proceed:** April 2004

**Expected Completion Date:** November 2007

**What You Can Expect:**
Construction Duration: May 2004 through October 2007

Work Hours: 24 hours/day, 7 days/week for tunnel construction
7 to 7 weekdays at Clear Creek and Tanyard intake sites (except for short periods during connections to existing facilities)

For more information or to report a project-related problem, please call the Project Helpline at (404) 529-9211