

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

### **Community Meeting Summary**

November 13, 2012 5:30 – 7:30pm

Fremont Abbey Arts Center, 4272 Fremont Ave N, Seattle, WA 98103

***Note: As of January 1, 2013, inquiries on the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project should be directed to Adair Muth at [adair.muth@kingcounty.gov](mailto:adair.muth@kingcounty.gov) or 206-263-7319.***

### **Overview**

On November 13, 2012, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) hosted a public meeting 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 purpose of the meeting was to present updates on environmental review, progress on the proposed locations of construction activities, restoration of affected project areas and the design decision process. The team presented next steps for the project and upcoming opportunities for public participation.

17 members of the public attended the meeting.

### **Presentations**

Participants learned about the proposed recommendation for construction areas and new structures now that the project is in design. The project team described their proposal for a new microtunnel under the ship canal, just west of the current tunnel. Major construction staging will be located on the north (Fremont) side of the canal. The current proposal, which underwent environmental review during Summer 2012, recommends locating construction activities and the new odor control facility on the private property located at 2nd Avenue Northwest and Northwest 36th Street.

Participants were also updated on plans for restoring green spaces in the project areas. The project team discussed tree replacement, environmental mitigation, and stormwater management requirements.

The project team presented the next steps in the project design process, which includes opportunities for the community to provide input on what the Fremont site will look like after construction is complete. A community design workshop will take place on Saturday, January 12 to gather community input.

The presentation and other relevant materials can be found at:

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

Before the presentation, there was an opportunity for meeting attendees to view display boards, ask the project team questions, and express concerns related to design and construction of the proposed project. Afterwards, meeting attendees had the opportunity to once again view the display boards and ask further questions of the project team.

Meeting 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.

Meeting attendees were informed of and encouraged to use a variety of methods for submitting input:

- Web: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/FremontSiphon>
- Email: [Monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov)
- Phone: Monica Van der Vieren at 206-263-7301
- Comment forms (available at the public meeting)

## Summary of Questions and Input

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

*Has a final date been set for the design workshop in January?*

The community design workshop will take place on Saturday, January 12, 2013.

*Will odors be present when the new odor control facility is cleaned or accessed for maintenance?*

The odor control facility will address the ongoing odor issues from the existing siphon. The system will be offline when the odor control facility is cleaned (typically on an annual basis) so no additional odors should result from cleaning and maintenance.

*Will the King County sandcatcher still require cleaning and maintenance after this project is complete? If so, is there a way to improve the very significant odors during that maintenance work?*

There are two sandcatchers in the Fremont area, one associated with the City of Seattle's sewer and one in King County's system. Sandcatchers are needed to settle out solids like sand, rocks, gravel, and other items from the sewer system, preventing clogging, especially where storm flows are directed in the sewer system. The King County-owned sandcatcher (located at 1st Avenue Northwest and North Canal Street) will be needed to catch solids that could reduce capacity and increase maintenance of the new Fremont Siphon. It will still need to be accessed for routine maintenance and cleaning. King County is aware of the odors from cleaning and maintenance activities, and provides neighbors notice when odor-causing maintenance activities are scheduled. King County will look into potential means for reducing odors during the required cleaning and maintenance. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) maintains a sandcatcher located at 2nd Avenue Northwest and North Canal Street that also requires maintenance and may cause odors during cleaning.

*Has King County secured the private property located at 2nd Avenue Northwest and Northwest 36th Street?*

After completing environmental review on the recommended proposal this summer, King County is continuing to pursue this proposal, siting permanent facilities including at grade slabs, an odor control facility, and driveway access at the 2nd Avenue Northwest and Northwest 36th Street. We are currently working with the property owners as part of this process.

*Will the size of the replacement trees be similar to the current ones?*

King County has a great deal of experience restoring vegetation following construction. Restoration plans don't always include trees of similar size to what is located on site. Large trees are not always the best choice for restoration because they tend to stay the same size after transplantation. Smaller trees often grow more quickly, have a higher survival rate, and generally have better results than larger/more mature trees. King County's team includes a landscape architect and certified arborist, and we are working with the City of Seattle's arborist to evaluate options for restoration on city-owned property.

*Will introducing new trees block current water views? Can you distribute them along the Ship Canal to avoid view blockage and replace trees that are not surviving in other areas?*

Restoration guidelines often include a higher ratio of replaced trees, 2-3 trees planted for every tree removed. View corridors do need to be considered when additional trees are being planted. King County is working with the Army Corps of Engineers on issues along the Ship Canal that are affected, and we can pass along this suggestion. We welcome community ideas on site restoration, including placement of trees. You can send any specific comments on certain views to Monica Van der Vieren at [monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov](mailto:monica.vandervieren@kingcounty.gov) or 206-263-7301. You can also give this type of input at the January 12 community design workshop.

*Where are the mitigation site boundaries for restoration?*

The area planned for mitigation is on the Queen Anne side of the project along the Ship Canal near West Ewing Mini Park (see green shaded area below labeled “Mitigation Area”). King County is proposing to the permitting agencies that invasive ivy will be removed from this area and be replaced with native vegetation that provides ground cover, overhangs the waterway, provides erosion control and benefits local wildlife.



*How will access to nearby homes and businesses be maintained during construction? Is there a way for the community to stay involved with the traffic planning?*

Traffic control plans must be submitted as part of the permitting process with the City of Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT). King County will include the community’s input when submitting the traffic plans to SDOT. The best way to be involved now is to pass your concerns to Monica Van der Vieren, who will ensure your input is provided to SDOT. Additionally, King County will hold a community meeting in Spring 2013 to further discuss what neighbors can expect during construction and to identify any additional construction concerns. A pre-construction meeting will be held in 2014, prior to beginning construction.

*Construction is expected to last two years. How will King County address the road closure impacts on neighbors and businesses?*

The intersection of 2nd Avenue Northwest and Canal Street will need to be closed for some stages of construction. Street closures will be limited to work connecting the new siphon to the existing North Interceptor, and to reconfigure the City of Seattle’s CSO outfall. These closures will not last the length of the entire project. King County understands that construction projects and especially road closures can impact near neighbors and will plan construction activities to minimize these impacts as much as possible. We have heard your concerns. There will be a 24/7 project hotline during construction for the community to report any issues or concerns. King County works with the community to address these concerns as they arise and may adapt construction activities based on input received.

*How is King County addressing the Burke-Gilman Trail, Ship Canal Trail and bicycle routing?*

The project will include temporary detours of the Burke-Gilman Trail and the Ship Canal Trail, but there will always be bicycle access. King County realizes that there are many travelers on both trails and plans to create temporary paved paths near the existing trails and not route the detours onto busy streets.

*What percentage of project funding will go towards public art?*

The public art funding will be one percent of the cost of above ground facilities (not the total project cost). King County will be working with the non-profit organization 4Culture for the public art process. The 4Culture Board of Directors determines how much money is spent on each public art project, and can allot more/less funding than the required one percent if determined necessary or appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

*What is the community's involvement with 4Culture and choosing public art?*

4Culture will create an artist selection panel which usually includes one or two members to represent the community and one or two local artists. The community values, vision, and design principles to be established at the January 12 community design workshop will also help shape the artist selection process. Once an artist is selected s/he will be invited to meet with the community to better understand community thoughts and aspirations for the public art.

### **General comments**

- A community drum circle meets in Fremont Canal Park and may need lighting.
- Extend the existing metal grate/duck walkway along the canal.
- Replace old, large sequoia trees which were once in the project area.
- Keep a bicycle route open.
- Recommend coordinating with the Fremont Chamber of Commerce to stay in tune with community events.
- Fremont Canal Park is currently “walled off” by the property located at 2nd Avenue NW and NW 36th Street. Extend the park, plantings and landscaping to Leary Street.
- Address concerns for businesses that need access on Canal Street. Trucks and deliveries can back in if necessary.
- Fremont Neighborhood Council and Fremont Arts Council have established online outreach to help inform the community about the public arts process.
- Fremont Neighborhood Council and Fremont Arts Council have extensive experience with the public art process.

### **Closing**

The project team thanked attendees for their active involvement in the project. Local business and resident input is very important to informing the decision process, so as to result in a design that will meet the needs of the community. Staff encouraged the audience to remain involved and continue to provide input.

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

*King County Wastewater Treatment Division*

Will Sroufe, Monica Van der Vieren, Michael Popiwny, Eric Mendenhall, Chris Tiffany, Sue Meyer, Adair Muth

*MWH Americas, Inc.*

Joe Clare

*EnviroIssues*

Penny Mabie, Hannah Litzenberger