system and the resulting delays in capital facility construction.

Throughout the process of implementing the I/I program, King County would work closely with each of the 32 local service providers. Our goal is to cooperatively reduce local system I/I and initiate a surcharge for excessive I/I beginning in 2010. To accomplish this goal, we will:

• Provide financial and technical assistance to support the upgrade of existing conveyance systems
• Establish workable design standards for new collection systems that effectively control I/I
• Establish a surcharge program that does not unfairly burden individual local service purveyors yet ensures excessive I/I is controlled in the most cost effective manner
• Eliminate the contract provision that prohibits King County from collecting a surcharge on pipes built before 1961 in separated systems
• Establish a mechanism for monitoring flows from each individual local conveyance system for the purpose of assessing an excess I/I surcharge
• Revise County rules and regulations related to I/I and amend the agreements with local service providers

Reducing Combined Sewer Overflows

Combined sewers are pipes that were originally built in many older cities like Seattle to collect a combination of stormwater, street debris, horse manure, and sanitary sewage from homes and businesses. Before treatment plants were built, this mixture was typically discharged to the largest nearby surface water. Today in King County, most stormwater and sanitary sewage is conveyed by separate pipes, but combined sewers still exist in many parts of Seattle where they carry a combination of sanitary sewage and stormwater to the West Treatment Plant. Figure 5 depicts the difference between combined and separated sewers.

During storms, combined sewers can sometimes fill and overflow into surface waters. These combined sewer overflows (CSOs) currently discharge at 37 different outfalls into Lake Washington, the Lake Washington Ship Canal, the Duwamish River, Elliott Bay, and Puget Sound. While the wastewater in CSOs is diluted by stormwater, it does contain harmful bacteria and pollutants that could degrade water quality and potentially affect human health.

During the 1997 public involvement process, people indicated that CSOs should be prevented even if it costs more to do so. Because of potential risks to human health and water quality, CSOs are also closely regulated at both the state