

Portage Bay Gate Retrofit and Pump Station 20 Improvements SEPA Determination of Non-Significance (DNS)

Description of Proposal

In some areas of the City of Seattle, sewage and stormwater runoff are collected in the same pipes, known as combined sewers. During storm events, sometimes the flow in these pipes exceeds the sewer system capacity. When this occurs, the system overflows at an outfall structure designed for this purpose. There are currently 84 outfalls in the City of Seattle where combined sewer overflows (CSOs) can occur. To comply with State and Federal requirements, SPU must limit the number of CSOs at each of these outfalls to an average of no more than one per year based on a 20-year moving average. Combined sewer Basin 138 in the Portage Bay area currently exceeds this performance standard, averaging 1.9 CSOs per year. The goal of this project is to reduce the frequency of Basin 138 CSOs.

Basin 138 is located on the west side of Portage Bay, primarily north of State Route 520. Combined sewage from the majority of the basin flows by gravity to Pump Station (PS) 20. In addition, a gravity sewer along the shoreline collects sewage from houseboats and discharges it to PS 67, which lifts the flows to PS 20 via a 4-inch diameter force main. PS 20 lifts Basin 138 flows northward via an 8-inch diameter force main toward combined sewer Basin 135, which already meets the CSO standard.

Upstream of PS 20, combined sewage from Basin 138 currently flows through a flow control structure called a HydroBrake. The purpose of the HydroBrake is to keep PS 20 and other downstream infrastructure from being inundated. During wet weather, flows back up behind the HydroBrake. If the flows are high enough, the backup eventually overflows into two offline storage pipes. If the flows are high enough to exceed the capacity of these offline storage pipes, a CSO occurs: the excess sewage spills over a series of weirs and flows through CSO Outfall 138 into Portage Bay. When flows diminish, the storage pipes drain.

The proposed project would replace the HydroBrake with an adjustable slide gate to better manage flows to PS 20. The project would also modify the existing weir systems to enable faster draining of the storage pipes. The project would remove an existing roadside electrical cabinet and install electrical and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) infrastructure for automated gate operation, flow control, and storage monitoring. The new SCADA panel would be installed within the PS 20 dry well.

The project would increase peak pumping capacity at PS 20 by retrofitting existing pumps with larger impellers and motors. Additional improvements at the pump station would include installation of a fire and electrical code compliant ventilation system, installation of a flow meter, replacement of dry well grating decks, installation of dry and wet well access hatches, sealing existing openings providing physical separation between the wet well and dry well, and installation of new electrical/communication conduits, wiring, and instrumentation in the SPU sewer system and PS 20 wet well.

While these upgrades are performed, the PS 20 mechanical systems and some of the associated pipes and weirs would be removed from service. A temporary bypass system would divert combined sewer flows upstream of the existing flow control structure directly to the PS 20 wet well. Bypassed flows, along with normal flows from the adjacent PS 67, would be pumped into the PS 20 force main using a temporary pumping system and the existing bypass connection in the wet well. The temporary bypass system would be designed to maintain performance similar to or better than the existing facility.

Proponent

Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018

Location of Proposal

The project is in street right-of-way for East Shelby Street, a Shoreline Street End, in the City of Seattle's Portage Bay neighborhood (zip code 98102), immediately east of the intersection with Boyer Avenue East. The project is at 1205 East Shelby Street. The project location is in the southeast quarter of Section 17, Township 25N, Range 4E and within the Cedar-Sammamish Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA 8).

Lead Agency

Seattle Public Utilities, the lead agency for this proposal, has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

This Determination of Non-Significance (DNS) is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for fourteen (14) days from the issuance date below.

A copy of the environmental checklist is available at:

- Seattle Public Utilities, General Manager/CEO's Office Main Reception Area, Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900, 700 Fifth Avenue, Seattle, Washington
- Seattle Central Library, Public Review Documents, Level 5 Reference
- Online at <http://www.seattle.gov/utilities/documents>

Public and Agency Comments

Comments on this DNS must be submitted by May 16, 2019 and must be sent to:

Betty Meyer, SEPA Responsible Official
Seattle Public Utilities
Seattle Municipal Tower, Suite 4900
P.O. Box 34018
Seattle, WA 98124-4018
betty.meyer@seattle.gov

Signature: _____


Betty Meyer

Issue Date: May 2, 2019

Appeals

Appeals of this DNS must be accompanied by an \$85.00 filing fee and must be filed by 5:00 p.m. on May 23, 2019. Delivery of appeals filed by any form of USPS mail service may be delayed by several days. Allow extra time if mailing an appeal.

- Written appeals must be sent to:
City of Seattle Hearing Examiner
700 5th Avenue Suite 4000
P.O. Box 94729
Seattle, WA 98124-4729
- Appeals can be filed electronically. Details on electronic filing procedures are available under “e-File” at the Office of the Hearing Examiner’s web site: <http://www.seattle.gov/examiner/>
- Filing fees must be paid by the appeal deadline and can be paid *via* check (made payable to the City of Seattle) or credit/debit card (Visa and MasterCard only). Credit/debit card payments can be made in-person or over-the-phone.
- You should be prepared to make specific factual objections. Please refer to the Hearing Examiner Rules of Practice and Procedure for rules that govern appeals. These rules are available on the Hearing Examiner’s website at www.seattle.gov/examiner/rules-toc.htm or by calling 206-684-0521.