



Union Park CSO Facility

A publication of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

MWRA AWARDS UNION PARK CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

In mid-March, MWRA's Board of Directors voted to award the construction contract for the Union Park CSO Detention/Treatment Facility (Union Park DTF) to Barletta Engineering Corporation of Roslindale. Barletta was the lowest of eight bidders on the project, with a winning proposal of \$37.2 million to construct the facility. The Union Park DTF is one of 25 projects in MWRA's Long-Term CSO Control Plan. Construction of the facility will take an estimated 30 months. The CSO facility is part of the Federal Court Order that guided the Boston Harbor Project.

Barletta will begin site preparation activities during April 2003. MWRA plans to meet with neighbors and businesses in the area on Thursday, April 24, at 7 PM at St. Helena's House to introduce the community to a Barletta representative and to discuss the upcoming construction.

The Community's Role

Over the last three years, MWRA staff and project consultants met with neighbors and businesses many times to gather their input on elements of the project. Residents provided input on the choice of odor and noise control facilities, building appearance and other details. Residents with professional expertise in architecture and park design worked with their neighbors to fine-tune their responses to the design, then gave the MWRA their ideas. Many of these proposals were included in the final design.

After discussions with the community, the MWRA's Board of Directors approved mitigation funds for a temporary park during construction since the existing park will have to be removed. The Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) joined the MWRA and the neighbors to discuss how to use these funds. The parties agreed that

BPRD will manage a Master Planning process with the neigh-

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This view shows the CSO facility from the corner of Albany and Union Park Streets. The replacement park will stretch from Union Park to Malden Street.



About the Project

The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) owns and operates five facilities that treat Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) during wet weather to improve water quality in Boston Harbor and its tributary rivers. As part of the Federal Court Order guiding the restoration of Boston Harbor, the Authority is upgrading the five existing facilities and building two new ones. The \$40.4 million Union Park CSO Facility will detain and treat wet weather flows from the South End neighborhood of Boston that pass through the existing Union Park Pump Station (operated by the Boston Water and Sewer Commission). The facility will include underground detention tanks, screens to remove floating material, disinfection and dechlorination systems and a surface building adjacent to BWSC's Union Park Pump Station.

The new Union Park facility will substantially improve the quality of wet weather overflows reaching the Fort Point Channel. A similar facility at Cottage Farm near the B.U. Bridge on the Charles River has been operated since 1971, first by MDC, then by MWRA, since 1985.



The left photo shows a structure that resembles construction of a similar, above-ground facility; on the right, typical below grade concrete work.

Construction Contract / *cont.*

borhood with the goal of deciding the best use for the open space on Union Park Street. The parcel next to Saint Helena's House will be developed and the existing park will be replaced at the end of construction. BPRD will work directly with residents on this plan. In addition, with the agreement of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC), the replacement park will now stretch from the corner of Union Park Street along Albany Street to Malden Street, expanding the public access area.

Construction Start-up

MWRA recognizes that this project will be built very close to a residential neighborhood and operating businesses. With this in mind, MWRA included mitigation requirements in the construction contract documents to lessen the burden of construction on neighbors. These issues were presented to the neighbors at a community meeting on January 30, 2003 (see the article on page 3).

These requirements include:

- Truck traffic and deliveries limited to Malden Street
- Off-site parking, equipment staging and storage
- Limits on construction hours: 7 AM to 4 PM, five days a week unless specific requests for extended hours or weekend work are submitted and approved
- Street sweeping, dust control and rodent control
- Vibration monitoring

- Noise limits are specified and a noise control plan and noise consultant are required

Before construction begins, Keville Enterprises, a company representing the Contractor, will contact residents to take videotape and still photos of the current condition of their property. This information will help protect all parties in the case of any damage from construction impacts. Vibration monitoring will be conducted, with specific limits to be met. There will be some restrictions on street parking for limited periods of time. The Contractor will submit a traffic management plan to Boston's Transportation Department. Groundwater monitoring wells will be installed and monitored.

Contact Information

Residents and business owners will be able to call the MWRA around the clock to report any problems that may occur during construction. During business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), calls should be directed to Gary Webster, MWRA Community Affairs, at 617-788-1170. After hours, calls will be taken at the MWRA's Operations Control Center (617-305-5950). Emergencies will be handled by the MWRA or the Contractor's staff as appropriate. Questions will be referred to Mr. Webster to handle the next day.

The MWRA will continue to meet with neighbors and abutters periodically during the construction of the facility. This newsletter will also continue to be issued periodically to provide progress reports on the construction.

PARKS UPDATE

As part of the CSO facility construction on Union Park Street, the MWRA's Contractor will have to remove the park currently at the intersection of Albany Street. On February 12, 2003, the MWRA's Board of Directors approved the transfer of funds to the Boston Parks and Recreation Department (BPRD) for a Master Planning process for the Union Park Street parks. This includes rebuilding the existing park when construction is complete and designing new green space on the street. The lot next to St. Helena's House, which now has a few benches and trees, will also be included in this plan.

Union Park Street residents and business owners discussed this concept in community workshops held last spring. The neighbors supported the ideas of restoring the current park and encouraging a mix of passive and active uses for the open space to be restored next to St. Helena's. While the Master Planning process may take a bit longer than creating a temporary park on the site, residents liked the idea of considering a variety of uses to serve the community. The MWRA has also agreed to the community's request to extend the replacement park from Union Park Street to Albany Street, making all of this space available for a variety of uses.

BPRD will be managing the Master Planning process and will contact residents directly about this process.

MWRA REVIEWS CONSTRUCTION PLANS WITH COMMUNITY

MWRA Project Staff and its design consultant, Metcalf & Eddy (M&E), met with the community for a workshop on construction and mitigation issues on January 30, 2003. The purpose of the meeting was to describe the kinds of construction activities that will occur as well as mitigation provisions the construction contractor will be providing. Jeff McLaughlin, MWRA's Community Coordinator, invited residents to comment on the outline and any potential problems they saw.

John Reidy, M&E's Project Manager, first displayed a rendering of the final design (see graphic on page 1) and a cross-section of the facility. He reminded the audience that the current annex to Boston Water and Sewer's Pump Station will be demolished. Mr. Reidy noted that the actual schedule will be developed by the Contractor based on the means and methods to be used during construction. Mr. Reidy reviewed the anticipated construction schedule and the duration of key activities as follows:

- Installation of earth retention sheeting – 4 months
- Excavation – 8 months
- Concrete placement – 10 months
- Facility and equipment installation – 8 months

Short-term impacts of the work include traffic, dust and noise, loss of the playground during construction, and aesthetic or visual impacts from the work. Long-term impacts include an improved architectural appearance; new odor control and emissions systems (including emissions controls on the existing stacks to be provided by BWSC); better flood control reliability for the South End with the addition of a redundant pump; compliance with the Federal Court order and improved Fort Point Channel water quality; and a Master Planning process for the new and restored parks on Union Park Street.



On a similar project, workers prepare for a below-grade concrete pour.

Controlling Traffic

All truck and project traffic will be limited to Malden Street. The Contractor will stage the project from another location and will bus workers to the site. On-street parking will be impacted for limited periods of time. The Contractor will have to place Jersey barriers temporarily at the corner of Albany and Malden Streets, with a few spots lost during this time. There may also be a temporary loss of several spaces on Union Park Street during installation of sheeting. Residents noted that parking is a difficult issue and asked the MWRA to look into other options for parking during this time. Project staff members have already met with the Boston Transportation Department to discuss these issues. Mr. McLaughlin promised to follow up on residents' comments.

Dust, a common side-effect of construction, will be managed by dosing with water and calcium chloride. Street sweeping will be required daily during the excavation phase of the work.

The Contractor will be required to have a noise control consultant and the project will have to comply with City of Boston noise ordinances. Vibratory installation of sheeting, which will occur in the early phase of construction, will be limited to between 8 AM and 3 PM, while general construction will take place between 7 AM and 4 PM, five days a week. The Contractor may submit requests for limited durations of extended work hours and/or weekend work that will be reviewed by the Authority. Construction trailers and

parking for BWSC staff who work at the pump station will be relocated to the empty lot owned by BWSC next to the St. Helena's park. Mr. Reidy said that the Contractor is likely to use a wall or fence as a noise or construction barrier.

Pre-construction surveys will take place before work begins. The company doing the filming (Keville Enterprises) will shortly begin to contact abutters to arrange this work. Mr. McLaughlin and Mr. Reidy urged neighbors to participate in this process, which protects all of the parties. Vibration monitoring will be ongoing to ensure that the project meets safe standards, but the videotapes provide an extra level of insurance. The surveys will be repeated at the end of construction to document any changes.

A Visual Preview

Mr. Reidy showed the audience photographs of similar kinds of construction. The underground tank construction will look like the photo of below-grade work (on page 2, right, and above). Construction of the exterior of the building will include steel framing, then the block and brick work, as depicted in the photo (on page 2, left). Once the exterior of the building is in place, the piping, electrical and other equipment will be installed.

Mr. McLaughlin said he would be happy to arrange a site visit to a comparable MWRA CSO facility for any interested neighbors. He will arrange transportation at a convenient time.

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Next Steps

Mr. McLaughlin reported that the MWRA will schedule another meeting with the community after the construction contractor has been chosen and before mobilization begins. This meeting is scheduled for April 24, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Helena's House. A representative from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department has been invited to provide an update on the next steps in the Parks Master Planning Process.

Project Contacts

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How Can I Get Involved

To add your name to the project mailing list to receive meeting notices, newsletters and other information, call Gary Webster at MWRA Public Affairs, 617-788-1170.

Project documents will be made available to the public for review at the following location:

Boston Public Library
South End Branch
685 Tremont Street

You can also visit the MWRA web site at www.mwra.com, for project updates.

Construction Contact Information

Once construction begins, neighbors and businesses can contact Gary Webster, MWRA Community Affairs, with any problems or questions during business hours. After hours, please contact the MWRA's Operations Control Center at the number below. If you do not have an emergency but want to get information, please leave a message at MWRA Public Affairs, and Mr. Webster will contact you or address the issue during the next business day.

MWRA Public Affairs
Gary Webster
617-788-1170

MWRA Operations Control Center (after hours)
617-305-5950

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Volume IV, Issue 1
Spring 2003

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
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