



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

### **North Seattle Industrial Association Briefing Summary**

November 26, 2013 7:30 – 9:00 a.m.

Car Wash Enterprise, 3977 Leary Way NW, Seattle, WA 98107

#### **Overview**

On November 26, 2013, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) presented information on the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project to the North Seattle Industrial Association (NSIA). The NSIA is a membership-based group that meets to discuss freight mobility, zoning, shoreline master code and other government legislation, and concerns that will affect industrial business in north Seattle.

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 focusing on the project final design, including construction areas, activities and traffic impacts in Fremont and Queen Anne, and construction expectations. The team presented next steps in the project and upcoming opportunities for public participation.

Fourteen members attended the briefing.

#### **Presentation**

After providing an overview of the project, the project team presented the final site layout and design for the Fremont side of the project, which was developed following a community workshop in January 2013 and a follow up community open house in March 2013. The project team used community input to refine the site layout (including removing a second driveway to the site) and design a historic-looking aboveground building using northwest coastal-inspired landscaping.

The project team then described the construction process, anticipated work activities in Fremont and Queen Anne, preliminary temporary traffic and pedestrian detours, and the proposed construction schedule. The project team will be finalizing the project design in late 2013 and hiring a construction contractor in spring 2014. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2014.

The presentation was abbreviated from the November 20, 2013 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)

Meeting attendees were informed of and encouraged to use a variety of methods for submitting questions and input, including the following:

- Web: [www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/FremontSiphon](http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/FremontSiphon)
- Email: [adair.muth@kingcounty.gov](mailto:adair.muth@kingcounty.gov)
- Phone: 206-477-5505

Meeting attendees were encouraged to ask questions, express concerns, and provide input, especially through the upcoming post-design survey. King County staff indicated that input is always welcome and has been considered throughout the project design process.

## **Summary of Questions and Input**

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

*The County is acquiring a business property. Will the business move out of Fremont?*

Praxair is planning to relocate within the area. Praxair is also eligible to receive relocation benefits. The County has a dedicated relocation specialist who works directly with the local Praxair office staff- she is tasked to provide personalized relocation advisory services to Praxair. The County will assist Praxair in covering costs from moving the business out of the current address, to reestablishment of the business on their selected replacement site.

*Will the Lake Washington Ship Canal be blocked during construction?*

No. The County wants to avoid blocking the Lake Washington Ship Canal during construction to minimize impacts to industry. There will be some work in the Lake Washington Ship Canal related to combined sewer overflow (CSO) outfalls, but it is not anticipated to interrupt Lake Washington Ship Canal traffic.

*Does the County have CSO outfalls flowing into the Lake Washington Ship Canal?*

The County has six CSO outfalls that discharge into the Lake Washington Ship Canal: 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue Northwest, Ballard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West and Ewing Street, Canal Street, Montlake, and University.

3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue West and Canal Street are near the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project area. In total, the City of Seattle and King County have eighteen CSO outfalls flowing into the Lake Washington Ship Canal.

*The Brightwater project did not eliminate any CSO outfalls. Will replacing the Fremont Siphon Replacement Project eliminate CSO outfalls in the area?*

Because CSOs serve as a relief valve to alleviate local limitations in system capacity, the Brightwater Treatment System, part of the regional system, cannot prevent CSO discharges. Even when CSO control is in place, permitted outfalls will be maintained to avoid backups onto public and private property and in structures. The Fremont Siphon Replacement Project won't address the CSO discharges in Fremont; upsizing the siphon pipelines would only shift the discharges across the Ship Canal, to the County's 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue CSO outfall. Under another program, the County will investigate other options for reducing discharges from the Ship Canal CSO.

In contrast, the Ballard Siphon Replacement Project will bring the Ballard CSO into control, since additional flows through the new siphon pipeline can be accommodated downstream.

*How deep will excavation be to install the siphon?*

The Lake Washington Ship Canal is approximately 30 feet deep. The shafts to construct the siphon will be approximately 80 feet deep.

*During construction, there is usually a problem with contractor parking near the construction site. Can construction crews and contractors park in the project area?*

Contract specifications constrain construction crews from parking in the immediate area to reduce impacts on the community.

*The NSIA does not want this to be a reason for City of Seattle to install a lot of parking meters. When Seattle City Light, Metro and US Army Corps of Engineers did construction, they made a deal with U-Park for construction crews to park there.*

Construction contract specifications restricting worker parking will be enforceable. If neighbors feel there are contractor violations during construction, they should call the 24/7 construction hotline immediately to report problems so that the construction management team can address them.

*Bicyclists typically do not follow detour rules on the Burke-Gilman Trail. How will the County encourage bicyclists to follow the detour route on the Burke-Gilman Trail?*

The Burke-Gilman trail will not be rerouted on to streets in Fremont; when necessary, the trail will be shifted in Fremont Canal Park to accommodate construction activities. However, the County has experience with many projects in bicycle commuter areas and we are aware that we may need to address issues that arise during construction.

*What is the budget for Fremont Siphon Replacement Project?*

Construction is estimated to cost \$22 million; the total project budget is approximately \$43 million.

*What is the budget for Ballard Siphon Replacement Project?*

The total cost including construction is approximately \$56 million.

*There was a claim as a result of the Ballard Siphon Replacement Project that did not get resolved.*

Understanding that temporary construction impacts are unavoidable, the County works closely with contractors and communities to limit those impacts. Our contractors are required to comply with permit conditions and construction specifications. In addition, we work with residents and businesses to limit temporary construction impacts and identify reasonable solutions to problems.

Contractors are required to carry insurance and claims are filed against their insurance. If a claimant feels he/she is not receiving a response, a claim can be filed through King County Risk Management. The claim would be tendered by Risk to the contractor's insurance company.

*What is procedure when someone has complaint?*

The project will have a 24-hour construction hotline that community members can call and ask questions or report concerns. The caller leaves a message and staff are paged. Staff follow up with the caller and work with the project team to identify reasonable solutions to concerns during construction.

*Other Comments*

One member recommended utilizing the Fremont Chamber news to disseminate project information.

## **Closing**

The project team thanked the North Seattle Industrial Association 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 and Monica Van der Vieren, Community Relations (on behalf of Adair Muth, Community Relations Lead)*

*EnviroIssues, Rochelle Stowe*