

Rail Services Speed Seattle Sewer Outfall Project.

Think Green.®

Maintaining the infrastructure of a city the size of Seattle, Wash., can be a formidable and expensive challenge. Fortunately, when it comes to waste transportation, the solutions provided by Waste Management can help minimize the expensive part of that equation.

The Denny Creek outfall is one of many combined sewer system discharge points that serve the older areas within the City of Seattle. Situated on the eastern side of Puget Sound's Elliot Bay, the

outfall was prone to combined sewer overflows, causing the surrounding waters to become contaminated with both organics and metals, which then settled into the local sediment. In the late 1990s, the King County Department of Natural Resources and the City of Seattle Public Utilities decided to

build a new combined sewer outfall system for Denny Way and Lake Union at the Elliot Bay location. Among the project's requirements was the dredging of eastern Elliot Bay and the subsequent disposal of the contaminated soil that was removed.

A competitive procurement process resulted in the contract for waste transportation and disposal being awarded to Waste Management.

Waste Management's plan called for the Elliot Bay waste to be transported first by truck to its Alaska Street Transfer Station, approximately four miles from the project site and then by rail to its Columbia Ridge Landfill in Arlington, Ore., a distance of approximately 170 miles. Waste Management's WasteByRail system, which allows customers to transport waste from virtually any location to scores of Waste Management landfills throughout the United States and Canada, was considered to be far more economical than conventional long-haul truck transportation.

Dredging of Elliot Bay in preparation for the Denny Way Outfall project began in August 2000 and was completed the following February. In all, approximately 40,000 tons of contaminated soil were transported from Seattle to the Columbia Ridge Landfill in more than 250 100-cubic-yard gondola cars. Because the waste's contamination level was low enough to be considered non-hazardous, it was immediately profiled and then landfilled in accordance with all applicable local, state and federal regulations.

Helping the public sector find fast, inexpensive solutions to large-scale waste problems takes a company that's always on the move.

From everyday collection to environmental protection, Think Green. Think Waste Management.

