

## ***Fremont Siphon Replacement Project***

### **Fremont Neighborhood Council**

#### **Briefing Summary**

June 25, 2012 7:00 – 8:30pm

Doric Lodge, 619 N 36th St, Seattle, WA 98103

#### **Overview**

On June 25, 2012, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) provided a presentation on the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project to the Fremont Neighborhood Council. The Fremont Neighborhood Council is a chartered organization that promotes the interests of Fremont residents.

The Fremont Siphon is located under the Lake Washington Ship Canal between the neighborhoods of Fremont and Queen Anne. The briefing 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.

13 attendees were present during King County's presentation.

#### **Presentation**

Participants learned about the latest proposed recommendation for potential construction areas and new structures now that the project is in early design. 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 construction activities and the new odor control facility and access hatches on private property located at 2nd Avenue NW and NW 36th Street.

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

The council was encouraged to use a variety of methods for submitting questions and input, including the following:

- Web: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/FremontSiphon>
- Email: [Monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov)
- Phone: 206-263-7301

Briefing attendees were encouraged to ask questions, express concerns, and provide input. King County staff indicated that input is always welcome and will be used throughout the project design process.

## Summary of Questions and Input

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

*Where will the above ground odor control facility be sited?*

King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) has included odor control in the scope of the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project to address community concerns and complaints about sewer odors from the County's system. WTD proposes to site the aboveground odor control facility on private property at 2nd Avenue NW and NW 36th Street. WTD's proposed location for this facility on private property considered the need for a permanent building of about 30 x 30 feet and access for regular operations and maintenance activities. If sited in the park, the building and access needs would result in temporary and permanent impacts to available recreational space in Fremont Canal Park.

*Where is the proposed private property location for construction and permanent facilities? How will this affect the business located on the property?*

The Fremont Siphon design team determined that hydraulic constraints limited potential facility locations to Fremont Canal Park or the private property located at 2nd Avenue NW and NW 36th Street. After considering a number of factors including constructability, land use and permitting, and community impacts, the project team recommended acquisition of private property for major construction activities and permanent at-grade and above-grade facilities. No final decision on property acquisition will be made until the completion of environmental review, which will occur in Summer 2012.

King County works closely with the property owner to acquire the property following a process guided by state law, which includes acquisition at fair market value and relocation benefits for the business in this case.

*Where would the business relocate if the private property is acquired?*

Relocation decisions are at the owner's discretion. During the evaluation process, the project team determined that vacant industrial land is available in the Fremont area, allowing the opportunity for the business to continue operations in the area. In these situations, both parties work to reach a mutual agreement, with fair market value, relocation benefits and other kinds of assistance.

*It seems that siting facilities in the park is unlikely. What would cause you to use park space for your facilities over private property?*

Although King County's proposal is to locate major construction activities and permanent facilities on private property, locating the new siphon and odor control facility in Fremont Canal Park is feasible. Environmental review must be completed for the current proposal, followed by a process that involves management, as well as the King County Council and the King County Executive. These groups will ultimately decide where to locate the facility. We will keep the community updated throughout the process.

*What factors go into selecting which site will be used for siting permanent facilities (Fremont Canal Park or on the private property)?*

The project evaluated a number of factors for these two sites, such as community impacts, constructability, land use and permitting, operations and maintenance needs, equity and social justice, risk, and cost.

*How can I comment on my preference of site selection?*

Hearing from the community is important throughout all project phases on a range of activities. If you want to express your thoughts and concerns about construction and facility locations, you can:

- Send your input to Community Relations by phone, letter, or email. We will convey communications to the project team, WTD management, the Director of King County's Department of Natural Resources and Parks, and to the County Executive.
- Contact your King County Council member.

Environmental review conducted by King County in summer 2012 under the State Environmental Policy Act will identify environmental impacts associated with the County's proposal, which includes constructing the north shaft and odor control facility on property that is currently in private ownership. The review documents will not address alternatives to the proposal.

*How is the project funded?*

Capital projects like the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project are funded by regional ratepayers. Having a regional system in place allows costs to be spread over a larger customer base, keeping rates stable while providing high quality service. For more information on WTD's financial structure and regional projects, people can obtain a copy of the Ratepayer Report or find it on the Web at [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/Finances/RatePayerReport](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/About/Finances/RatePayerReport).

*Is the environmental review an environmental impact statement?*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) is a policy that requires state and local agencies to consider the likely environmental consequences of a proposal before taking action on the proposal. After completing an environmental checklist, King County will either:

- Issue a determination of non-significance (DNS) if the agency's evaluation does not identify any probable significant adverse environmental impacts that would result from the proposal, or
- Issue a determination of significance (DS) if the agency's evaluation identifies adverse environmental impacts that would result from the proposal, even considering mitigation. If a DS is issued, King County would then prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS).

King County will complete environmental review and a notice of the threshold determination will be issued in Summer 2012. There will be a formal public comment period associated with the SEPA process. The County's environmental documents and notices will be posted on the project website.

*What is the project team hearing from the community?*

The project team has heard comments and concerns about the location of permanent facilities and staging on both the park and private property. We have heard opposition to the private property acquisition because of the potential displacement of a business that provides jobs and goods and services to other local businesses. We have also heard concerns about potential for siting in Fremont Canal Park: disruptions to community events and long term reduction in available recreational space. Neighbors on the Fremont side of the project have asked about contingency planning and impacts during construction, and expressed concerns about odors from the existing siphon and how we will control odor from the new facilities. On the Queen Anne side of the project, the project team has received comments related to construction impacts, odors, impacts to trees and a proposed off-leash dog park in the project vicinity.

**Closing**

The project team thanked the Fremont Neighborhood Council 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

*Jacobs Associates*

Jeremy Johnson, Design Consultant Project Engineer

*EnviroIssues*

Penny Mabie, Community Relations

Hannah Litzenberger, Community Relations