



Puget Sound Beach Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Projects

North Beach Basin

Blue Ridge Community Club Meeting Summary of Discussion *April 12, 2010*

Overview

At the request of the Blue Ridge Community Club Board of Directors, King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) staff attended the Board's April 12, 2010 meeting. Approximately 170 members of the Blue Ridge Community Club and 5 from the North Beach community attended the meeting.

The Board asked WTD staff to present information about the North Beach Basin CSO Control project and respond to questions.

The following project team members attended:

King County Wastewater Treatment Division

Shahrzad Namini, Project Manager; John Phillips, CSO Control Program; Hien Dung, Real Estate Services; Sue Meyer, Environmental Planning; Pam Erstad, Permitting & Real Estate Services; Monica Van der Vieren, Community Relations

Carollo Engineers

Brian Matson, consultant team project manager; Karl Hadler, lead engineer for North Beach basin

Summary of Questions and Input

Questions and input from the Blue Ridge Community Club Board of Directors and other meeting attendees are summarized below.

Alternative 1A: Rectangular Storage, Bottom of Basin

The group discussed what it means for a storage facility to be underground, whether grass can be placed on top and what would be visible above ground.

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Alternative 1B: Pipe Storage in Right of Way, Bottom of Basin

The group discussed where the pipe storage would be located and how surface water would be managed. In response to questions, King County staff said that traffic access to homes would be maintained during construction.

Alternative 1D: Conveyance to 8th Ave Interceptor, Storage in Upper Basin

King County staff confirmed that the new pump station in this alternative would eliminate the existing pump station. They said storage would still be needed because pumping capacity is constrained by downstream capacity.

Project team staff explained that the entire new pump station could not be located on the site of the existing pump station. Attendees asked whether a temporary pump station could be used to limit land use needs.

Attendees questioned the need for a new pump station to be above grade and asked how much it would cost to put the new pump station below grade. King County staff explained that in order to pump flows up the hill, a high-head pump station would need to be built, with some above-ground profile likely. The height of the above ground portion of the pump station would be at most equivalent to a single-story house.

Potential facilities and construction staging in Blue Ridge Park

Attendees emphasized the value of Blue Ridge Park to the community and their desire to protecting park property from encroachment by county projects. They expressed concern about the potential for multiple projects in the park and the potential for setting a precedent for building in the shoreline.

Attendees said that impact to the park must be minimal and they asked about mitigation measures to compensate for facilities and construction staging in the park. King County staff explained that, while impacts to the community are considered during alternatives evaluation, mitigation will be addressed in the environmental review process under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

Attendees expressed concern about impacts to the viewshed at the park and to the property values if the park were altered.

Property acquisition

Attendees asked about options for purchasing private property adjacent to Blue Ridge Park, to use either as the project site or to transfer to the community as compensation for work in the park. In response to a question, King County staff said that since a proposal for CSO control has not been made yet, the team has not developed footprints for the eventual site layout or staging area, so it is not known exactly how much space will be needed.

Construction

There was discussion about the need to preserve access to the park and the beach during construction of any of the alternatives. Attendees felt that more information about the space

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needed for construction staging would help them compare alternatives. King County staff confirmed that access to all homes must be maintained during construction.

Cost

Attendees asked about the total project cost and whether cost estimates include the cost of land acquisition. King County staff described the planning level costs used to compare alternatives and confirmed that the project would be funded by regional ratepayers; there would be no tax or special assessment to property owners in the North Beach basin.

Potential for inflow/infiltration rehabilitation to control CSOs

Attendees asked about the potential to control CSOs by fixing sewer pipes to eliminate inflow and infiltration (I/I). They asked how much more this approach would cost compared to the three alternatives being considered. King County staff explained that I/I control (i.e. disconnecting downspouts) does not appear to be a feasible method for CSO control in the North Beach basin because only a relatively small portion of the basin has downspouts that are connected to the sewer system. Furthermore, the North Beach area lacks the stormwater system to accommodate the water removed from the sewer system. The initial estimated construction costs did not include adding a stormwater system.

Decision Process

In response to questions, King County staff said that the Wastewater Treatment Division will select a proposed alternative for SEPA review. The Washington State Department of Ecology will review a facility plan.

The group discussed why the neighborhood's existing infrastructure led to three CSO control alternatives for the North Beach basin that are located near Blue Ridge Park. The group asked for information about the selection process and the changes that are made during SEPA review.

Attendees asked to be involved in the progress of the project. There was discussion about the concern neighbors in the North Beach community have about viewshed impacts.

Future Wastewater Projects in the North Beach Basin

Attendees asked about when and how the existing pump station and North Beach force main might need to be replaced. King County project team members explained that the county is investigating the condition of the existing pump station. There was discussion about how the need for future wastewater projects in the North Beach basin factors into the evaluation of CSO control alternatives.