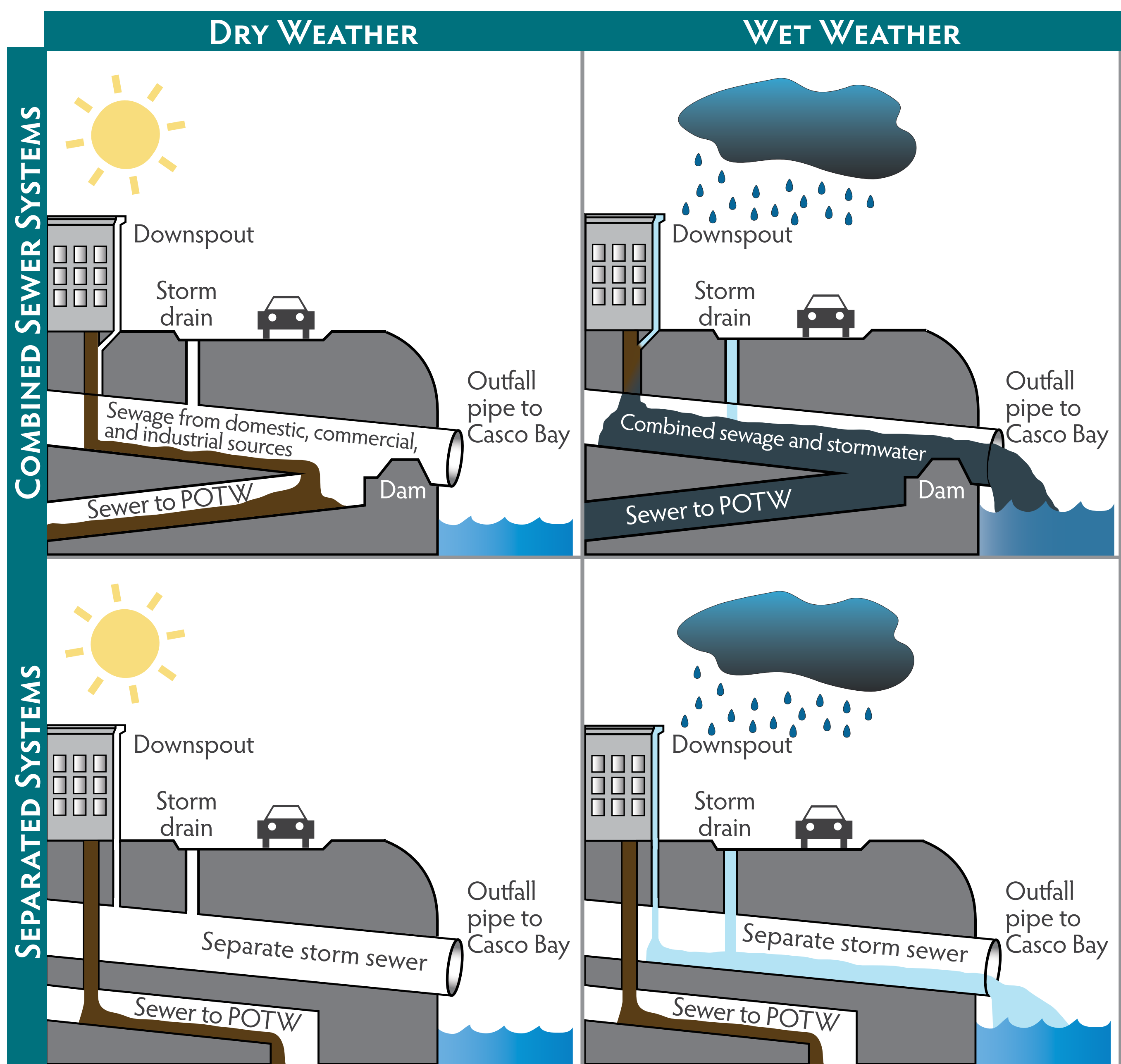
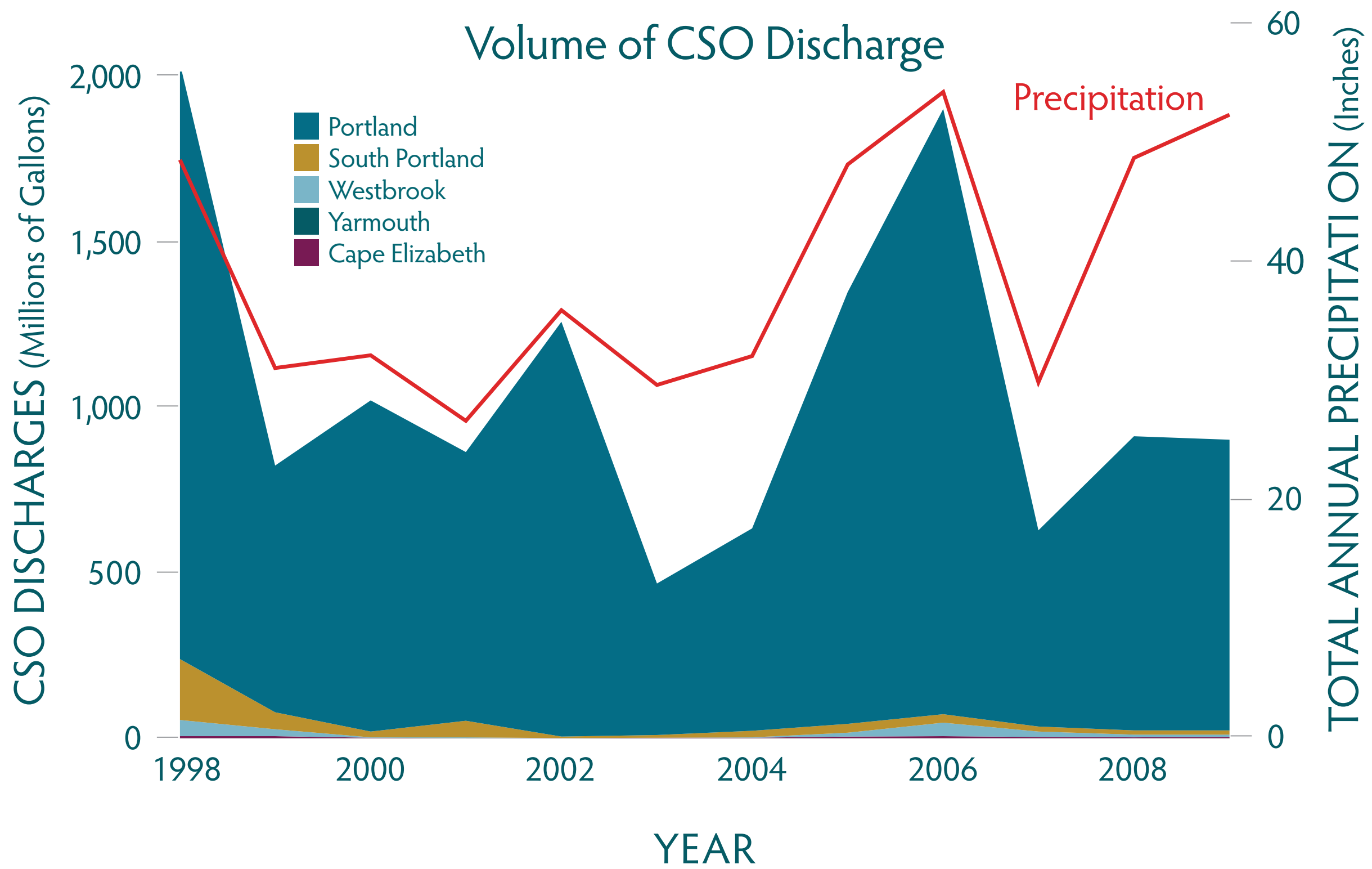


# Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs)



In **combined sewer systems** stormwater mixes with sewage, which can overwhelm sewer systems and sewage treatment systems, leading to discharges to Casco Bay. In **separated systems**, stormwater and sewage are never mixed, eliminating the problem. "POTW" is publicly owned treatment works.



- Over the last two decades, the number of CSO outfalls across the watershed has dropped from 80 in 1990 to 45 at the end of 2009.
- Despite community efforts at CSO reduction, total CSO discharges have not dropped consistently over the past decade (see graph above) because recent years have been especially wet.

Casco Bay CSO Discharges by Municipality (2009)

Community	Millions of Gallons	Percentage
Cape Elizabeth	3.5	0.4%
Portland	872.8	97.5%
South Portland	12.2	1.4%
Westbrook	7.1	0.8%
TOTAL	895.6	100.10%

Percentages do not sum to 100 because of rounding.

