

Design Advisory Group Meeting 5
King County Solid Waste Division
Zoom Virtual Meeting
Thursday, July 1, 2021
2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Attendees

Design Advisory Group:		
Mayor Leanne Guier, City of Pacific	Joan Nelson, City of Auburn	Rob Van Orsow, City of Federal Way
King County Solid Waste Division (SWD) and Design Team:		
Karen Herndon, SWD	Tricia Barbachan, SWD	Polly Young, SWD
Nori Catabay, SWD	Theresa Thurlow, SWD	Mary O’Hara, SWD
Clark Davis, HDR	Ryan Asman, HDR	Dennis Sandstrom, HDR
Rona Spelleccacy, HDR	Harrison Price, Stepherson & Associates	
Support Team:		
Holly Wyrwich, Stepherson & Associates	Nicole Phaysith, Stepherson & Associates	

Welcome and Introductions

Dennis Sandstrom, HDR, thanked everyone for joining and provided an overview of some housekeeping and virtual meeting logistics. Dennis reviewed the agenda and Karen Herndon, King County Solid Waste Division (SWD), facilitated introductions around the room.

Charter Review

Dennis Sandstrom walked Design Advisory Group (DAG) members through minor changes that had been made to the DAG Charter since the group’s last meeting. DAG members approved the updated charter.

Project Summary

Karen Herndon provided a South County Recycling and Transfer Station (SCRTS) project overview, highlighting the project goals, noting who the new transfer station will serve and reviewing what services will be offered. She noted that the schedule had been delayed due to permit timelines.

DAG member questions and comments:

- Rob Van Orsow: What are the specific permits and jurisdiction(s) that have caused the schedule delays?
SWD response: The two permits that are causing the main delays are the City of Algona’s Conditional Use Permit and the Department of Ecology permit. We are aware that the Department of Ecology is experiencing some delays in their review timelines.

Design Updates

Ryan Asman, HDR, and Clark Davis, HDR, provided an in-depth summary of the facility design changes

that have been implemented between 30% and 60% design. They highlighted the following key design aspects and features:

- Site layout changes to optimize traffic flow
- Site layout and vegetation to improve aesthetics and reduce environmental impacts
- Addition of signage and signals throughout the facility to improve wayfinding and safety
- Modifications to the entrance and scale plaza to improve operations and increase the distance from the adjacent hillside
- Incorporation of a canopy at the moderate risk waste (MRW) facility
- Adjustments to the layout and features of the administration and transfer building
- Re-alignment of the stream around the facility and additional enhancements to the natural habitat
- Addition of used oil and secondary containment tanks within the MRW facility
- Further refinements to the MRW staging area to improve functionality for MRW staff
- Sustainability and environmental updates, including:
 - Separating the stormwater flow from the sanitary flow
 - Improving the conditions for habitat in and around the facility
 - Incorporating protections and mitigation strategies for noise, odor, glare, and water quality
- Optimization of site entrance to improve traffic flow to scale plaza
- Setback from the steep hillside at south end of site
- Additional landscaping near Administration Building
- Below-ground rainwater harvesting cisterns
- Provisions to accommodate a traffic light at the facility entrance on West Valley Highway if needed in the future
- Yellow blinking light at Iowa Drive
- Addition of a canopy at the fueling facility

DAG member questions and comments:

- Mayor Leanne Guier: What lessons learned were gleaned from the level of queuing that took place in 2020, early in the COVID-19 pandemic?
SWD response: First, related to the pandemic and public health, there are various cautionary elements incorporated into the design, such as hand sanitizer station, no touch doors, etc. For the queuing, there is a substantial increase in the capacity for queuing and staging with the new facility. The conditions that created the level of queuing in 2020 were unique to the pandemic; we closed every other stall and enforced social distancing requirements. Additionally, the closing of neighboring jurisdictions' facilities led to an increase of customers using King County facilities. These conditions are not expected to be an issue in the future. Also, the HDR team explained that on weekends where there is more traffic at the station, users could be directed to use the commercial drop-off area as well, thus expanding the capacity of the station.

- Mayor Leanne Guier: Is the plan still for use of the SCRTS to be limited to King County residents and businesses?
SWD response: Yes, use will be limited to King County residents and businesses.
- Joan Nelson: Will commercial hauler traffic conflict with the residential hauler line?
SWD response: Commercial haulers will have to navigate the residential hauler line. There will be a stop bar and signage at that intersection to improve traffic flow.
- Rob Van Orsow: All of the improvements that have been described will create a much more appealing facility that will shift how users and the public think about what a transfer station can be.

Design Updates: Lobby and Multipurpose Room

Ryan Asman, HDR, and Clark Davis, HDR, provided an overview of the design and plans for the lobby and multipurpose room. They highlighted the following key design aspects and features:

- The multipurpose room will feature windows that look onto the tipping floor
- Natural wood finishes throughout the multipurpose room will improve aesthetics
- The video screen can be set up to stream views from around the facility, providing a window into the facility's operations
- The patio, which doubles as a receiving area and art garden, will back up into the treed slope, creating a natural setting
- The lobby will feature a sliding glass panel that can open to provide an open-air environment
- There will be ample opportunities for information sharing and education throughout the lobby area

DAG member questions and comments:

- Mayor Leanne Guier: The artwork in the lobby and community room, as well as educational signage and features, will provide a good space for student tours and field trips.
- Rob Van Orsow: Will the facility feature native, drought-resistant plants?
SWD response: Yes, that is the goal and intention.
- Mayor Leanne Guier: What is the status of the plans for the plantings and landscaping around the re-aligned stream?
SWD response: Planning for those plantings is in-progress.
- Joan Nelson: The new facility will bring services up to par with other areas of the County.

Public Art

Laura Becker, 4Culture, presented an update on the public art plans and process. Key points from Laura's presentation included:

- During phase 1 of the public art process, 4Culture works with SWD and an advisory group to review project goals and visits the site
- The artist selection process is facilitated by 4Culture. For the SCRTS project, the following two public art projects and teams were identified:

- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe’s Cultural Division’s Director Walter Pacheco and Lead Cultural Arts Educators Tyson Simmons and Keith Stevenson will develop a site-based, site-integrated permanent art installation
- Evan Blackwell, a visual artist and faculty member at Evergreen State College, will participate in a site-based generative artist residency of a 3-year term, developing multiple pieces which will be installed on-site and/or in other Solid Waste Division or King County facilities
- The public art design and implementation will be informed by SWD and 4Culture involvement and input
- Maintenance plans and communications materials will be provided to ensure longevity and awareness, respectively
- Laura presented examples of existing art and educational opportunities.

DAG member questions and comments:

- Rob Van Orsow: How will the public art be integrated into the facility?
4Culture response: There will likely be opportunities for public art to be incorporated into the interior and the exterior of the facility. The artists will be brought into design meetings, as needed, to ensure the integration is done seamlessly. Interior art will likely be viewed mostly by staff and visitors.

Community Engagement

Harrison Price, Stepherson & Associates, and Tricia Barbachan, SWD, provided an overview of ongoing and upcoming community engagement and equity and social justice (ESJ) efforts. Key points from their presentation included the following:

- The project team will host a virtual open house for the public in August 2021 and participate in the City of Pacific Community BBQ and Police Open House on August 14, 2021, to share information about the project
- Additional strategies to increase awareness and involvement in the project include a project website, onsite signage, mailers to the community, and a broad social media presence
- The project will support the following ESJ actions:
 - Partnering with the Local Food Initiative and Public Health-Seattle & King County to fund a solar water pump that will support immigrant and refugee farming in south King County
 - Working with Duwamish Infrastructure Restoration Training (DIRT Corps) to provide young adults and older youth opportunities to participate in habitat restoration apprenticeship opportunities in the SCRTS service area
 - Adding educational, interactive exhibits at the new station in the multipurpose room, with a focus on environmental topics
 - Partnering with the King County Parks to add wayfinding trail signage to segments of the Interurban Trail including Algona, Pacific, and Auburn

- The project team is working on expanding engagement opportunities and involvement to BIPOC and historically under-represented communities through partnerships with community-based organizations, translated materials, and targeted outreach

DAG member questions and comments:

- Mayor Leanne Guier: How will the work to the Interurban Trail be coordinated with upcoming improvements made possible by the Parks levy? Is the King County team aware of the plans for a veterans memorial in the area?
SWD response: The King County team will be coordinating with the jurisdictions to align timelines and partner on educational signage that is of interest to trail users. And the King County team would like to be made aware of plans for additional improvements in the area, such as the veterans memorial, so that wayfinding signs can direct people to areas of interest.
- Ron Van Orsow: Will the ESJ actions be confined to the SCRSTS site? Or can they be implemented throughout King County?
SWD response: The goal is to have them all implemented within South King County but the precise locations have not been determined.
- Mayor Leanne Guier: Will there be a workforce agreement that will provide opportunities for people to be provided career paths both during construction and longer term at the facility? Will there be outreach in the community for the career opportunities?
SWD response: The workforce agreement will be discussed and developed as design progresses. The King County team is happy to take suggestions about advertising the project, as it is an excellent way to show its presence in the community.
- Joan Nelson: Could SWD be available to present to city councils? Those representatives may also have ideas around how to meaningfully engage with the communities they serve.
SWD response: The project team will follow up to arrange presentations.
- Rob Van Orsow: Engaging with BIPOC and historically under-represented communities will take a commitment to relationship building that is authentic and long-term.

Next Steps

Dennis Sandstrom summarized the meeting, noting that it would be helpful if DAG members who were able to attend could communicate with their fellow members and their networks to bring people up to speed on the design progress and other updates provided during the meeting. In closing, he thanked everyone for their attendance and prompted DAG members to reach out to Karen Herndon and the team if they have further questions or comments.

The next DAG meeting is scheduled to occur as soon as late summer 2021 as the team approaches final design. Karen Herndon will follow up with more information about next steps as the next meeting approaches.