

Murray Basin Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Facility

Design Process Introductory Public Meeting Summary

October 20, 2011 6:30-8:30 pm

Fauntleroy Church Fellowship Hall, 9140 California Ave S.W., Seattle 98136

Overview

On October 20, 2011, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) hosted a public meeting for the Murray Basin Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Facility. The meeting was intended to brief the community and project stakeholders on the project, introduce the facility's design team, and inform the community on how they can be involved in the design process.

Eleven members of the public attended the meeting.

Presentations

Through presentations from the project team, meeting participants learned about the implications of the CSO control problem in West Seattle and the Murray Basin CSO Control Facility's design phase timeline, including opportunities for public participation and community feedback on the facility's design. The WTD project manager explained that the Murray Pump Station CSO averages 5 overflows per year, effectively releasing 5 million gallons of untreated stormwater and diluted sewage into Puget Sound. King County is working to prevent overflows at four locations, reducing CSOs to one per year on long-term average. The new facility will include a one million gallon underground tank, odor control, and a backup generator for both the pump station and the storage tank.

The presentation and other meeting materials can be found at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/MurrayCSOStorage/MeetingCalendar.aspx>

After the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to comment and ask questions. Attendees also had the opportunity before and after the meeting to view display boards that were set up around the meeting room and talk with members of the project team. Meeting attendees were informed of and encouraged to use a variety of methods for submitting questions and input, including:

- E-mail: doug.marsano@kingcounty.gov
- Phone: 206-684-1235
- Comment forms (available at the public meeting, can be returned by mail)

Meeting attendees were encouraged to ask questions, express concerns, and provide input. WTD staff outlined the upcoming opportunities for public participation, including the design workshop on October 29 and the upcoming design advisory group meetings, and emphasized that input is always welcome and will be sought out and considered throughout the design process.

Summary of Questions and Input

Questions, feedback, and discussion from the meeting attendees are summarized below.

Understanding system-wide flows

One participant wanted to better understand system-wide wastewater and stormwater flows in West Seattle and suggested that King County create a hydrographic map for the community to visualize the stormwater flows through different areas of the West Seattle watershed. WTD staff agreed that a map would provide important context and will see if a similar publication is already publicly available.

Geotechnical Investigations

One participant asked what would happen if soil samples reveal that the structure cannot be built on the intended site. WTD staff explained that the project team generally knows the site's soils and explained that the sampling is used to determine the foundation's design specifics. The project team explained that much information about the soil is already known due to previous work building the existing pump station. WTD staff added that the geotechnical work will help the project team understand how much dewatering is necessary and provide information necessary for the design of the facility's foundational structure.

Another participant questioned whether the excavation will weaken the ground under houses located up the slope from the site and what monitoring steps the County will take. The project team answered that while there is no retaining wall there now, they will pay close attention to potential impacts for neighboring homes during the design process. One participant noted that a house previously located above the site slid down the hill. Another asked if Lincoln Park Way Southwest and Beach Drive Southwest are built on good or poor soil. The project team responded that historical photos and that ongoing geotechnical borings will provide more information.

Another participant asked how the community will give input before knowing the geotechnical results. The project team explained that the basic soil data is known, and they are looking for a particular soil layer for constructing the foundations of the storage tank. WTD staff added that the design workshop is focused on design and aesthetic concepts and ideas more than technical details. The project team also explained that the current investigations will help design for the site's water table.

Traffic Impacts

One participant asked what other projects in the area will be happening and what traffic impacts are expected. WTD staff responded that while there might be some overlap between the Murray and Barton Pump Station projects, the County will be attentive to traffic impacts and plan to coordinate haul routes between the two projects.

One participant asked how much dirt the Barton Pump Station project will be hauling out. WTD staff replied that the Barton Pump Station project should have lower quantities to haul than the Murray project and added that all haul routes are vetted through SDOT; this process will also give King County the opportunity to talk with affected community members.

Technical Issues

One participant asked when the transition to the underground storage tank will take place. WTD staff answered that it would make the most sense to do it during the “dry season.” According to the facility plan, a diversion structure will be fitted to the outfall pipe and water will be diverted from there to the tank. The system will be completely gravity-fed and the main connection work will be on the outfall pipe.

A participant asked whether the tank might end up half in the ground and half out of the ground. WTD staff said no, the main storage tank will be underground.

Another participant asked if the existing odor control stack location will change with new odor control and could the odor control be blended into the foliage. WTD staff confirmed that the odor control stack will be in a different location and how to blend it in would be a design question moving forward.

Public Participation

One participant pointed out that on October 25– the date of the first design advisory group meeting–there is also a candidates forum at the same time. WTD staff explained that there will continue to be opportunities to get involved in the design process, and a major opportunity will be the October 29 design workshop.

Attendance

Murray Basin CSO Control Facility Project Team

King County Wastewater Treatment Division

Erica Jacobs, project manager; Doug Marsano, community relations

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Dan Pecha, consultant team project manager; Eric Bergstrom; engineering lead

EnviroIssues, Inc.

Penny Mabie, facilitator