



September 28, 2009  
U-99106

Dear Citizen:

Pierce County Department of Public Works and Utilities (County) is developing a Facilities Plan to guide design and construction of future upgrades and expansion of the Chambers Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant (Plant) over the next 30 years. The Facilities Plan is being developed in accordance with the County's adopted Sewerage General Plan (known as the 2001 Unified Sewer Plan). Implementation of the Facilities Plan would occur in successive increments to meet needed Plant capacity improvements until full development (or build-out) under the 2001 Unified Sewer Plan and Facilities Plan occurs, estimated to be in 2040. Upgrades to address requirements for effluent water quality could occur at any time during this timeframe.

The Facilities Plan is needed to plan for sufficient Plant capacity to meet wastewater loads generated by planned population growth and development within the County's sewer service area. The Facilities Plan is also needed to plan for additional levels of wastewater treatment sufficient to meet current and future effluent quality regulatory limits by replacing and adding to aged facilities, and/or implementing improved wastewater treatment technologies and processes. In addition to meeting wastewater capacity and treatment objectives, the County intends to plan for overall site requirements on the Plant area for any future water source development.

This Draft EIS was prepared for the Facilities Plan in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA, Chapter 43.21C, RCW) and the state SEPA rules (Chapter 197-11, WAC). The Final EIS will be used to assist decision-makers in assessing the environmental costs and benefits associated with the implementation of each of the four planning alternatives developed for the Facilities Plan.

This EIS evaluates four planning alternatives and a No Action alternative representing different treatment approaches to constructing future upgrades and expansion on the Plant site. These approaches, or levels of service, are characterized according to treatment levels and performance standards. A preferred alternative will not be selected until completion of the SEPA review process, after the environmental impacts of the range of the alternatives have been identified and the costs of the alternatives are known.

The Facilities Plan is primarily a planning-level document. In addition to the general "programmatic" treatment level of service approaches in the Facilities Plan, the Draft EIS includes near-term "project-specific" actions. These include site preparation and perimeter development, and Phase 1 expansion. Future project-specific actions (location and configuration of new or expanded facilities) will be subject to subsequent environmental analysis (WAC 197-11-443).



Enclosed is the Draft EIS for the Chambers Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan. Pierce County is preparing this EIS for the Facilities Plan in compliance with the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).

We invite your comments on the enclosed Draft EIS. The City of University Place and Pierce County are the designated SEPA co-lead agencies for the Draft EIS, and will be collecting written comments on the Draft EIS through November 3, 2009. Comments may be submitted by mail or e-mail to David Swindale, Responsible Official, City of University Place, 3715 Bridgeport Way West, University Place, WA 98466 ([DSwindale@cityofup.com](mailto:DSwindale@cityofup.com)) or Adonais Clark, Environmental Designee, Pierce County, Planning and Land Services, 2401 South 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Rm 175, Tacoma, WA 98409-7460 ([AClark@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:AClark@co.pierce.wa.us)).

A public meeting will be held on October 20, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. to hear verbal testimony and receive written comments. The meeting will be held at: Environmental Services Building, 9850 – 64<sup>th</sup> Street West, University Place, WA.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important proposal.

Sincerely,



David Swindale  
City of University Place  
Responsible Official



Adonais Clark  
Pierce County, Planning and Land Services  
Environmental Designee