Fact Sheet

Name of Proposal: Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System

Description of Proposal:

King County is proposing to build a new regional wastewater treatment system, called Brightwater, to meet the region’s long-term wastewater treatment needs. The Brightwater system would include a secondary wastewater treatment plant; the associated pipelines, pump stations, and other facilities that make up the conveyance system to transport wastewater to and from the plant; and an outfall to discharge effluent to Puget Sound. The treatment plant would provide capacity in 2010 to treat 36 million gallons per day (mgd) average wet-weather flow (AWWF) of wastewater with the capability to expand to 54 mgd AWWF in 2040. It would also produce biosolids for application to forestry and agricultural lands and highly treated water for non-drinking water uses. Application of biosolids and conveyance and application of reclaimed water are not part of the Brightwater proposal addressed in this Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Gas produced in solids treatment would be used to generate power for plant operation. Construction of the Brightwater system is scheduled to begin as early as 2005 and be completed with the plant online in 2010.

Three alternative systems and a No Action Alternative are evaluated in this Final EIS. The treatment plant would be at one of two locations—the Route 9 site in unincorporated Snohomish County or the Unocal site in the City of Edmonds. The Route 9 site has an influent corridor to carry wastewater from the existing collection system to the new plant, and two alternative corridors for pipelines and other facilities needed to carry wastewater from the treatment plant to a marine outfall in Puget Sound—the Route 9–195th Street corridor (Preferred Alternative) and the Route 9–228th Street corridor. One corridor is being considered to carry wastewater to the Unocal system. All systems would discharge treated wastewater through an outfall into Puget Sound. The outfall for either of the Route 9 systems would be placed offshore of Point Wells west of the City of Shoreline and the Town of Woodway; the outfall for the Unocal system would be placed offshore of Point Edwards west of Edmonds.

Two sub-alternatives are being considered for the Unocal System. One would build a structural “lid” over a portion of the treatment plant site to accommodate a multimodal transportation facility (the Edmonds Crossing project). The other would expand the plant from 54 mgd AWWF up to 72 mgd AWWF in 2040 to treat flows from the Cities of Edmonds and/or Lynnwood if in the future, one or both of the Cities decide to close their respective treatment plants located within the City of Edmonds.
Project Location:
The Brightwater regional wastewater treatment system would be located in north King County and south Snohomish County in the State of Washington. The treatment plant would be located at one of two sites—the Unocal site, generally bounded by Pine Street, Edmonds Way, and Admiral Way in Edmonds; or the Route 9 site, generally bounded by State Route (SR) 9, SR-522, and 224th Street SE (if extended), in unincorporated Snohomish County. The conveyance pipelines would be constructed in an area between the Route 9 site and Puget Sound. This area is bounded on the north approximately by 216th Street SW in Snohomish County and on the south approximately by SR-522 (Bothell Way NE), SR-104 (Ballinger Way NE), and NE/NW 205th Street in King County. The marine outfall for either of the Route 9 systems would be located offshore of Point Wells west of the City of Shoreline and the Town of Woodway, and the outfall for the Unocal system would be located offshore of Point Edwards west of the City of Edmonds.

Proponent and Lead Agency: King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
Wastewater Treatment Division
201 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98104

Proposed Date of Implementation:
Begin construction as soon as 2005
Begin operation in 2010

SEPA Responsible Official: Don Theiler, Division Director
Wastewater Treatment Division
King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks

SEPA Contact Person: Shirley Marroquin, Supervisor
Environmental Planning and Community Relations
Wastewater Treatment Division
King County
Department of Natural Resources and Parks
(206) 684-1173

For project information or copies of Final EIS, contact: Brightwater Project Team
(206) 684-6799 or toll free 1-888-707-8571
For accessible formats, call (206) 684-1280 or 711 (TTY)
Permits and Approvals That May Be Needed:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Department of the Army Permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

U.S. Coast Guard
- Coast Guard Notification to Mariners

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries
- Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act and Sustainable Fisheries Act, Essential Fish Habitat Consultation

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Endangered Species Act, Section 7 Consultation

Washington State Department of Ecology
- Coastal Zone Management Certification
- Facility Plan Approval
- NPDES Permit for Construction
- NPDES Municipal Discharge Permit
- Voluntary Cleanup Program Approval or Consent Decree
- 401 Water Quality Certification
- Dam Safety Permit

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Hydraulic Project Approval

Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Aquatic Lands Easements/Authorizations for Outfall and Conveyance Pipelines

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
- Notice of Construction
- Air Operating Permit

Local Agencies (where applicable)
- Possible amendments to local development regulations and comprehensive plans
- Conditional Use Permits
- Variance
- Public Agency Utility Exception
- Essential Public Facility Siting Evaluation
- Traffic Concurrency
- Demolition Permits
- Building Permits
- Clearing and Grading Permits
- Sensitive Areas Review
- Shoreline Substantial Development Permits
- Street Use Permits
- Utility Permits
- Shoring Permits
- Fire Marshal Permits
- Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical Permits
- Haul Route Permits
Preparers and Contributors:

Adolfson Associates, Inc.  Larson Anthropological Archaeological Services, Limited
Brown and Caldwell  The Miller Hull Partnership
Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc.  Parametrix, Inc.
CH2M HILL, Inc.  PHAROS Corporation
HDR Engineering, Inc.  Primedia Group
Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc.  SB Associates
HWA GeoSciences, Inc.  Shannon and Wilson, Inc.
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Final EIS Issued: November 19, 2003

Filing an Administrative Appeal of the Brightwater Final EIS:

Anyone wishing to appeal the adequacy of the Brightwater Final Environmental Impact Statement must file a Notice of Appeal and the appeal fee with the SEPA Responsible Official. The Notice of Appeal must be received at the address below no later than 5:00 PM on Monday, December 8, 2003:

Wastewater Treatment Division SEPA Responsible Official
ATTN: Division Director’s Office
201 South Jackson, KSC-NR-0501
Seattle, WA 98104-3855

Pursuant to KCC 20.24.450, the Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by the appeal fee of $250.00. Payment must be by check or money order made payable to “King County Treasury.”

King County has determined that any appeal of the Brightwater Final EIS will be conducted on an extended schedule. For more information on the schedule or a copy of the public rule on King County’s SEPA administrative appeal process, please see the King County Web site at http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/env/SEPAappl.htm, or contact the Brightwater Project Team at (206) 684-6799 or toll free at 1-888-707-8571.

Action Proposed by King County:

The King County Executive plans to make a final decision in December 2003 on the locations for one wastewater treatment plant site, one conveyance corridor, and one outfall zone.
Environmental Review:

Chapter 1 in this Final EIS describes the environmental review that preceded issuance of the Brightwater Draft and Final EIS. King County issued a Draft EIS November 6, 2002. Comments were received during the comment period, which ended on January 21, 2003. This Final EIS responds to comments received on the Draft EIS. Pursuant to WAC 197-11-600, this EIS is intended to serve as the basis for all local and state permits and approvals required to construct Brightwater facilities. It also is intended to serve as a key resource document relied upon by any federal agencies with regulatory authority.

Documents Incorporated by Reference:

Many of the documents incorporated by reference into the Brightwater EIS are comprehensive plans, policies, and regulations, and the related SEPA review documents of local jurisdictions within the Brightwater project area. Comprehensive plans generally are the principal planning documents for the orderly development of the respective county or city. Many are prepared pursuant to the Washington State Growth Management Act. They are used, for example, to anticipate and plan for projected population growth, and to guide community plans, incorporations and annexations, land use decisions, zoning, development regulations, transportation plans, and sewer and water plans. The titles of many of these documents are self-explanatory, thus no additional description is provided below. For other documents, the relevant contents of the document are briefly described, consistent with WAC 197-11-635.

A complete set of documents incorporated by reference are available for review only at the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Wastewater Treatment Division.


City of Edmonds. 2001. Determination of Nonsignificance, Amendment to the City of Edmonds Comprehensive Plan (1) updating the Transportation Element to include background inventory and level of service (LOS) data to comply with HB 1487, and (2) updating the Capital Facilities Element to include the Common Siting Process for Essential Public Facilities required by Snohomish County’s Countywide Planning Policies. December 14, 2001.


King County. 1999. Ordinance No. 13680—An ordinance relating to wastewater treatment and conveyance; adopting changes to the Comprehensive Water Pollution Abatement Plan, a King County functional plan; and adding a new chapter to K.C.C. Title 28. Adopted November 29, 1999.

Ordinance 13680 is the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP), a capital facilities plan to meet regional wastewater treatment needs within the King County Service Area, consistent with the requirements of the Growth Management Act. The Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System is being proposed in order to carry out the policies and mandates in the RWSP.


King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, Land Use Services Division. 2000. Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the King County Comprehensive Plan 2000 and Implementing Development Regulations. April 26, 2000.

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, Land Use Services Division. 2000. Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the King County Comprehensive Plan 2000 and Implementing Development Regulations. November 9, 2000.

King County Department of Development and Environmental Services, Land Use Services Division. 2002. Determination of Non-significance for 2002 King County Comprehensive Plan Amendments. March 1, 2002.


The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) analyzed the significant adverse environmental impacts of four service strategies for providing wastewater services to the King County Service Area through 2020 and beyond. The programmatic analysis provided the environmental analysis needed to support a decision on an overall plan of action, or service strategy. It was part of a phased review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The Draft EIS was followed by a Final EIS, which was followed by a project-level environmental analysis in the Brightwater EIS.

King County Department of Natural Resources, Wastewater Treatment Division. 1998. Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Regional Wastewater Services Plan. April 1998.

The EIS for the RWSP was revised in response to comments received on the Draft EIS. In the Final EIS, the four service strategies were revised, and the King County Executive identified a Preferred Plan. The Preferred Plan called for building a third wastewater treatment plant with conveyance and a marine outfall in north King County or south Snohomish County by 2010 as well as expanding the existing South Treatment Plant. The West Point Treatment Plant would not be expanded; available land on the site would be reserved for future treatment of combined sewer overflows, if needed. The Preferred Plan calls for King County to pursue an aggressive program to control infiltration and inflow and to explore new applications for reclaimed water. The Final EIS provides a programmatic analysis of the four service strategies, including the Preferred Plan.

King County Department of Natural Resources. 1999. Regional Wastewater Services Plan Operational Master Plan. December 1999.
The Regional Wastewater Services Operational Master Plan explains in layman’s language the plan adopted in Ordinance 13680.


Ordinance 14043 established the Phase I policy site screening criteria for evaluating 38 potential sites for a third wastewater treatment plant in the north part of the King County Service Area. The criteria included community, technical, environmental, and financial criteria. It was determined that adoption of these criteria would not have a significant adverse environmental impact on the environment, as defined under the State Environmental Policy Act.

King County Department of Natural Resources, Wastewater Treatment Division. 2001. Determination of Nonsignificance and Environmental Checklist, Adoption of North Treatment Facility Site Selection Criteria and Identification of North Treatment Plant Candidate Sites for Further Study. May 3, 2001 (Ordinance No. 14107, adopted May 24, 2001).

Addendum: Amendment to SEPA Environmental Checklist adding the locations of eight marine outfall zones for further study, estimates of conveyance pipe lengths connecting major facilities, and a policy requiring that the selection of plant sites not displace existing uses as they relate to law enforcement and public safety training. August 6, 2001.


King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Wastewater Treatment Division. 2002. Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System. Seattle, WA.


King County and 40 jurisdictions within King County prepared a report in compliance with the Growth Management Act. It reports on the amount and density of growth, whether the capacity of land supply is adequate to accommodate growth targets, whether development has occurred at densities consistent with planning assumptions and targets, and whether urban densities are being achieved within the Urban Growth Areas.

King County Office of Regional Policy and Planning. 2002. King County Countywide Planning Policies. Updated November 2002. King County, WA.

The King County Countywide Planning Policies provide for coordinated planning among King County and the cities within King County. They provide for the phasing of
development within Urban Growth Areas and direct that development should be accompanied by a full range of urban services, including sewer systems. The policies direct that regional public capital facilities “shall be sited to support the Countywide land use pattern, support economic activities, mitigate environmental impacts, provide amenities or incentives, and minimize public costs.”


The Strategic Plan describes the specific activities that will occur along the Edmonds waterfront from 2003 to 2005 plus those that will be initiated in 2005 and beyond.


VISION 2020 provides a regional framework for managing growth that builds upon and supports local, countywide, regional, and state planning efforts. It provides multi-county policies for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish County that address the siting of regional capital facilities, including sewer facilities, that are significant to two or more counties.


The Snohomish County Countywide Planning Policies provide for coordinated planning among Snohomish County and the cities within Snohomish County. They encourage jurisdictions to provide capital facilities and urban levels of service sufficient to support planned growth within Urban Growth Areas in Snohomish County.

Adopted February 1, 2003. Current through Ord. 02-064, December 9, 2002, as 
amended.

Snohomish County Tomorrow. 2003. Snohomish County Tomorrow: 2002 Growth 

The report was prepared by Snohomish County and its cities in compliance with the 
Growth Management Act. It compiles and analyzes information on growth trends, 
buildable land, and population and employment capacity in Urban Growth Areas through 
2012.

Snohomish County Department of Planning and Development Services. 1995. Final 
Environmental Impact Statement, Snohomish County GMA Comprehensive Plan.

Addendum No. 1: Amendments to Countywide Planning Policy UG-2 and replacement of 
Appendix B with reconciled 20-year population and employment growth targets. 
February 16, 1996.

Addenda No. 4 and No. 6: Adoption by the Snohomish County Council, pursuant to the 
Final Decisions and Orders of the Central Puget Sound Growth Management Hearings 
Board in the consolidation cases of Corinne R. Hensley et. al. v. Snohomish County 
(CPSGMHB Case No. 95-3-0043) and Sky Valley et. al. v. Snohomish County 
(CPSGMHB Case No. 96-3-0068c), of comprehensive plan amendments, zoning code 
changes, and areawide rezones consistent with the Snohomish County GMA 

Addenda No. 16 and No. 19: Adoption of amendments to Snohomish County’s GMA 
Comprehensive Plan and development regulations implementing the plan, including 
changes to the future land use map and amendments to development regulations 

Addendum No. 17: Adoption by the Snohomish County Council of the 2000-2003 
Capital Plan as a revision to the capital facilities element of the Snohomish County GMA 

Addendum No. 20: Adoption by the Snohomish County Council of the Capital Facilities 
Plan Year 2000 Update, 2002-2006 Capital Improvement Plan, and General Policy Plan 

Addendum No. 21: Adoption by the Snohomish County Council of the Development 
Phasing Overlay, amending Title 18 of the Snohomish County Code, to allow urban level 
development to occur only where adequate existing infrastructure capacity is available. 
October 27, 2000.

Addendum No. 26: Adoption by the Snohomish County Council of the Capital Facilities 
Plan Year 2001 Update and the 2002-2007 Capital Improvement Program. August 31, 

Addendum No. 27: Adoption by the Snohomish County Council of the 2001-2007 


This Draft EIS analyzes the significant adverse environmental impacts of a proposal to relocate the existing state ferry terminal in the City of Edmonds from Main Street to another site farther from the downtown core and, in the process, to establish a multimodal center that would integrate the ferry, rail, and transit services in the area into a single complex. One of the locations being considered for the multimodal center is the Unocal site, which King County is considering for the Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System.


This EIS analyzes the significant adverse environmental impacts of a proposal to reduce combined discharges of sanitary sewage and stormwater into Elliott Bay and into south, east, and west Lake Union during heavy rains. The proposal includes a treatment facility, large diameter tunnels, and new outfalls into marine waters. Construction began in June 2000, and the project is expected to be complete in 2004.
Availability of Final EIS:

The Brightwater Final EIS includes several documents:

- Final Environmental Impact Statement (Volumes 1-3)
- Appendices (Volumes 4-10)
- Responses to Comments on the Draft EIS (Volumes 11-15)
- Summary of the Brightwater Summer 2003 Technical Seminars, Including Comments Received (Volume 16)
- Documents Incorporated by Reference

Hard copies of the Brightwater Final EIS are being distributed to libraries, affected jurisdictions and agencies, citizens who purchased the Draft EIS, and community groups. Recipients will be provided with Volumes 1-3, and other volumes, as requested. A complete set of documents incorporated by reference are available for review only at the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Wastewater Treatment Division. Copies of the Brightwater Final EIS are available as described below:

- The Final EIS can be viewed on the Internet at http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/env/.
- CDs can be obtained from King County free of charge (see below).
- Individuals who purchased or received the Draft EIS will receive the Final EIS at no additional charge. The cost to others is $50.00 (check or money order only; no cash) (see below).

CDs and hard copies can be picked up at the King County Wastewater Treatment Division, 5th floor reception desk, 201 South Jackson Street, Seattle, or, to request copies by mail, please call the Brightwater Project Team at (206) 684-6799 or toll free 1-888-707-8571. For accessible formats, call (206) 684-1280 or 711 (TTY)

The Final EIS is available for review at the Wastewater Treatment Division and at the following libraries:

- Bellevue Regional Library
- Bothell Public Library
- Edmonds Public Library
- Everett Public Library
- Kenmore Public Library
- King County Technical Document and Research Center
- Kingsgate Library, Kirkland
- Lake Forest Park Public Library
- Lynnwood Public Library
- Mountlake Terrace Public Library
- Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington
- Richmond Beach Public Library
- Seattle Public Library, Main Branch
- Shoreline Public Library
- University of Washington Suzzallo Library
- Woodinville Public Library