

Puget Sound Beach Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Control Projects

Barton Basin

Public Meeting Summary

March 18, 2010, 6:00-8:30 pm

Southwest Community Center, 2801 SW Thistle St, Seattle, WA 98126

Overview

On March 18, 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. Approximately eighteen people attended the meeting.

Meeting Purpose

The meeting was intended to –

- Present three alternative means for CSO control in the Barton basin
- Present how these alternatives were developed
- Explain why the three alternatives are being considered for further evaluation
- Hear from the community about the alternatives

Public Meeting Approach

Shahrzad Namini, King County project manager, started the meeting and introduced the team. Jeff Lykken, the lead engineer for the Barton basin, and Bob Wheeler, the meeting facilitator, gave a PowerPoint presentation that included the following topics:

- CSO Control Program Overview
- CSO Beaches Projects Objectives
- CSO Control Approaches
- Barton Basin Requirements
- Barton Basin Alternatives
- Next Steps

Following the presentation, there was a period for meeting attendees to ask questions of the project team and to provide input on the alternative means of CSO control.

Afterwards, meeting attendees were encouraged to view informational posters that were set up at the back of 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:

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

Because of the project schedule, meeting attendees were encouraged to provide input by mid-April, 2010. Input received by then will provide the best opportunity to inform the evaluation of the three alternatives. Input is always welcome and will be used throughout the facility planning process.

List of Informational Posters

- Basin Map showing City System/County System & Combined System/Separated System
- Map of each alternative with basin inset (3 boards)
- Map of all three alternatives
- “What is a Combined Sewer Overflow?”
- CSO Control approaches overview
- Factors used for alternatives evaluation
- Decision Process graphic

List of Handouts Available

- Information Packet
 - Meeting agenda
 - Public Information Document
 - Diagram of decision process
- Feedback forms
- Dept of Ecology CSO fact sheet
- EPA press release
- Ratepayer report
- RainWise brochure (Seattle Public Utilities)

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Summary of Questions and Input

Questions and input from the public are summarized below.

There were multiple questions and remarks on the following topics.

Underground Storage Pipe in Upper Fauntleroy Way

- This alternative would impact a highly valued community green space by: removing the vegetation such as the prized roses, potentially damaging trees, obstructing the view points with above grade facilities; and potentially causing odor problems.
- What are the heights and locations of above grade facilities? (Response: Odor control and electrical facilities are usually in the range of 8- to 10-feet high. This may vary depending on the facility.)
- How big would the construction footprint be? (Response: The pipeline would be approximately 270 feet long. The construction width would be approximately 16- to 18-feet with shoring.)
- Could there be a risk of liquefaction in this area during earthquakes? (Response: Geotechnical evaluation is being conducted to assess this type of risk. In earthquake prone areas like ours, planning and design incorporates seismic considerations.)
- Consider putting pipe storage in 45th Ave SW instead of Upper Fauntleroy Way. The street is wider and moves the work away from the community green space and viewpoint on Upper Fauntleroy Way. (Response: The design engineers will investigate that option, and we will report back to the community.)

Green Stormwater Infrastructure

- This area has had landslides in the past; will increasing groundwater make landslide problems worse? Could a big storm send enough stormwater down to the clay layer on the hill and shear the hill? (Response: As part of refining the three alternatives, the project team is investigating local conditions and assessing soil types and infiltration rates.)
- How will the cost of the green stormwater infrastructure alternative be estimated? (Response: This alternative is currently being further refined and a cost estimate will be developed. The project team is communicating with jurisdictions that have carried out similar projects to inform our estimating process.)
- It will be important to know how the roadside rain gardens would be operated and maintained.
The roadside rain garden “bump-outs,” or curb bulbs, seem like a benefit to calming traffic. How have neighbors of bump-outs felt about them? (Response: Some Portland residents have said that traffic calming is a benefit of roadside rain gardens.)
- What happens to pollutants in the stormwater? (Response: The largest benefit of green stormwater infrastructure is the ability for the system to remove pollutants from stormwater. In the case of Barton, water will be retained and infiltrated, natural processes within the rain gardens break down most of the pollutants or the pollutants are used by the vegetation in the rain garden.)
- Could green stormwater infrastructure be dispersed in the Barton basin rather than concentrated in a single subbasin to distribute parking and groundwater impacts?

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(Response: King County looked at dispersing the green stormwater infrastructure throughout the basin. Because a large portion of the basin is partially separated, there was not enough flow centralized in one area to adequately reduce CSOs. This area produced the best result for CSO reduction.)

- Will reducing stormwater in the sewer system result in odors or operational problems because the system won't flush well? (Response: No, this will not be a problem because the system will operate as it does during average dry weather flows.)

Underground Storage at Former Fauntleroy School

- This looks like it could be a good alternative.
- Has King County communicated with the property owner? Is there potential for cooperation? (Response: Yes, King County is in communication with the property owner.)

Additional questions and input included the following:

- Are there examples of similar storage facilities that citizens could visit? (Response: King County has constructed similar storage facilities, but it is difficult to see storage facilities since they are located mostly underground. Photos and information about the [North Creek Storage Facility](#) and [Hidden Lake inline pipe storage](#) are available on the King County Wastewater Treatment Division website. The project constructed to control CSOs in the Barton basin may not be identical to these facilities.)
- How is public input used? (Response:
 - Public input is used to develop and refine alternatives. A good example is a community member's idea about putting pipe storage on 45th Ave NW. The project team looks for input from the community to help shape/refine the alternatives using basin-specific issues and knowledge, and to make sure good ideas have not been overlooked.
 - Public input is also used to develop and refine the various factors that are used to evaluate alternatives. A good example is the input received from the community on the history and background of the park on Upper Fauntleroy Way. Information about community green space and vegetation will help to inform analysis of environmental and community factors, and design/engineering considerations. Public input on all of these factors is important to King County to help develop a well-rounded approach to identifying the proposed alternative for further environmental review. Some input relates more to design and construction; feedback related to these phases will be carried forward to those project phases.)

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Attendance

Puget Sound Beach CSO Control Project Team

King County Wastewater Treatment Division

Shahrzad Namini, Project Manager; Norm Alberg, Manager of Project Management Unit; John Phillips, CSO Control Program; Mary Wohleb, Assistant Project Manager; Hien Dung, Real Estate Services; Martha Tuttle, Community Relations; Monica Van Der Vieren, Community Relations; Sue Meyer, Environmental Planning; Meredith Redmon, Environmental Planning

Carollo Engineers

Brian Matson, consultant team project manager;

Tetra Tech

Jeff Lykken, Barton and Murray basins lead engineer; Kevin Dour, Barton and Murray basins project engineer

Triangle Associates, Inc.

Bob Wheeler, facilitator; Ellen Blair, community relations support

Seattle Public Utilities

Sahba Mohandessi