

FACT SHEET

Project Title: Chambers Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan

Location and Description of Proposed Alternatives: 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 adopted Facilities Plan would be phased to meet needed Plant capacity improvements until full development (or build-out) under the 2001 Unified Sewer Plan and Facilities Plan occurs. The County estimates that the Plant would be fully developed in 2040. Upgrades to address future state and federal requirements for effluent water quality could occur at any time during this timeframe.

The Chambers Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is located on a portion of the Chambers Creek Properties. The Chamber Creek Properties are an aggregation of several parcels that were acquired separately by Pierce County over a 50-year period. Most of the Chambers Creek Properties were acquired for the purposes of expanding the existing regional Plant and to provide other public uses.

This Draft EIS includes both a general "programmatic" overview of potential alternative strategies (termed "level of service" alternatives in this EIS) for providing future wastewater upgrades and expansion on the site, as well as "project-specific" actions needed to implement the level of service strategies. These project-specific actions include site preparation and perimeter development, and Phase 1 expansion. Future project-specific actions (location and configuration of new or expanded facilities under later phases) will be subject to subsequent environmental analysis (WAC 197-11-443).

Programmatic level of service (LOS) alternatives evaluated in this Draft EIS include:

- **No Action Alternative (LOS 0):** The No Action Alternative allows continued expansion under existing land use permits and within the previously approved treatment plant campus. Plant capacity would continue to be expanded to keep pace with increased flows and loadings in accordance with current land use permits. Under the No Action Alternative, no Facilities Plan would be adopted by the County, and the current level of service could not be maintained over time as flows to the Plant increase.
- **Alternative 1: Maintain Existing Level of Service – Marine Discharge (LOS 1):** Under LOS 1, the existing level of service would be maintained. The Plant would be expanded to provide needed capacity using existing treatment processes. No new technologies or processes would be introduced. This level of service preserves the status quo in terms of treatment, while accommodating increased future flows under the approved 2001 Unified Sewer Plan. This alternative provides limited flexibility to address future regulatory requirements.

- **Alternative 2: Augment Existing Level of Service – Marine Discharge (LOS 2):** Under LOS 2, the Plant would be expanded to keep pace with increased flows and loadings from the sewer service area. In addition to facility expansion, treatment processes would be upgraded to provide an enhanced level of treatment to remove nitrogen. Non-process facilities would be expanded or upgraded to keep pace with state regulations and NPDES permit requirements, industry norms, and applicable building codes. Additional improvements would be made to address regulated odor sources.
- **Alternative 3: Augment Existing Level of Service – Partial Recycling (LOS 3):** LOS 3 includes expansions and upgrades similar to LOS 2. The main difference relates to the discharge of treated effluent. While a majority of the treated effluent would continue to be discharged to Puget Sound during the wet weather season, a portion of the treated wastewater would be diverted for reclaimed water production. Reclaimed water could be used in a number of ways, such as process water for the Plant, on-site irrigation, on-site groundwater recharge, or other off-site uses during the dry weather season.
- **Alternative 4: Best Practice Level of Service – Full Recycling (LOS 4):** LOS 4 would expand the Plant to keep pace with wastewater flow and loadings, as well as to produce a superior quality effluent suitable for water reclamation up to indirect potable reuse. Advanced processes and best management practices would be used in all areas (liquids treatment, solids treatment, odor control, site development, and non-process facilities). This level of service allows for zero marine discharge of treated wastewater. All Plant effluent would be reclaimed or reused.

Project-specific or near-term actions, evaluated in this Draft EIS include:

- **Site preparation and perimeter development:** Includes activities to prepare the site for future expansion, to buffer the site from adjacent uses, and to improve site circulation in accordance with the Chambers Creek Properties Master Site Plan (1997 and 2007). Site preparation and perimeter development activities are anticipated to be completed in 2011.
- **Phase 1 expansion:** Includes projects to construct initial facility upgrades to replace aging equipment and meet projected increased capacity demands through 2025 or beyond, depending on permit requirements.

Proposed Implementation Date: It is anticipated that the Facilities Plan will be completed by December 2009 and be submitted for final approval by the Pierce County Council by January 2010. If approved, Phase I expansion of the Facilities Plan would be completed in 2015 (occurring after site preparation activities are completed). Successive phases would follow until full development of the Facilities Plan occurs, estimated to be 30 years after approval of the Facilities Plan. These successive phases would be subject to project-specific environmental review.

Proponent: Pierce County Department of Public Works and Utilities

Co-Lead Agencies: Pierce County and the City of University Place share Co-Lead Agency status in accordance with WAC 197-11-944. The City of University Place is the nominal lead agency for complying with the procedural requirements of SEPA.

SEPA Responsible Officials:

David Swindale, AICP, Development Services Director
City of University Place
3715 Bridgeport Way West
University Place, WA 98466

Chuck Kleeberg, Director
Pierce County Planning and Land Services
2401 South 35th Street, Suite 175
Tacoma, Washington 98409

Potential Permits and Approvals

The following federal, state, and local permits and approvals may be required to implement elements of the Facilities Plan.

NOAA Fisheries/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Federal Endangered Species Act Section 7 Compliance

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Section 10 Permit

Washington State Department of Ecology

Section 401 Water Quality Certification
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Discharge Renewal Permit
NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit

Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife

Hydraulic Project Approval

Puget Sound Clean Air Agency

Air Quality Notice of Construction Permit / General Order of Approval

City of University Place

Conditional Use Permit
Variance Permit (Height)
Critical Areas and Natural Resources Land Review
Building Permit
Clearing and Grading Permit
Shoreline Substantial Development Permit

City of Tacoma

Electrical Permit

EIS Authors and Principal Contributors:

The Draft EIS was prepared under the direction of the SEPA Co-Lead Agencies. Research and analysis were provided by the following firms:

Brown and Caldwell
724 Columbia St NW, Suite 420
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Commenting on the Draft EIS

Individuals may comment on the Draft EIS by emailing or mailing written comments to:

David Swindale, Responsible Official
City of University Place
3715 Bridgeport Way West
University Place, WA 98466
Email: DSwindale@cityofup.com

or

Adonais Clark, Environmental Designee
Pierce County Planning and Land Services
2401 South 35th Street, Suite 175
Tacoma, Washington 98409
Email: aclark@co.pierce.wa.us

Commenter should include “Chambers Plant” in the subject line of the email or letter.

Due Date for Comments: November 3, 2009

Date of Public Hearing: A public hearing to gather public comments will be held on: October 20, 2009 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.:

**Environmental Services Building
9850 64th Street West
University Place, WA 98467**

The purpose of the public hearing is to allow participants to offer verbal (and/or written) comments on the Draft EIS.

Anticipated Date of Final Lead Agency Action: January 2010.

Copies for Public Review:

The Draft EIS is available for free download at the following websites:

- <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/pwu/sewer/WWTPEIS.htm>
- <http://cityofup.com/>

Hard copies of the Draft EIS are available for review at Pierce County Public Works and Utilities, Environmental Services, 9850 64th Street W, University Place, WA. CD-ROMs of the Draft EIS are available for review at the Pierce County branch libraries listed below.

- University Place– 7315 27th St W Suite D, University Place, WA
- Steilacoom 2950 – Steilacoom Blvd, Steilacoom, WA
- Lakewood 6300 – Wildaire Rd SW, Lakewood, WA
- Bonney Lake – 18501 90th St E, Bonney Lake, WA
- Buckley – 123 S River Ave, Buckley, WA
- DuPont – 1540 Wilmington Dr, DuPont, WA
- Eatonville – 205 Center St W, Eatonville, WA
- Gig Harbor – 4424 Point Fosdick Dr NW, Gig Harbor, WA
- Graham – 9202 224th St E, Graham, WA
- Key Center – 8905 Key Peninsula Hwy N, Lakebay, WA
- Milton/Edgewood – 1000 Laurel, Milton, WA
- Orting – 202 Washington Ave S, Orting, WA
- Parkland/Spanaway – 13718 Pacific Ave S, Tacoma, WA
- South Hill – 15420 Meridian E, Puyallup, WA
- Summit – 5107 112th Street E, Tacoma, WA
- Sumner – 1116 Fryar Ave, Sumner, WA
- Tillicum – 14916 Washington Ave SW, Lakewood, WA

Purchase of Copies: Copies of the Draft EIS (hard copy or CD-ROM) are available for public purchase at the cost of reproduction at Pierce County Public Works and Utilities, Environmental Services, 9850 64th Street W, University Place, WA.

Location of Background Information Including Documents Incorporated by Reference:

The primary background information for the Draft EIS is found in the Chambers Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant Facilities Plan. Other documents that provide background information were hereby incorporated by reference under WAC 197-11635. These documents include:

- Chambers Creek Properties Master Site Plan Update Final Final EIS, 1997
- Chambers Creek Properties Master Site Plan Update Final Supplemental EIS, 2005
- Pierce County Unified Sewer Plan Alternatives Final Programmatic EIS, 1999

These documents can be reviewed by visiting the project website at <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/pwu/sewer/WWTPEIS.htm>, Sewer and Water Utility Website, or by contacting:

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9850 64th Street W, University Place, WA 98467
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Subsequent Environmental Review: This EIS discusses several programmatic strategies. In accordance with SEPA, the programmatic components of the EIS are intended to provide an initial comparative evaluation of various strategies, including a summary of general environmental impacts of each strategy. With changing conditions and unforeseen future regulatory requirements, strategies not currently included in the EIS could be part of the future County projects. In addition, the County may choose to implement a different combination of these strategies. This EIS also includes near-term project-specific actions needed to implement the selected level of service strategy. All future project-specific activities not addressed in the current Facilities Plan, including future expansion phases, will be subject to additional environmental review. Environmental review would evaluate potential impacts and mitigation measures of these project-specific actions, as appropriate. In addition, because of the long-term nature of the Facilities Plan, the County may conduct additional environmental review should components of the proposal change due to changes in regulations, technologies, or other factors.