

Murray Basin Combined Sewer Overflow Control Facility Design Advisory Group

Meeting Summary

September 27, 2012 6:30-8:30 pm

Fauntleroy School House, 9140 California Ave S.W.

Overview

On September 27, 2012, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) hosted a Design Advisory Group (DAG) meeting for the Murray Basin Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Facility. The DAG is providing input and advice regarding proposed site layout, facility layout, post-construction site use, and landscaping and aesthetics to share with the broader public and WTD. The group is reviewing technical analyses in order to understand proposed layouts and provide input about design options to inform the County's decision-making. The DAG is acting as a sounding board for the project technical team, and a project liaison to the public, helping ensure the County project team receives a broad community perspective.

Topics for the September 27 DAG meeting included:

- Review permitting process developments
- Discuss landscape and facility design updates
- Preview construction schedule and activities

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting facilitator Penny Mabie led a round of introductions and reviewed the meeting's agenda. She noted that the attending public will always have the opportunity to provide input and ask questions at the end of each meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to recap any developments in the project's permitting process, discuss updates to the facility and landscape design, and preview the project's likely construction activities, impacts, and schedule.

Update on SDOT review

WTD project manager Erica Jacobs gave an update on the City of Seattle's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) master permit process, which includes shoreline and land use permitting as part of the review process. She noted that on September 11, DPD hosted a public meeting to solicit comments on the project. Around twenty comments were provided in all. Also ongoing is the Seattle Department of Transportation's (SDOT) Street Improvement Process (SIP). The project team is still awaiting approval from SDOT on the 60% design milestone. Erica pointed the group's attention to the handouts of plans, which provide details on each of the project's right-of-way improvements. The plans will also be posted on the project website.

Landscape and Facility Design Updates

Project consultant architect Donn Hogan presented the facility's updated design elements. Due to the amount of ventilation needed for odor control, a vertical exhaust is required for proper air dispersion. The exhaust stack will extend about five feet beyond the parapet from the vantage point of Beach Drive Southwest. Donn described to the group several of the exterior surfaces and textures that the project team will use. Light-emitting diode (LED) lighting strips in front of facility doors will be used to illuminate the exterior. The lights will not shed any lateral light and will only be turned on when operational staff are using the facility.

Erica Jacobs noted that the project team has determined that fencing will not be used to secure the facility's operational area. Instead, the trees and berm adjacent to the sidewalk and Beach Drive Southwest will form a natural barrier while maintaining visibility to the driveway and operational area. WTD community relations lead Doug Marsano clarified that the project team determined that if extra security becomes necessary, additional lighting will be installed, not fencing.

Project consultant landscape architect Matt Gurrad continued the presentation and talked about many of the site's landscape elements. Project artist Robert Horner is currently marrying many of his ideas with the conceptual design of the facility, particularly the building's heights and gradients. Matt noted that the project team is trying to elongate the look and feel of the site through the use of landscaping.

The team will add discreet signage near the proposed green roof to prevent people from accessing the area, as the plantings will be fragile. A chain link fence will be placed along Lincoln Park Way SW from the site's southeast corner to where the facility's stairway begins. Matt also discussed night lighting, which will be used for safety and way-finding. Walkway and viewing area rails will be equipped with lights that should provide sufficient lighting for safety. "Up lighting" will be installed to highlight specific art inserts and rammed earth walls.

4Culture's Cath Brunner explained to the group the inspiration behind several of the artist's concepts. Robert Horner has been working well with the project team and is increasing the scope of his work as part of the facility's exterior. The walkway, for example, will include embedded benches made of rammed earth and inlays to the concrete wall. These inserts will include aggregate pieces of glass and silica to add some glint to the walls. Robert will also re-use and feature many of the materials he has gathered from the current structures on the site slated for deconstruction.

Robert's overall theme is "from alpine to beach, mountains to sound," and he has picked different sets of stones to reflect this premise. At the top of the stairway, the landscape will feature large, sharp-looking rocks to characterize an alpine environment. Halfway down the stairway, the stones will transition to rounder, "river-like" rocks. At the bottom, smooth coastal stones will be used to represent a Washington beach.

Questions and Discussion

- DAG member Patrick Gordon asked if the fencing decision is final and expressed concern that security staff will determine a fence is ultimately necessary in the future.
 - Erica Jacobs answered that while the project team cannot guarantee that the decision will never be changed, there is no reason to anticipate any future fencing additions. The Murray Avenue driveway will be guarded by a one-armed gate, but it is not designed to bar pedestrians.
- DAG member Scott Gunderson asked if the hand rails will use horizontal cabling, which can be easily climbed. Could vertical cables be used instead?
 - Matt Gurrad answered that the team will consider this option.
- DAG member Bill Byers noted that the sidewalk has changed in size and character.
 - Matt Gurrad responded that the sidewalk and staircase has been broken up in sections to tone down its intensity. The bottom section remains wide and grand, but the two sections above it will narrow at each stage. The adjacent wall in between the walkway and facility also steps up, mirroring the slope of the stair sections.
- Bill Byers asked how the art elements will withstand corrosion from salt air and spray.
 - Cath Brunner answered that the art team has thought about the long-term timeline of the art elements and will be using protection methods to preserve the materials. She added that the team will ensure that the artist's installations consider the salt water environment.
- DAG member Pamela Allen asked about the previous landscape design's plan for a rain garden within the lawn area.
 - Matt Gurrad said the runoff from the stairs and viewing area will be conveyed to a small rain garden in the lawn area. The size of the rain garden remains the same from previous design iterations and will be tucked back, away from the sidewalk. The pocket rain gardens adjacent to the stairway will also serve to improve stormwater treatment.
 - Pamela noted that the water table is probably high on the site due to its proximity to the beach.
 - Matt agreed and said the high water table prevented the use of permeable pavement near Beach Drive SW. Infiltration of rainwater is much better, however, farther away from the street, which is why the garden will be placed to the east as much as possible while still remaining accessible for maintenance.
- DAG member Chas Redmond asked about specific choices regarding lighting selections.
 - The general consensus of the DAG was that a warmer light would best suit the facility and landscaping design.

- Linda Hubert, Seattle Department of Parks and Recreation, asked if the project team has considered those who may use the site's urbanscape for skateboarding and BMX biking.
 - Matt answered that the team is looking into ways to dissuade people from using the walls and rails for these purposes, but has not determined specifics yet.
- Patrick Gordon commented that he is encouraged about where the site design is headed but questioned whether the sloping parapet on the facility's west side is necessary.
 - Donn Hogan said the team can certainly look at reconfiguring the parapet once some of the facility's practical elements are finalized. The parapet was initially designed to mirror the slope of the facility's eastern side.

Construction Schedule and Activities

Project consultant engineer Eric Bergstrom presented to the group the project's likely construction activities, impacts to the community, and projected timeline. The odor control's vault and hatch, standby generator plug, and galvanized pipes near the existing pump station will all be removed. Once the site is comprehensively deconstructed and cleared, the contractor will set up soil nail walls to secure the site's eastern slope. Secant piles will then be drilled in a circular formation to create a stable base for the storage tank. Eric referred to the presentation, which showed a similar project. A very deep hole will be excavated to fit the one-million gallon storage tank.

Eric next explained the construction of the large diameter utilities, which will be used to move the water between the tank and the pump station. Beach Drive SW will remain open for the vast majority of construction, but the street will be affected while the utilities are installed. Construction will be staged, with half of the roadway remaining open at all times. Eric reiterated that safety is the project's key priority, both for the contractor and the public. Construction work will typically be conducted on weekdays, from 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. Nighttime work will only be done after three days notification to the community.

Doug Marsano continued the presentation by discussing King County's plans to work with the community on construction impacts. County staff will be dedicated to respond to community issues and a 24-hour hotline, project web page, and regular construction updates will all be tools made available to the neighborhood and surrounding community. Doug explained that in general, the largest and most impactful aspects of the construction process will occur during the first year. The community will continue to have opportunities to talk with the project team regarding construction impacts and schedule as the project progresses.

Questions and Discussion

- Chas Redmond asked how the secant piles are formed.
 - Eric Bergstrom answered that the piles are approximately 90 feet long and are drilled straight down. Another is drilled next to the original pile; a third is drilled in between and interlocks with the first two, creating a secure seal.

- Chas Redmond asked how quickly construction could be conducted, provided that everything went as expected.
 - Eric Bergstrom responded that the schedule in some ways will depend on the contractor and how aggressively they approach the project. For example, one contractor may choose to drill the secant piles one at a time, while another will use two drill rigs to double the pace. The project team will need to be wary of pushing the contractor too hard as there is always a premium to pay for rapid construction activity.
- Community member Nancy Lestishen asked about the sequencing of construction.
 - Eric Bergstrom answered that secant piling will take about three months. Doug Marsano added that installing the secant piles is incredibly important to the project's overall success. Ensuring a strong seal for the foundation of the tank can often speed up other construction activities later in the process.
- Linda Hubert asked who will conduct the inspections of each stage of construction and whether the inspection process could slow the project.
 - Erica Jacobs responded that King County has a very robust inspection team who will be overseeing the project.
- Bill Byers inquired if King County could incentivize a quick construction process during the project's request for bids.
 - Erica Jacobs said the County will certainly be considering the idea, although incentives are most commonly used for large projects, such as tunneling. She cautioned that this will be a low-bid project, so it may not be possible to accommodate.
- Chas Redmond asked if there will be utility service interruptions to those who live at the end of Beach Drive Southwest.
 - Eric Bergstrom responded that there will be a few service interruptions. For instance, a water pipe will require temporary replacement.
 - Doug Marsano added that the community will be well informed about any such occurrences. The projects team's goal is to have absolutely no surprises for the community.

Next Steps and Action Items

Penny Mabie asked the attending members of the community and DAG members if they had any additional comments or questions.

- Nancy Lestishen asked when the properties on the site will be deconstructed.
 - Erica answered that the project team will be putting out a procurement to find a contractor, who will deconstruct the buildings. The team will have permits in hand by November, but may not start deconstruction until January.

- Bill Byers asked about the vegetation survey of the site and, in particular, the Murray Avenue right-of-way.
 - Matt answered that the survey's results are available online as part of the master permit application on DPD's website.
- Nancy Lestishen expressed support for the temporary artwork surrounding the site and encouraged anyone who has not seen it to make a visit.

Penny Mabie asked the group when they would like to meet next. Erica Jacobs noted that the project team is still wrapping up final design, but the basic concepts of the site have been formed. The 100% design submittal to the Department of Ecology will be made by the Christmas holiday. Patrick Gordon said he would like to meet before December to receive a project update for continued community involvement. Penny suggested a check-in with the DAG in early November, at which point a decision will be made when the next meeting will be held.

Action Items:

- King County will provide a link and project number for DPD's permit website to the DAG and community members.
- The architectural team will consider the option of reducing the height of the facility's western parapet and hand rail.
- King County will provide an end date for the Barton pump station project.
- The project team will take into account the potential for corrosion of art elements due to the site's salt water spray.
- King County will send the tree protection plan from the project's master permit application to the DAG and community members.
- Cath Brunner, 4Culture, will inquire to see if the artist's files that were presented can be publicly released.

Attendance

DAG Members

- ☐ Pamela Allen
- ☐ Bill Beyers
- ☐ Patrick Gordon
- ☐ Linda Hubert
- ☐ Scott Gunderson
- ☐ Chas Redmond
- ☐ Steve Utaski

WTD Staff and Consultants Facilitation Team

- ☐ Erica Jacobs (King County WTD)
- ☐ Doug Marsano (King County WTD)
- ☐ Jessica Tanumihardja (King County WTD)
- ☐ Donn Hogan (HDR)
- ☐ Eric Bergstrom (HDR)
- ☐ Matt Gurrad (HDR)
- ☐ Cath Brunner (4Culture)

Community Members

- ☐ Nancy Lestishen

Facilitation Team

- ☐ Penny Mabie (EnviroIssues)
- ☐ Landon Bosisio (EnviroIssues)