

## *Fremont Siphon Replacement Project*

### **King County Environmental Labs**

#### **Briefing Summary**

May 3, 2012 1:00 – 2:00pm

King County Environmental Labs, 322 West Ewing Street, Seattle, WA

#### **Overview**

On May 3, 2012, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) presented to King County Environmental Labs for the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project. The Fremont Siphon is located under the Lake Washington Ship Canal between the neighborhoods of Fremont and Queen Anne. The new Fremont Siphon will include relocation to open space associated with the parcel where the Environmental Laboratory is located. The meeting was intended to present updates on proposed locations of construction activities and new structures, replacement of the City of Seattle's combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfall, and restoration of affected areas. The team presented next steps in the project and upcoming opportunities for public participation. The project team considers the King County Environmental Laboratory a stakeholder, since access and work at the facility could potentially be affected by construction.

Two members from King County Environmental Labs attended: Kate Leone, Environmental Programs Section Manager, and Ben Budka, FSU Supervisor.

#### **Presentation**

The project team described proposed construction areas and new structures in Fremont and Queen Anne to provide access and support the new Fremont Siphon. The project team described their proposal for a new microtunnel under the ship canal, just west of the current tunnel. Since King County's parcel in Queen Anne was found to be insufficient for construction staging, major construction staging is proposed at the north (Fremont) side of the Ship Canal. The current proposal, which will undergo environmental review during Summer 2012, recommends staging major microtunneling construction and the new odor control facility and access hatches on the private property located at 2nd Avenue NW and NW 36th Street. Work will still occur in Queen Anne, and the open space adjacent to the Labs will be closed for the duration of construction, with intermittent work required to construct a microtunnel retrieval shaft and connect the new siphon to the existing North Interceptor adjacent to Seattle Pacific University's Otto Miller Hall.

The presentation was similar to the May 15, 2012 community meeting presentation, which can be found at: [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/FremontSiphon/MeetingCalendar](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/FremontSiphon/MeetingCalendar)

#### **Questions and Comments**

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

*What are the possible impacts to King County Environmental Labs and staff during construction?*

Possible impacts to the King County Environmental Labs could include reduced staff parking, changed delivery routes and landscaping impacts. The trenching activities on the Queen Anne side of the project will likely be disruptive for King County Environmental Labs. Potential impacts will only be for a portion of the full two years of the construction, as portions of the work will be done at different times on each

side of the canal. It is possible to provide an interpretive sign near construction describing the project, construction timing and help explain why the work is temporarily stopped.

Two memorial trees may need to be removed, as well as a dedicated bench on the south side of King County Environmental Labs. The bench can be temporarily removed and stored during construction. There is a possibility of adding a plaque to the nearby dedicated tree and having a rededication at the completion of the project. Kate Leone will identify the location of the second memorial tree for the project team.

The project team will work with King County Environmental Labs on these potential impacts as construction nears. The project team will hold an all-staff meeting with King County Environmental Labs after 60% design, likely in February 2013.

*How will King County Environmental Labs parking be impacted during construction? Parking nearby is on a first-come first-serve basis. Parking for King County Environmental Labs is somewhat seasonal, as employees bike more in the summer and there are fewer Seattle Pacific University students parking in the area.*

Existing parking may be removed during construction, but the project team will work closely with King County Environmental Labs as construction approaches to address parking concerns in more detail. The team is working with Seattle Pacific University as well. Work to tie in the line may be seasonal with focus on dry weather activities since this area conveys combined flows.

*What is the timing of the King County Industrial Waste (IW) building move? If they move by the time of construction, King County Environmental Labs may be able to use some of their parking.*

The IW Building has received funding for design and they are looking into sites.

*Is it possible to work with Seattle Parks and Recreation to temporarily extend the 2-hour maximum parking time at the West Ewing Mini Park parking lot?*

The project team will discuss the possibility of extending the park parking during construction.

*Will King County Environmental Labs experience vibrations as a result of construction? There is some concern that vibrations could affect lab equipment.*

King County Environmental Labs will not experience vibrations due to the microtunneling process, but there could be some vibrations from the shaft construction on the south side. The project team is aware this is a concern and will consider this during design.

*Will access to the nearby docks be maintained for the Seattle Pacific University Crew Team? King County Environmental Labs would prefer that dock access remain so that the Seattle Pacific University Crew Team does not have to access the canal through the King County Environmental Labs garage.*

Though the project is still in early design, the current layout leaves existing access to the dock from the northeast side of the site.

*What is the process for acquiring the private property?*

If King County proceeds with the proposal, the County works closely with the property owner following a process guided by state law. The process includes assessment of fair market value for the property and relocation benefits. No final decision on property acquisition will be made until after the completion of environmental review, which will occur in Summer 2012.

*Is there a utility line lying at the bottom of the Ship Canal?*

The project team has investigated and learned that there is a cable, but Seattle City Light has indicated that this line is not in use.

*Will ship canal traffic be impacted by the project?*

There will be no impact to ship canal traffic since work is close to the shore. The project team has talked to barge operators, and they communicate frequently about any work in the waterway.

*Has the project team coordinated with Seattle Pacific University and the nearby lumber yard?*

Yes, King County has provided briefings for Seattle Pacific University and worked with nearby businesses, and will continue to do so as the project progresses.

*If the property acquisition option is selected in Fremont, will the odor control structure be the only facility on the property? Are there opportunities for King County to store materials on the property? Storage nearby would save in transportation costs and best utilize the land.*

The aboveground odor control facility is the only planned facility, but a large amount of space is needed for maintenance access and stormwater mitigation. The possibility of King County storage can be looked into if King County Environmental Labs can provide specific information. Community input would also be considered in discussing site restoration.

*Will King County Environmental Labs be able to comment on environmental review under the State Environmental Policy Act, or is this considered a conflict because the facility is also associated with the County?*

The project team followed up on this question with Environmental Planning. Managers from the Environmental Laboratory are encouraged to review and comment on environmental documents, which describe potential impacts from the project and proposed mitigation measures.

## **Closing**

The project team thanked King County Environmental Labs for letting the project team present on the project. Local input is very important to informing the decision process, resulting in a design that will meet the needs of the community. Staff encouraged the participants to remain involved and continue to provide input.

## **Fremont Siphon Replacement Project Team Attendance**

*King County Wastewater Treatment Division*

Will Sroufe, Project Manager

Monica Van der Vieren, Community Relations Lead

*MWH Global Americas*

Joseph Clare, Design Consultant Project Manager

*EnviroIssues*

Hannah Litzenberger, Community Relations