Fact Sheet

Name of Proposal
Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System

Description of Supplemental EIS
The King County Wastewater Treatment Division is issuing a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposal to site, build, and operate the Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System at the locations identified in the Route 9—195th Street System alternative, which includes a treatment plant at the Route 9 location in unincorporated Snohomish County. This Supplemental EIS has been prepared consistent with the State Environmental Policy Act, RCW 43.21C.080. It supplements the Brightwater Final EIS issued November 19, 2003. It provides new information and evaluates probable significant adverse environmental impacts that could result if an earthquake were to damage Brightwater Treatment Plant facilities on the proposed site.

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 on the treatment plant site, such as landscape irrigation and process water.
Project Location
The Brightwater regional wastewater treatment system selected by King County Executive Ron Sims in late 2003 is proposed to be located in north King County and south Snohomish County in the State of Washington. The treatment plant is proposed to be located at 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 232nd 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 would be located in King County, offshore of Point Wells, west of the City of Shoreline and the Town of Woodway.

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 in 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

Project Information 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

(Permits that have been issued are noted in italics.)

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

Washington State Department of Transportation
- Access Permits
- Franchise Agreements (some have been issued)
- Utility Permits

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency
- Notice of Construction
Local Agencies (Jurisdictions that have issued permits at this point in time are listed. Additional permits may be needed.)

- Amendments to local development regulations and comprehensive plans (Bothell)
- Conditional Use Permits (Bothell)
- Variance (Noise and Hours) (Bothell)
- Public Agency Utility Exception
- Essential Public Facility Siting Evaluation
- Traffic Concurrency (Bothell)
- Demolition Permits (Snohomish County, Bothell)
- Building Permits (Bothell)
- Clearing and Grading Permits (Bothell)
- Sensitive Areas Review (Kenmore)
- Shoreline Substantial Development Permit (Snohomish County)
- Street Use Permits (Bothell)
- Utility Permits (Bothell)
- Shoring Permits (Bothell)
- Fire Marshal Permits
- Electrical, Plumbing, and Mechanical Permits
- Haul Route Permits (Bothell)

Preparers and Contributors

Consulting firms and agencies that contributed to the Draft EIS, Final EIS and/or addenda are indicated with an (F). Those who contributed to this Supplemental EIS are indicated with an (S).

- ABS Consulting (S)
- Adolfson Associates, Inc. (F/S)
- AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc. (S)
- Aspect Consulting (S)
- Brown and Caldwell (F)
- Camp Dresser and McKee, Inc. (F)
- CH2M HILL, Inc. (F/S)
- HDR Engineering, Inc. (F/S)
- Herrera Environmental Consultants, Inc. (F)
- HWA GeoSciences, Inc. (F)
- Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc. (F)
- King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (F/S)
- Larson Anthropological Archaeological Services, Limited (F/S)
- The Miller Hull Partnership (F)
- PanGEO (F/S)
- Parametrix, Inc. (F)
- PHAROS Corp. (F)
- Primedia Group (F)
• SB Associates (F)
• Shannon and Wilson, Inc. (F/S)
• Garry Struthers Associates, Inc. (F)

Final Supplemental EIS Issued

Tuesday July 19, 2005

Draft Supplemental EIS Issued

Monday, April 11, 2005

Comment Period and Public Hearing on Draft Supplemental EIS

The public and agencies had 30 days in which to review and comment on the Draft Supplemental EIS. The comment period ended on Wednesday, May 11, 2005. In addition, a public hearing to receive comments was held on Wednesday, May 4, 2005, at the University of Washington, Bothell Campus. All comments received and responses to those comments are included in this Final Supplemental EIS.

Action Proposed by King County

The King County Executive will consider the analysis in the Brightwater Supplemental EIS and re-evaluate the decision made in December 2003 to select the Route 9–195th Street System alternative in light of the new environmental information.

Environmental Review

King County issued a Final EIS on the Brightwater proposal on November 19, 2003. An administrative appeal of the EIS was filed on January 20, 2004, alleging that the EIS failed to identify and evaluate an adequate number of alternatives to the preferred proposal and failed to adequately address new information regarding seismic conditions at the Route 9 site. A hearing on the appeal was held in July 2004, and the King County Hearing Examiner issued a decision on August 3, 2004.

The Hearing Examiner found that the EIS was adequate for: (1) the provision of a reasonable analysis of a reasonable number of alternatives for the Brightwater proposal, (2) the Executive’s decision to select the Route 9 site, and (3) the discussion of potential seismic impacts to the conveyance tunnels and pipelines. In June 2005, the King County Superior Court affirmed the Hearing Examiner’s finding that the Brightwater Final EIS was adequate under SEPA at the time it was issued.

The Hearing Examiner also ruled that King County was required to conduct a trenching investigation of a suspected fault on the Route 9 site before King County could rely on the EIS for future permitting decisions on the Brightwater Treatment Plant site.

King County conducted such an investigation in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey, and this Supplemental EIS evaluates seismic impacts based on the results of the trenching investigation, as requested by the Examiner.
Filing an Administrative Appeal of the Brightwater Supplemental EIS

Anyone wishing to appeal the adequacy of the Brightwater Final Supplemental EIS must file a Notice of Appeal with the SEPA Responsible Official. The Notice of Appeal must be received at the address below no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 5, 2005:

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

The Notice of Appeal must be accompanied by the appeal fee of $250.00.

For a copy of the public rule on the appeal process, please see the King County Web site at http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/wtd-sepa-appl.htm or contact the Brightwater Project at (206) 684-6799 or toll free at 1-888-707-8571.

Availability of Final Supplemental EIS

The Final Supplemental EIS consists of three volumes: Responses to Comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS, the Draft Supplemental EIS, and the Technical Appendices. Copies of the Responses to Comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS are being distributed to affected jurisdictions and agencies as well as to citizens and community groups who commented on or purchased copies of the Draft Supplemental EIS and/or the 2003 EIS. Copies of these documents are available in several forms and at several locations, including libraries:

- The Supplemental EIS can be viewed on the Internet at http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/brightwater/env/.

- CDs and a limited number of paper copies of the Final Supplemental EIS are available from King County. CDs and paper copies can be picked up at the two locations below:

  King County Wastewater Treatment Division
  201 South Jackson Street, 5th floor reception desk,
  Seattle, WA

  Brightwater Project Office,
  22509 SR-9 SE, Suite 101
  Woodinville, WA

  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)
• Paper copies of the Final Supplemental EIS are available for review at the following libraries:

Bellevue Regional Library  
Bothell Public Library  
Kenmore Public Library  
King County Technical Document and Research Center  
Kingsgate Library, Kirkland  
Lake Forest Park 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

**Documents Incorporated by Reference**

Many of the documents incorporated by reference into this Brightwater Supplemental EIS are comprehensive plans, policies, and regulations 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 guide community plans, incorporations and annexations, land use decisions, zoning, development regulations, transportation plans, and sewer and water plans.

The titles of a number of the documents below are self-explanatory, and no additional description is provided. For other documents, the relevant contents of the document are briefly described, consistent with WAC 197-11-635.

All documents incorporated herein by reference, including the November 2003 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System, are available for review. Please call the Brightwater Project Team at (206) 684-6799 or toll free 1-888-707-8571 to make arrangements to view the documents incorporated by reference.


The U. S. Geological Survey conducted investigations of the mainland extension of the Southern Whidbey Island Fault to provide a more complete review and documentation of the
aeromagnetic data discussed in the 2003 preliminary study by Blakely and others (below). The Open-File Report incorporates recently available LiDAR data on the Brightwater Treatment Plant site and conveyance alignment.


This document provides preliminary interpretations of three northwest trending lineaments that might represent potential structural features associated with the Southern Whidbey Island Fault and presents the residual magnetic data upon which the interpretations are based.


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.


This document reports on the work of an 11-member multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team that examined the consequences of a scenario Magnitude 6.7 earthquake on the Seattle Fault and provided recommendations to local and state policy makers for improving the region’s earthquake safety.


This map interprets the location of the South Whidbey Island Fault and its extension onto the mainland.

This document interprets the location of the South Whidbey Island Fault and its extension onto the mainland.


This paper interprets the location of the South Whidbey Island Fault and its extension onto the mainland.


King County. 1999. Ordinance 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.

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.

King County Department of Natural Resources, Wastewater Treatment Division. 2000. Determination of
Nonsignificance and Environmental Checklist, Adoption of North Treatment Facility Policy Siting Criteria. November 17, 2000 (Ordinance No. 14043 adopted March 3, 2001). 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. 2001. Brightwater Treatment Plant Siting Process, Phase 1 Engineering and Environmental Constraints Analysis. Prepared by CH2M HILL for King County. Seattle, WA.

The Phase 1 constraints analysis applied a broad set of engineering and environmental constraints to 95 potential land areas to identify serious problems that would limit the construction or operation of a wastewater treatment facility. The constraints included not siting a treatment plant within 0.5 km of a documented fault.

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, Wastewater Treatment Division. 2002. Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Brightwater Regional Wastewater
This document evaluates the environmental impacts of three alternatives and a No Action alternative for a regional wastewater treatment system proposed for construction in north King County and south Snohomish County.


This document responds to comments on the Brightwater Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and evaluates the environmental impacts of three alternatives and a No Action alternative for a regional wastewater treatment system proposed for construction in north King County and south Snohomish County. It identifies the Route 9-195th Street Alternative as the Preferred Alternative.

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. 2004. Predesign Geotechnical Data Report, Conveyance System. Prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM) for King County. Seattle, WA.

This geotechnical data report (GDR) presents data collected for use in designing the Brightwater conveyance system along the preferred alignment, including the influent pipeline, effluent pipeline, portals, outfall, and pipelines and structures that connect to the existing King County wastewater system. The GDR includes logs of all explorations performed, field and lab test data, and photographs of soil cores.

King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks. 2004. Predesign Geotechnical Interpretive Report, Conveyance System. Prepared by Camp Dresser & McKee (CDM) for King County. Seattle, WA.

This geotechnical interpretive report (GIR) summarizes the geotechnical data in the Predesign GDR (above) and provides conclusions and recommendations for use in designing the Brightwater conveyance system and outfall.


This addendum provides an updated analysis of traffic impacts of the proposed Brightwater Regional Wastewater
Treatment System and information about potential use of the ChevronTexaco Richmond Beach Asphalt Terminal barge dock during construction.


This addendum provides information about selected portal sites for the proposed Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System and further analysis of impacts during construction of the treatment plant and portal sites.


This addendum provides additional information and analysis of seismic, geologic, and geotechnical issues related to the proposed Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System.


This addendum provides information on the decision to locate the influent pump station for the proposed Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System at an offsite location and information on other modification to conveyance facilities.


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.”

King County Wastewater Treatment Division. 2004. Seismic Refraction Evaluation Brightwater Final EIS, Snohomish County. Prepared by AMEC Earth and Environmental, Inc., for King County. Seattle, WA.

This report presents the results of seismic refraction and refraction microtremor surveys conducted at the Brightwater Treatment Plant site in April 2004. The survey results are interpreted and compared to the U.S. Geological Survey interpretation of aeromagnetic and LiDAR data that suggested a southeast-trending lineament on the northern portion of the Brightwater site.


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.


This paper interprets the location of the South Whidbey Island Fault and its extension onto the mainland.


This document presents the results of an analysis conducted to determine the level of ground motion that could occur at the Route 9 Treatment Plant site assuming that the mainland extension of the South Whidbey Island Fault is an active feature.


Open-File Report 2005-1136 provides additional review and documentation of the aeromagnetic data discussed in Open-File Report 2004-1204 (see Blakely and others, 2004), including information obtained from trenching on the Brightwater site.


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.


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.


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 Comprehensive Plan/General Policy Plan. July 5 and November 22, 1996.

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 implementing the plan. September 15, 1999, and September 8, 2000.


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

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.


This 404 Permit authorizes construction of the Brightwater Regional Wastewater Treatment System subject to the terms and conditions specified in the permit. Authorized work includes maintenance of the existing Chevron barge pier near the outfall location at Point Wells. The permit is issued under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. It includes a Statement of Findings, the Finding of No Significant Impact under the National Environmental Policy Act, and an Environmental Assessment of the proposed work.


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. Construction began in June 2000, and the project is expected to be complete in 2004.