



SAN MATEO CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) (rev. 27 September 2016)

Note: The Program is anticipating to provide additional FAQs and responses to this list in the future.

Please note that this week, Bay Meadows Park was deemed infeasible as a site alternative being considered, and the future Alternatives Analysis Report will indicate the considerations used to identify the alternative as infeasible. These new informational materials were completed before confirmation that Bay Meadows Park was removed from the list of site alternatives. The FAQs will be updated to reflect that change soon.

2. SELECTION PROCESS

2.A. What is the process for selecting the final underground storage facility location alternative and when did this site selection process begin?

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) contains a full list of 55 alternative locations (http://www.cleanwaterprogramsanmateo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Appendix_A.pdf) that include 31 locations initially identified in the 2014 Integrated Wastewater Master Plan. These 55 alternatives were identified based on properties that have potential available "space", which included municipal properties, schools, undeveloped property, private property, parking lots, etc. The Draft PEIR indicated a shortlist of 12 alternatives based on hydraulic modeling and beneficial impacts to addressing the City's sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) issues. The Draft PEIR was in circulation for public review and comment from October 2015 to January 2016. The Final PEIR was released in April 2016. In June 2016, the City Council certified the Final PEIR and selected the in-system storage alternative for the Clean Water Program to address the City's SSO issues. Upon selection of the in-system storage alternative, shortlisted alternatives were evaluated based on technical criteria, which included hydraulics, constructability, right-of-way, contractor laydown, parking, and storage capacity. This technical analysis identified the five (5) alternatives presented to the community on August 23rd and 25th. After obtaining input through the community meetings, the Parks & Recreation and Public Works Commission meetings, and from other City departments, the Program added a sixth (6th) location alternative: City of San Mateo Corporation Yard. Technical, environmental, social, and economic considerations for the six (6) alternatives will be evaluated and compared. In addition to the two community meetings in late August, the City will host two additional community meetings on October 4th and 6th for additional input on the site alternatives. Input on the alternatives will be included in a report to the City Council in early 2017 when the City Council is to make a final site selection. It is important to maintain the project schedule to meet the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Cease & Desist Order deadline of eliminating SSOs.

2.B. Where will the underground storage facility be located? Has a specific site been recommended?

The six (6) current site alternatives include Hillsdale Plaza, Expo Center Parking Lot, Bay Meadows Park, Fiesta Meadows Park, a Delaware Street tunnel storage, and the City Corporation Yard alternative. No

recommendations for selecting the final alternative have been made. The Program team is evaluating the feasibility of a potential sixth site to be added into the selection process and the alternatives analysis.

2.C. Do similar underground storage facilities exist in other parts of San Mateo?

San Mateo does not currently have an underground storage facility; however, Daly City does, and Pacifica is planning to construct one. These storage facilities are becoming more widely used across the entire country as a means of providing relief for sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs).

3. FACILITY SPECIFICATIONS AND FUNCTION

3.A. What will the dimensions of the underground storage facility be?

A storage volume of approximately 5.2 million gallons (MG) is needed to support the City's integrated approach to addressing sanitary sewer overflows. Each of the six (6) site alternatives have different site constraints that will affect the designing and dimensioning of the underground storage facility. Since the project is still in the early phases of its site alternative selection process, detailed dimensioning of the facility has not yet been completed.

3.B. What is the reasoning behind the 12-foot diameter for the underground tunnel option? Why not larger or smaller?

The 12-foot diameter for the underground tunnel option along Delaware St is still an estimate. This size is a readily available size for a tunnel boring machine and segmental liners. To provide the needed storage capacity of approximately 5.2 million gallons, a 12-foot diameter storage facility would have to be approximately 6,300 feet long. If a larger diameter tunnel was designed, the length of the tunnel would be less than 6,300 feet; in contrast, if a smaller diameter tunnel was designed, the length of the tunnel would increase above 6,300 feet.

3.C. What will be the environmental impact of this underground storage facility once it is constructed?

The Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) contains summaries of potential environmental impacts in Chapter 16. The PEIR summarizes that during construction, the impacts will be traffic, dust, noise, and vibration; and once constructed, the storage facility will help the City comply with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Cease and Desist Order to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows to the Bay and thus will improve water quality. Following construction, the sites will be restored to their previous condition with potential enhancements to surface improvements. Additional environmental investigations will be completed when a location alternative is selected. The investigation information will be shared with the public prior to construction.

3.D. What will happen to the 5+ million gallons of treated water following each storm event?

An underground storage facility is not a treatment facility. All wastewater treatment occurs only at the WWTP. The underground storage facility is designed to temporarily store wastewater only during peak wet weather events, and the wastewater that is stored in the facility is diluted to an approximate

concentration of 1 part sewage to 10 parts storm water. The diluted wastewater will be held until the storm passes and the downstream collection system has sufficient capacity, typically for no more than approximately 24 hours. The diluted wastewater will then be released back into the collection system to be conveyed to the WWTP for treatment. The new WWTP will treat the wastewater to meet Title 22 regulation requirements so it can be reused for irrigation purposes. The City is exploring partnership options to treat the effluent to a higher level of quality for potential in-direct potable recycled water use.

3.E. Given San Mateo's proximity to the San Andreas Fault, how much has seismology been factored into the site evaluation?

For all sites being considered, the underground storage facility will be designed to withstand the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) seismic acceleration of 1.9 g, which is specific to San Mateo. The design will also comply with governing codes, such as Reinforced Concrete ACI 350, California Building Code 2013, and Design Loads for Buildings and other Structures (ASCE 7-10).

4. RECREATION IMPACT

4.A. Why might parks be torn up to construct this underground storage facility?

Two of the six (6) alternatives are City Park facilities, but the final alternative has not yet been selected. Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are a significant health issue to both the public and the environment. There have been significant SSO occurrences along the Delaware St corridor. When an SSO occurs, diluted wastewater escapes through sewer manholes, flows onto the City streets, into storm drain inlets, into creeks, and eventually into the bay. The Regional Water Quality Control Board has issued the City of San Mateo a Cease and Desist Order to eliminate SSOs and provide capacity assurance by December 2018. The two parks were identified as alternatives due to their space and proximity to the Delaware St corridor. If a park were selected, construction of the underground storage facility would temporarily limit public access and usage of the park. The need to build an underground storage facility to comply with these regulations presents an opportunity to provide potential improvements, such as replacing grass fields with synthetic turf for an all-season playing surface, improving vehicle parking capacities, and other enhancements when the surface improvements are restored.

5. PROPERTY IMPACT

5.A. Will even more taxes need to be paid to cover the cost of this underground storage facility?

The \$900million Clean Water Program is funded by the sewer fees collected from property owners by the City of San Mateo and through cost-sharing contributions from partner agencies, including the City of Foster City, the Town of Hillsborough, the County of San Mateo, and the Crystal Springs County Sanitation District. The City is also applying for Clean Water State Revolving Fund low interest rate loans.

6. NOTIFICATION AND OUTREACH PROCESS

6.A. What has the Program team done for community notification and outreach so far during the site selection process? What will be done to improve community notification and outreach during the remainder of the site selection process?

The City utilizes several communication channels to inform the public of upcoming meetings. These channels include a City-Wide first-class mailing of community meeting invitations to properties, sending invitations to City Council and Boards/Commissions, updating the Clean Water Program (CWP) website's "Upcoming Events" section (www.cleanwaterprogramsanmateo.org), postings on the City Website (www.cityofsanmateo.org), emailing the CWP Email List (Notify Me), emailing Home Owner Associations and Neighborhood Associations, posting to the NextDoor.com social media site, and distributing press releases to various media contacts. The Program will continue to send community meeting invitations through these channels 2 to 3 weeks in advance of community meetings, and the City encourages the public to subscribe to the Notify Me email list and for NextDoor.com to stay up to date with City and Program activities.

7. COSTS AND FUNDING

7.A. What are the cost estimates for each of the six (6) remaining site alternatives?

Overall, the Basin 2 & 3 Collection System Improvements Project, which includes 13 sewer pipe projects, 3 pump station rehabilitation/upgrade projects, and an underground storage facility, is estimated to be a \$154 million capital investment to build wet weather sewer system capacity assurance which will provide significant public and environmental benefits to the City and to the San Francisco Bay for many years to come. A storage volume of approximately 5.2 million gallons (MG) is needed to support the City's integrated approach to addressing sanitary sewer overflows. Each of the six (6) site alternatives have different site constraints and conditions that will affect the cost of the underground storage facility. Since the project is still in the early phases of the site alternative selection process, detailed cost estimates have not yet been completed. Cost estimates will be completed for the six (6) alternatives as part of the alternatives analysis process that is currently being performed.

7.B. How will the construction of this underground storage facility be funded?

The Clean Water Program's "Basin 2 & 3 Collection System Improvements Project," which includes 13 sewer pipe projects, 3 pump station rehabilitation/upgrade projects, and an underground storage facility, is estimated to be a \$154 million capital investment to build wet weather sewer system capacity assurance which will provide significant public and environmental benefits to the City and to the San Francisco Bay for many years to come. The project is funded by the City's sewer use fees. The City is also applying for Clean Water State Revolving Fund low interest rate loans. The City is anticipating increases in sewer rates to provide the revenue required to pay for the Clean Water Program; no additional taxes or assessments are anticipated at this time.

8. CONSTRUCTION

8.A. What will be done to maintain the soil structure? What will be the impacts of installing the large structure underground?

Installation of an underground storage facility will require excavation of the soil. Most of the sites have similar loose soil characteristics and high groundwater that will require shoring to maintain the integrity of the excavation. The foundation for the facility will likely require piers to support it.

9. PEIR AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

9.A. How will this underground storage facility keep the City of San Mateo in compliance with local and federal environmental requirements?

The Regional Water Quality Control Board issued a Cease & Desist Order to the City in 2009 to eliminate sanitary sewer overflows and provide capacity assurance. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) 2013 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Service (NPDES) discharge permit requires the elimination of blending and an integrated approach to collect and treat the wastewater. To comply with these regulations, the underground storage facility will allow the wastewater collection system to divert excess volumes of wet weather flows into the storage facility for a temporary amount of time until the capacity of both the collection system and the wastewater treatment plant can accept the stored volumes of diluted wastewater for appropriate conveyance and treatment.

9.B. How much sea level rise is figured into the design and construction of the underground storage facility?

The designs assume sea level rise of three feet.

Note to reader: Numbering starts at #2, because #1.A. through #1.F. are available in the [Frequently Asked Questions – General Clean Water Program](#) handout, available in the [Learn More about the Clean Water Program](#) section of the CWP website. CWP staff is currently working on combining and expanding these onto a new, living Frequently Asked Questions webpage on the CWP website.