

Murray Basin Combined Sewer Overflow Control Facility Design Advisory Group

Meeting Summary

December 11, 2012 6:30-8:30 pm

Fauntleroy School House, 9140 California Ave S.W.

Overview

On December 11, 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 December 11 DAG meeting included:

- Review 90% landscape and facility design
- Discuss interpretive signage locations and content
- Preview project's next steps

Welcome and Introductions

Meeting facilitator Penny Mabie led a round of introductions and reviewed the meeting's agenda. She noted that this is the last meeting of the DAG as the design process is drawing to a close. The purpose of the meeting was to review the project's 90% design, discuss the content and location of proposed interpretive signage, and preview the project's next steps.

90% Landscape and Facility Design

WTD project manager Erica Jacobs gave an update to the group on the facility's design process. The design team recently reached the 90% design milestone and is set to submit the official design to the Washington State Department of Ecology sometime next week, well before the State's end-of-the-year deadline. (*Note: the design was submitted to Ecology on December 20.*)

Project consultant landscape architect Matt Gurrad outlined design revisions made since the September DAG meeting. The northern end of the site will have a sizable lawn, approximately 3,500 square feet, stretching from the Beach Drive Southwest and Lincoln Park Way Southwest intersection to the public stairway. Adjacent to the open space will be a rain garden to slow on-site stormwater flow. A planned row of trees in the planting strip between the sidewalk and

Beach Drive Southwest has been moved due to a sixty-inch utility line underneath the site. The trees will now be planted just east of the sidewalk.

Matt showed the public stairway during both daytime and nighttime conditions. At night, the stairway will be warmly lit with light-emitting diode (LED) lighting strips and will focus on the stair steps and project artwork. Project consultant architect Donn Hogan noted that the view of Puget Sound from the rooftop viewpoint will be framed by the landscape. Donn also showed the group a few of the materials that will comprise the exterior of the facility. A clear polyurethane paint will be placed on metal gratings and metal doorway plates to protect against corrosion.

Questions and Discussion

- DAG member Chas Redmond asked how high the western facility wall is and if the trees on that side are expected to match the wall's height.
 - Matt answered that the wall is 20-30 feet high. The trees will likely cover the facility wall, but their growth is expected to be stunted due to the facility's shadow during the initial period of the trees' life.
- DAG member Patrick Gordon commented that the west and north elevations of the facility exemplify what the community envisioned.
- Chas Redmond said that the facility looks like a piece of modern architecture and a nice addition to the neighborhood.
- Community member Linda Cox asked if the grass will be mowed regularly over the long-term.
 - Matt Gurrad answered that the lawn will consist of an eco-mix, including clover and other slow-growing grasses, intended to reduce the need for mowing. King County's maintenance team may decide to slow the lawn's irrigation and allow it to brown naturally during the summer season.
- Chas Redmond asked where the streetlights will be located.
 - Matt Gurrad answered that in addition to the lights on Lincoln Park Way, a streetlight will be placed on Beach Drive SW near the entrance to the park. Dan Pecha, project consultant engineer, added that the site will be well lit and must meet the City's strict lighting guidelines.
- Linda Cox asked about the security gate at the entrance of the facility's driveway and if fencing would be required in the future.
 - Matt Gurrad responded that the driveway will have a simple swing gate, preventing access only to vehicles. King County has determined that they would likely address any security issues that arise by additional lighting, not fencing.
 - Patrick Gordon commented that he had been initially concerned that a last-minute chain-link fence could be erected without the neighborhood's involvement. He

added that he is satisfied with the project team's approach to security as it appears that King County can implement additional alternatives if necessary.

- WTD community relations lead Doug Marsano noted that the County's other CSO facilities do not contain security fences and have not experienced significant problems. Everything that is worth stealing on the site will be locked safely away inside the facility.
- Chas Redmond asked if the facility lights are connected to the facility's emergency generator in the case of a power outage.
 - Eric Bergstrom, project consultant engineer, answered that the lights are likely connected to the same circuit as the facility's components
(NOTE: The project team verified that the lights and facility are connected to the same circuit.)
- Chas Redmond said the framed view of Puget Sound from the facility rooftop could be a great place for orca sightings, particularly just north of Vashon Island.
 - DAG member Barbara Owens suggested the project team involve The Whale Trail, an organization dedicated to whale viewing in the Pacific Northwest from shore.
- Linda Cox asked about the facility's potential for noise.
 - Dan Pecha answered that almost all of the facility's components will be underground and will not be heard. The emergency generator will be run during power outages, but will not be louder than 45 decibels, if heard at the property line, per the City's nighttime noise regulations.
 - Patrick Gordon added that 45 decibels is very quiet – no louder than the usual ambient noise in the neighborhood.
- Patrick Gordon asked about the fence between the Lincoln Park Way Southwest sidewalk and the rooftop's lawn area, and specifically if the man-gate needed to be as high as it was.
 - Matt answered that the fence will act as a deterrent to people who would otherwise walk down the slope and through the rooftop lawn rather than using the staircase. The designers will consider whether the gate needs to be as tall as the fencing up-slope so as to soften the transition of the fence.

Interpretive Sign Location and Content

Matt Gurrad showed the group a diagram outlining proposed interpretative signage and their potential location. At least three signs will be displayed and are intended to explain to visitors how CSO facilities and pump stations work, the specifics of green stormwater techniques, such as rain gardens, and the context of the facility, including its location within the Murray basin. Penny Mabie noted that the previous advisory group had discussed using the facility as an educational opportunity. The proposed signage is the first step in achieving that objective. Erica Jacobs explained that the project team wants to show visitors how the facility is helping to clean

up Puget Sound. She added that there will be other opportunities for signage, such as a placard describing the view from the rooftop viewpoint.

Questions and Discussion

- Chas Redmond suggested the sign explaining the facility's function be tied to how the facility fits within the entire wastewater treatment system. He noted that most people do not understand the relationship between infrastructure and the surrounding geographical area, including the regional watershed.
- Barbara Owens commented that the West Point Wastewater Treatment Plant has outstanding infographics that this project could emulate. She also proposed a sign be dedicated to how individuals can make an impact on the problem, like the information campaign "Don't Flush Trouble."
- Patrick Gordon agreed with other DAG members and said the signage ought to contain information about the stormwater management process and place. He cautioned against visual clutter and suggested the signs be coordinated with the same overall visual style.
- Barbara Owens recommended the signage explain some of the project's art, particularly the concept of rammed earth.
- DAG member Cheryl Eastberg commented that signs can unfortunately become targets for graffiti.
- Barbara Owens suggested the sign about rain gardens be expanded to include all low-impact development (LID), especially because the facility will also possess a green roof.
- Chas Redmond said it is important to show King County residents how water is used and where it eventually goes. This information could also be used for a newsletter.
- The group preferred an illustrative graphic style for the signs but maintained that text is important as long as it does not overwhelm the reader.

Project's Next Steps

Erica Jacobs explained the project's likely next steps, including the construction schedule. After designs are submitted to the Washington State Department of Ecology, the project will be put out to bid. At the same time, the team will continue the process of gaining all necessary permits. As of now, the City's Department of Planning and Development (DPD) has granted a conditional master use permit to the project. The Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) has given 60% approval to the project's street improvement permit (SIP) process. By the third quarter of 2013, the bid will be awarded to a contractor; equipment assembly on-site will begin by the end of the year.

Construction is expected to officially begin in late 2013. Storage tank installation will last until 2015. Above-ground elements, such as the facility building, will be constructed after the tank and is anticipated to be completed in 2016. Street work on Beach Drive SW, specifically final surface improvements, will be conducted at the end of the construction process.

Doug Marsano noted that the community will continue to be informed as the process continues. This will be the last official DAG meeting, although future community meetings will be held. The community will also have the opportunity to meet the contractor once the bid is awarded and they are officially on board with the project team.

Questions and Discussion

- Chas Redmond asked where all of the dirt that will be unearthed from the site will go.
 - Dan Pecha answered that it depends on the contractor, but some of the dirt may be used on-site. Robert Horner, the artist, for example, may use it for his rammed earth installations.
- Patrick Gordon asked about the deconstruction process and timing.
 - Erica Jacobs responded that the project team should have the deconstruction permit in hand by January. Deconstruction will occur between late spring and early summer 2013. Robert Horner is expected to be on-site during deconstruction to reclaim materials which will eventually be re-used in his artwork.
 - Doug Marsano added that there will be no activity next summer in Lowman Beach Park.
- Linda Cox asked if the project team anticipates uncovering anything of archaeological value.
 - Erica Jacobs answered that it is always a possibility. An archaeological authority will be on-site to monitor for anything of value.
- Chas Redmond asked if concrete cracking, which has been a problem for the SR 520 project, will be a significant issue.
 - Dan Pecha responded that all concrete eventually cracks, but the project's structural engineer has planned for the installation of steel reinforcement and a concrete additive to reduce incidents of cracking.
- Cheryl Eastberg asked how long it typically takes for the storage facility to be emptied.
 - Dan Pecha answered that it might take two days if full, but is not expected to be sitting full of water for any extended amount of time.

Action Items and Closing Thoughts

Penny Mabie told the group that this meeting marked the end of the Design Advisory Group process. She thanked the group for their time and participation and commended them for the enormous influence they have had on the design of the Murray CSO facility. King County considers this a hallmark project and it is due to the commitment shown on both sides. Erica Jacobs agreed and thanked everyone for their immensely valuable input. She noted that the

community will continue to hear from the County on the milestones and progress of the project in the coming year.

- Donn Hogan commented that it has been over a year since the community's design workshop and there have been multiple design iterations since that time. He told the group that this has been one of the best processes he has ever been a part of and thanked the community for their input, which played a crucial part of the facility's design.
- Patrick Gordon noted that he would be happy to meet again in some form if necessary. He added that he has been impressed with the responsiveness of the County and design team to the community's concerns and congratulated them on an excellent overall design.

Action Items:

- King County will send out the draft interpretive signage location diagram and content to the DAG and community members.
- King County will provide the artist's presentation to Barbara Owens and any other community members who express interest.
- The project team will verify if the facility's external lighting is connected to the emergency generator in the case of a power outage.

Attendance

DAG Members

- ☐ Patrick Gordon
- ☐ Cheryl Eastberg
- ☐ Barbara Owens
- ☐ Chas Redmond

Community Members

- ☐ Linda Cox
- ☐ Jeff Mitsopoulos

WTD Staff and Consultants Facilitation Team

- ☐ Erica Jacobs (King County WTD)
- ☐ Doug Marsano (King County WTD)
- ☐ Donn Hogan (HDR)
- ☐ Eric Bergstrom (HDR)
- ☐ Matt Gurrad (HDR)

Facilitation Team

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