The combined system collects sewage and storm runoff together in sewers pits under the streets (1). Most sewers are ordinary concrete or clay pipes, but egg-shaped brick sewers (2) still underlie some city streets. Built in the mid-1880s, brick sewers constitute about 50 miles of the city's over 180 miles of sewer. The sewers empty into two main sewerage treatment plants. That large box is evident in the photo of a double box structure under construction. If prolonged rains storms overwhelm these large structures, excess water overflows into the bay or screen through combined sewer discharge (CSD) structures (1). The CSD structures settle and strain solids from the flow as it is discharged.

Source: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Urban Watershed Planning Charette, September 2007