



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division

Puget Sound Beach Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Projects

***Special Public Meeting:
NEW Community Generated Proposal for CSO facility in Lincoln Park***

Public Meeting Summary
November 1, 2010 6:30-8:30 pm
The Hall at Fauntleroy, 9131 California Ave S.W., Seattle 98136

Overview

On November 1, 2010, the King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) hosted a public meeting for the Puget Sound Beach Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Projects in the Barton basin. The meeting was intended to raise awareness that Lincoln Park's south parking lot has been proposed as a potential location for a CSO facility, provide information on this alternative, and let the community know how to give input that will help inform the county's decision.

One hundred and five members of the public attended the meeting.

Presentations

Through presentations from the project team and the Murray Community Advisory Group (CAG), meeting participants learned about the wastewater conveyance system and CSO control problem in West Seattle, received a detailed explanation of the community-generated Lincoln Park CSO control alternative, and learned about the decision process, next steps and how communities can provide input on the proposal. The presentation and other meeting materials can be found at www.kingcounty.gov/csobeachprojects.

After the presentation, attendees had the opportunity to comment on the proposal and ask questions. Attendees also had the opportunity to view informational posters that were set up around the meeting room and talk with members of the project team. Flip charts were available to record questions and input.

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

- Web: www.kingcounty.gov/csobeachprojects
- E-mail: Martha.tuttle@kingcounty.gov
- Phone: 206-263-7301
- Feedback forms (available at the public meeting)

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Meeting attendees were encouraged to ask questions, express concerns, and provide input. King County staff indicated that input is always welcome and will be used throughout the decision process.

Summary of Questions and Input

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

GENERAL CSO

Compliance with codes

One participant questioned the county's timeline and need for Department of Ecology compliance. The Department of Ecology and the Federal Government can impose fines as well as enforce mandates with consent decrees. WTD staff shared that between 2010 and 2030 there will be 15 more King County CSO control projects that will be implemented throughout the County.

Understanding system-wide flows

Several community members wanted to better understand how system-wide wastewater and stormwater flow in West Seattle, and whether other basins influence Barton and Murray. The lead engineer explained that the Barton basin is the headwaters of the system that flows northward to Murray and on to the 63rd Ave pump station as it makes its way toward the West Point Treatment Plant. Flows to the east of the Murray basin travel to the Longfellow Creek area within the City of Seattle's combined sewer system.

One participant asked if WTD could add a pipeline that would bypass flows from Murray and send them further north, eliminating the need for Murray storage. The County team evaluated this option but it was not carried forward because it did not adequately meet the established evaluation factors.

Personal responsibility

One participant questioned the impact of each resident reducing flow to the system by a certain percentage as a solution for CSOs. This could make a minor reduction in the amount of storage that is required, but would not come close to eliminating the need for a significant project in the basin.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BARTON AND MURRAY BASINS

Storage tank locations

Several meeting attendees asked whether the storage tank in Lincoln Park would eliminate the need for a project in the Murray basin. WTD staff explained that the Lincoln Park storage option would still require a smaller tank at the bottom of the Murray basin in the Lowman Beach Park area. Barton basin will still need a CSO control project, using one of the three alternatives presented in March (storage in Upper Fauntleroy Way, Green Stormwater Infrastructure in the upper basin, storage at Fauntleroy School).

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Two meeting attendees expressed concern about using private property across from Lowman Beach Park because it includes family homes.

One meeting participant suggested placing the tank under the ferry dock at Fauntleroy terminal.

A meeting attendee suggested that each basin should take an equal share of the burden; Barton and Murray should each store 500,000 gallons of peak flows during large storm events.

Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)

One community member wanted to know about GSI possibilities in both basins. The lead engineer answered that GSI was considered for both basins but was found to be feasible in the Barton basin due to several factors, including having substantial areas where street runoff is connected to the sanitary sewer system and relatively large areas with flat terrain and less concern about groundwater causing slope instability. The Murray CAG recommended GSI in both basins if possible, but they recognized that GSI in Murray cannot be the sole solution because there is not enough connected area and because of steep unstable slopes.

Comparing Lincoln Park and Lowman Beach Park

Community members asked Murray CAG members why Lowman Beach Park was less preferable than Lincoln Park. From the CAG perspective, Lowman Beach Park is a small park that slopes to the water and has very old (100+ years) Sycamore trees. The concern is that these special features make it irreplaceable; this project would forever change the character of Lowman Beach Park. By comparison, Lincoln Park would temporarily lose its parking lot and paved path, both of which are not natural and could be replaced to the same or better condition. If a large project is put in Lowman Beach Park, Murray will be storing a large quantity of flow from the Barton basin.

One meeting participant asked about comparative costs for doing two projects to address Murray flows – one at Lincoln Park and one at Lowman Beach Park – compared with a single project at Lowman Beach Park. The lead engineer explained that the cost would be greater to build in two areas but at this early point in the process, the estimated cost differential does not appear great (~\$3-4 million for a ~\$25 million project).

Life cycle assessment

A meeting attendee asked how life cycle costs were determined and suggested that they include capital costs as well as operations and maintenance. Life cycle costs would be considered as part of the evaluation of the alternatives and refined during design.

Concerns about the public process and basin equity

Several people expressed their concern about a lack of transparency with the process. Meeting attendees felt that the Murray Basin community had an extensive public process without representation from the Barton community. A member of the Fauntleroy Community Association did attend the CAG meetings but reported himself not to be a voting member.

Some community members requested the formation of a Community Advisory Group for the Barton basin. People felt that the Lincoln Park alternative was a last minute proposal and not

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fully considered. Several community members expressed the belief that if Lincoln Park was a recently discovered possibility there must be other possible CSO control solutions as yet untapped.

The group discussed different ideas about equity. Neighbors of Lincoln Park described the impacts of other urban infrastructure projects – including other wastewater facilities and regional transportation investments in their area.

Several members of the CAG shared their feelings that the Lincoln Park alternative would spread the burden more equitably across the basins, would cause short-term pain but no lasting harm and asked the Barton community to read the CAG report (www.kingcounty.gov/CSOBeachProjects). CAG members were concerned that this proposal was being interpreted as Barton versus Murray or Fauntleroy Community Association (FCA) versus Murray Community Association (MOCA). The CAG looked at numerous solutions, all of which they felt had more flaws than the Lincoln Park solution.

WTD staff emphasized that King County has tried to be transparent throughout the process and engage all affected communities – all meeting materials are posted on the website along with meeting summaries to make the process as inclusive as possible. Additionally, it was stated that the Lincoln Park alternative is a relatively new approach proposed by the CAG and this meeting was organized to bring Barton basin community members into the discussion before any decisions are made.

LINCOLN PARK PROPOSAL: TECHNICAL DETAILS

Technical Details

In response to a question, the lead engineer explained that the Barton pump station upgrade would have enough pressure for flows to be pumped uphill to a storage tank under the south parking lot. There may be motorized valves at the bottom of the hill which would be turned on when flows exceed capacity, or flows may be routinely pumped uphill but only stored under Lincoln Park's south parking lot during an event which exceeds the pump station's capacity.

There would not be a new outfall needed and the existing outfalls at Barton and Murray would remain intact (as for other alternatives being considered). Whichever CSO control mechanism is chosen, CSOs must be controlled to no more than one event per year on average per Department of Ecology requirements.

Excavation and shoring

Property owners adjacent to Lincoln Park asked whether geotechnical studies had been completed to show that surrounding homes would be stable during excavation and construction. This would be an important consideration if the proposal moves forward.

One community member expressed concern that the Fauntleroy area is subject to liquefaction during an earthquake.

Concerns about the project footprint

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One participant questioned whether project elements would be above or below grade. WTD staff explained that project elements would be located underground for this proposal with the possible exception of small components such as vents.

A meeting attendee expressed concern that the tank footprint would be larger than the actual parking lot and would impact Lincoln Park's natural resources.

Location of proposed facilities within Lincoln Park

One meeting attendee shared her concern that the large maple tree near the parking, which is used for weddings and other major milestones, would be impacted.

One participant requested that the WTD explore the use of the grassy area near the parking lot as an alternate storage tank site.

Odor and electrical concerns

One participant shared her strong reservations about the odor and electrical facilities associated with the storage tank. Odor control, electrical outages and noise were raised as particular concerns.

LINCOLN PARK PROPOSAL: CONSTRUCTION CONCERNS

Numerous meeting attendees expressed overall concern about construction during the project and shared that the Lincoln Park area has the worst traffic and parking (along with the best park) in West Seattle. According to many attendees, this is a highly challenging location to site a major construction project.

Traffic

A representative from the Fauntleroy Community Association made a presentation expressing strong opposition to the proposal, emphasizing the impact on traffic in the neighborhood. According to the representative, every neighborhood street is lined with houses, there are no sidewalks, and there is currently too much fast-moving traffic in the neighborhood. Without the Lincoln Park parking lot's 75 spaces, park users would park in the neighborhood and more drivers would use side streets, greatly impacting an already impacted community.

Ferry traffic was raised as a large concern by the community. According to one community member, a resident counted more than 2,700 cars during a four-hour period on a summer day (during morning and evening commute times). She expressed concern that if even half of the ferry traffic were to choose an alternative route through the neighborhood, it would overwhelm the side streets.

Meeting attendees wanted to know whether WTD had developed traffic and detour plans during construction for the Lincoln Park alternative and if so how they compared to plans for the possible Lowman Beach Park site. Traffic issues are considered as part of the decision-making process for choosing a preferred alternative; but specific traffic control plans have not been developed for either of the alternatives.

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Concurrent projects

Meeting attendees wanted to better understand the relationship between the Barton pump station upgrade and the Lincoln Park CSO project. The existing Barton pump station has pumps that can convey 26 mgd (million gallons per day). The upgrade will allow for a conveyance capacity of 33 mgd. The Barton pump station is a separate project from CSO control projects. However, the cost to upgrade the capacity is relatively small within the context of the larger project and will allow greater flexibility.

Community members were concerned about the number of concurrent projects in the neighborhood. The Barton pump station project will begin in 2012 and last approximately 2.5 years. King County METRO will be constructing Rapid Ride bus stations at the ferry terminal around the same time period. If Fauntleroy School is chosen as the Barton CSO control option, the project will begin in 2013 and last approximately 2 years. If the Lincoln Park alternative is chosen, it will mean another significant project in the neighborhood at the same time as the above listed projects.

Parking

Concern about loss of parking was widespread. In addition to regular park use, the parking lot is used for teenage swim team members who arrive at dawn to practice. A member of the Murray CAG shared his hope that this project would result in increased parking for Lincoln Park users over the long term.

Meeting participants expressed their desire to have the parking lot returned to its original condition.

Access

Several meeting attendees expressed concern that ADA access be maintained through the park during construction. The construction plan will ensure that access is maintained.

A meeting participant asked whether the County had considered installing a large-diameter storage pipeline in Lincoln Park along the beach rather constructing a storage tank under the parking lot. This alternative was not considered as it was thought to be much more impactful to park facilities.

Meeting attendees noted that the access road to Colman Pool and the lower beach area is crucial for park operations and maintenance.

Safety

Several meeting participants shared their concern about safety in the Lincoln Park area during construction. Many small children use the park, as well as numerous pedestrians and bicyclists.

Closing

The project team thanked the participating citizens for their robust input. Citizen input is very important to informing the decision process, and is always welcome.

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Attendance

Puget Sound Beach CSO Control Project Team

King County Wastewater Treatment Division

Norm Alberg, Project Planning and Delivery Section Manager; Shahrzad Namini, Project Manager; Linda Sullivan, Capital Projects Managing Supervisor; Mary Wohleb, Assistant Project Manager; Erika Peterson, Community Relations

Carollo Engineers

Brian Matson, consultant team project manager

Tetra Tech

Jeff Lykken, basin lead engineer; Kevin Dour, engineer

Triangle Associates, Inc.

Bob Wheeler, facilitator; Kristine Cramer, community relations support