



Frequently Asked Questions

June 2021

Why does the raw sewage pump system need to be replaced?

The Raw Sewage Pump system was built in 1966 with a capacity of 440 million gallons of wastewater and stormwater per day. The system uses four pumps to meet the needed capacity. When the treatment plant was upgraded in 1988, the pumps were not upgraded. While the capacity remained at 440 million gallons per day after the upgrade, pumping untreated combined sewage over a long time has resulted in significant wear on the pumps. The cost to keep the system reliable has significantly increased due to the maintenance and repairs required to keep the pumps in service. In addition, the system could fail during an earthquake due to its age.

The purpose of this project is to replace the Raw Sewage Pump system and implement structural improvements to the facility.

What are the benefits of this project?

Replacing the pump system will build redundancy in the system, meeting the maximum needed capacity even if a pump needs maintenance as the system. This project will also make improvements to the building structure to make it more reliable during a potential earthquake.

What analysis has been completed so far?

The project team analyzed four design alternatives and chose a preferred alternative to develop. This preferred alternative had the greatest value and lowest risk compared to the other three because it provides redundancy in the pump system. The current system needs all four pumps to meet maximum capacity needs while the chosen alternative for the new pump system will only require three pumps, making maintenance much easier.

The existing pump system is engine driven which requires the use of gas. This system generates heat, which gets trapped in the facility and moves to other parts of the plant. The new system will be mechanically driven and will not require gas, eliminating the heat impact on the facility.

What will happen during the current, preliminary design phase?

During this phase, the project team will develop the preferred pump design, begin project permitting, and create initial construction schedule estimates.

How does this project relate to the other West Point projects?

The Raw Sewage Pump Replacement project is one of several capital improvement projects taking place at the West Point Treatment Plant. These projects focus on improving reliability at the plant, protecting

worker and public safety and the environment, and increasing efficiency. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about the other West Point projects.

What is the project timeline?

The project team expects the project to complete the preliminary design in 2021 and to reach final design as soon as late 2023. Construction is expected to begin as soon as 2024.

How long is construction expected to take?

Construction is currently expected to begin as soon as 2024 and will last for approximately four years. There are four pumps that will be replaced, and we anticipate that each pump will take approximately one year to replace. This is due to the lead time we need to obtain the new pumps and completing the structural and electrical work.

What will I see and notice during construction?

The County anticipates that impacts to the nearby community during construction, such as noise, will be minimal as construction will take place inside the treatment plant walls.

Stay in touch!

- We will provide ongoing updates [on our website](#) as the project progresses.
- For more information, contact Dana West at dana.west@kingcounty.gov or 206-477-5536 or TTY: 711.
- Sign up for email or text updates for current West Point Treatment Plant capital improvement projects [on our website](#).