



## **Sunset and Heathfield Pump Stations and Force Main Upgrade**

Public Open House Summary

March 3, 2015, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Vasa Park Ballroom, 3560 West Lake Sammamish Parkway S.E.

Online: February 23 – March 6, 2015

### **Overview and Purpose**

On March 3, 2015 the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) hosted an open house for the Sunset and Heathfield Pump Stations and Force Main Upgrade (Sunset Heathfield) project at the Vasa Park Ballroom. The meeting was an open house format with no formal presentation. The latest project information and preliminary designs were on display and shared with the public. Project staff was stationed around the room to discuss the project with the public and answer questions. Approximately 15 members of the public attended the meeting, shared concerns, asked questions, and provided input.

The purpose of the public meeting was to:

- Share the Sunset Heathfield project description, need, timeline, improvements, current design status, and potential construction impacts.
- Hear community perspectives, concerns, and questions.
- Gather input on fencing and lighting designs at the Sunset Pump Station.
- Introduce the Envision certification and share about King County's equity and social initiatives.

### **Online Open House**

In addition to the in-person open house, King County hosted an online open house from February 23 through March 6. This innovative format allowed community members the opportunity to review project materials at their own pace before and after the event and encouraged participation from anyone unable to attend the in-person open house. The site provided an opportunity for community members to easily submit comments, suggestions, and questions while reviewing project information. Those unable to attend the in-person open house and provide input on the fencing and lighting designs at the Sunset Pump Station were able to participate via the online open house. Approximately 45 members of the public accessed the online open house with 25 percent providing feedback. A few participants expressed their positive experience using the online open house.

### **Display Boards**

The following outlines information presented to the public on display boards and through the online open house. The display boards are available to view on the project website in the library.

### **Project overview**

- King County will upgrade the Sunset and Heathfield Pump Stations as well as the connected sewer force main pipe and eastgate structure. The pump station and sewer pipes send sewage from Sammamish, Issaquah, and Bellevue to be cleaned at the County's treatment plant in Renton.
- The sewer system is being upgraded with additional capacity to serve the area's growing population.
- King County works to build and operate facilities that benefit the local community, environment, and economy on all our projects. The good news is King County can now earn a certificate for these efforts through the Envision program. The Envision program helps measure how well an

organization incorporates sustainability on infrastructure projects. King County considers health and safety, reliability of the system, lifecycle cost, and impacts associated with the wastewater system.

- King County works to advance equity and social justice on all projects and uses their resources wisely to protect the environment.

### **Design and improvements**

- At this point in the project, the team knows the general layout of the pump station equipment. The basic route and construction methods of the new force main pipe have also been decided.
- The next phase of design will focus on fencing, lighting, and landscaping at the pump stations. The team will also decide the final layout of the pump station equipment and the exact location of the new force main pipe.
- Improvements to the Heathfield Pump Station includes: 4 new pumps, new electrical and controls systems, new generator and fuel tank, new heating and air conditioning system, rain garden, landscaping, roof replacement, and new lighting.
- Improvements to the Sunset Pump Station includes: new lighting and fencing, 4 new pumps, new electrical and controls systems, new generator, new heating and air conditioning system, green roof, rain garden, landscaping, and roof replacement.
- The current 12 inch sewer force main pipe will be replaced with a 24 inch pipe to increase conveyance capacity.

### **Construction**

- Construction is expected to begin in 2017 and end by 2020.
- Open cut and trenchless construction methods will both be used to install the new force main pipe.
- Open cut is a method of installing underground pipes that requires digging an open trench.
- Horizontal directional drilling (HDD) is a trenchless method of installing underground pipes and will be used to reduce traffic impacts to West Lake Sammamish Parkway S.E. and environmental impacts on S.E. 38th Street.
- Throughout construction, access to homes will be maintained and King County will work to ensure the community is aware of traffic closures, impacts, and detours.

### **Summary of Questions, Comments, and Input**

Questions, general comments, and input from attendees are summarized below by topic.

#### **Trees and Landscaping**

- Vasa Park is concerned about the removal of trees on their property.
- Vasa Park managers requested King County use robust trees and vegetation to maintain screening on the north border of the Sunset Pump Station down to Lake Sammamish.
- Maintain as many wetlands and tree screenings as possible, especially near Heathfield Pump Station.

#### *Why were trees tagged more than 10-ft off the public right-of-way?*

The project team marked trees as part of their inventory process to better understand potential impacts. These tagged trees do not necessarily represent where the new force main pipe will be installed or trees that will be removed.

*What type of landscaping is King County considering?*

The specific type of landscaping has not been determined. Our team has been and will continue to collect and review information on animals, plants, creeks, and wetlands in the area. New landscaping is expected to help screen the pump stations from the surrounding neighborhood and maintain views of Lake Sammamish where possible, specifically near the Sunset Pump Station.

*Will King County restore wetlands disturbed by force main construction?*

The removal of some trees and impacts to small wetlands may be necessary. King County is planning measures to avoid, reduce, or reverse environmental impacts during and following construction

**Traffic Impacts during Construction**

- Maintain access from 164th Place S.E. onto 163rd Avenue S.E. for emergency vehicles.
- Keep residents informed of detours and how to access their house.
- Be aware of neighborhood concerns on West Lake Sammamish Parkway S.E., including:
  - Speeding and drag racing.
  - Accessing West Lake Sammamish Parkway from S.E. 34<sup>th</sup> Street and S.E. 38<sup>th</sup> Street is difficult due to current traffic congestion.
  - Construction fatigue due to recent roadway improvements.
- Vasa Park is concerned about maintaining access to their park throughout construction.
- Consider using Facebook and Twitter to share construction updates.

*Will motor homes be able to access Vasa Park from S.E. 35th Place during construction?*

Construction along 164th Place may require rolling road closures but access along S.E. 34th Street will not be impacted. Flaggers are expected to allow vehicles to get by on S.E. 35<sup>th</sup> Place during construction.

*When will road closures occur? How will they impact ingress and egress from nearby homes?*

Road closure details, including timing and work hours have not been determined at this time as construction is approximately two years away. King County will continue to work with the community, answer questions, and address concerns as the design process continues and the project nears construction. Construction is expected to begin in 2017. The County will work closely with the community and the City of Bellevue to reduce traffic impacts where possible.

**Construction**

- Concerns were expressed about excavations on private property.
- Advocate for jack and bore construction method near Heathfield Pump Station to minimize the impacts to 163<sup>rd</sup> Avenue S.E.

*Will construction be continuous from 2017 to 2020?*

The HDD portion of the force main is anticipated to occur between November and March (most likely 2017-2018). The open cut portion of the force main including the Eastgate work is anticipated to occur between May and October 2018 or 2019. The most intense construction activity anticipated near Vasa Park is planned to occur during the winter of 2017 and early spring of 2018. Access to driveways and Vasa Park will be maintained at all times. Construction at the pump station sites will be largely continuous during the duration of the project, though the level of activity will largely peak during the summer months. Once the construction schedule is determined, the community will be notified.

*What is open cut construction?*

Open cut is a method of installing underground pipes that requires digging an open trench and will be used from 166<sup>th</sup> Avenue S.E. to S.E. Eastgate Way. It is the most common method for installing pipes.

*Can King County underground utilities to increase reliability?*

At this time, King County plans to underground gas and water lines but does not propose burying the existing above ground electrical utilities.

*If property or possessions are broken or damaged during construction, is the County held accountable?*

In the case of damage, the individual may file a claim and process their complaint with King County.

*There is a community member that uses the Heathfield Pump Station driveway to access his property, how will construction impact his access?*

King County will address access directly with the property owner and follow-up with nearby neighbors as needed.

**Additional Comments**

- The public appreciates King County’s focus on sustainability efforts.
- Reach out to Vasa Park users with educational opportunities as part of King County’s Equity and Social Justice Program.
- King County should investigate gas line locations. Problems that have occurred in the past include a house catching on fire and cables being cut.
- Make sure to request superintendent over subcontractors in field.
- Please park vehicles on King County property, not on the street near Heathfield Pump Station.
- There are parts of S.E. 35th Place and S.E. 34th Street that are unsafe for walking. Two residents plan to ask the City of Bellevue for sidewalk improvements as part of King County’s project.

**Project Team Attendees**

Shahrzad Namini	King County WTD	Project Manager
De’Sean Quinn	King County WTD	Community Relations
Rebecca Gauff	King County WTD	Engineer
Alyson Desmond	King County WTD	Sustainability
Jacob Sheppard	King County WTD	Environmental
Jeffrey Schmidt	MWH	Engineer
Dan Pecha	HDR	Engineer
Kerri Franklin	EnviroIssues	Community Relations
Sarah Wright	EnviroIssues	Community Relations

**Conclusion**

Please contact De’Sean Quinn directly if you have any unanswered questions.

De’Sean Quinn

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