

# South Park Pump Station

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Mayor

**Samuel Asefa**  
Director, OPCD

**Ben de Rubertis**, Chair

**Brianna Holan**, Vice Chair

**Justin Clark**

**Rikerrious Geter**

**Laura Haddad**

**Mark Johnson**

**Rick Krochalis**

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## Commissioners Present

Ben de Rubertis, Chair  
Brianna Holan, Vice Chair  
Justin Clark  
Rikerrious Geter  
Laura Haddad (excused at Noon)  
Mark Johnson  
Rick Krochalis  
Amalia Leighton  
Vinita Sidhu  
Elaine Wine

## Commissioners Excused

## Project Description

Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is proposing to build a pump station within the South Park Neighborhood. The project is located along S Riverside Dr. adjacent to the 7th Ave Street end and Duwamish River. The proposed facility will include a series of wet wells and pumps to help prevent flooding in the neighborhood during storm events. The project proposal will also include accessible open space with pedestrian pathways, landscape forms, vegetation, seating, lighting, and views to the water as well as improvements to the adjacent ROW along S Riverside Dr and the northern portion of the 7th Ave S street end.

## Meeting Summary

This was the Seattle Design Commission's (SDC) second review of the South Park Pump Station. The purpose of this meeting was to review the design development phase for the project. After the presentation and discussion, the SDC voted, 10-0, to approve the design development phase for the South Park Pump Station with several recommendations.

## Recusals and Disclosures

None

**August 1, 2019**

1:00 - 2:30 pm

**Type**

CIP

**Phase**

Design Development

**Previous Reviews**[12/6/18](#)**Presenters**Shailee Sztern  
SPUMeredith Hall  
KKLAKaren Kiest  
KKLASarah Fischer  
KPG**Attendees**Sheila Harrison  
SPUJason Huff  
OACMaija McKnight  
OAC**Summary of Presentation**

Shailee Sztern, of SPU, Sarah Fischer, of KPG, and Karen Kiest and Meredith Hall, of KKLA presented the design development phase for the South Park Pump Station Project. The presentation began with a brief introduction of SPU's South Park Drainage Program, project purpose, and goals as well as site context and background information. The goal of the project remains to provide a safe and secure facility that maximizes public space and will adapt to sea level rise.

The updated design includes several changes to the open space, boom truck setting area, and S Riverside and 7th Ave S rights of way (ROW). The updated design refines and expands the central open lawn, and includes with stone slabs for seating and concrete pathways along the edge. The open lawn area now extends out into the 7th Ave S ROW and includes bollards along the southern edge to prevent vehicles from entering the pedestrian area. Landscape areas with street trees are proposed along S Riverside Dr. The landscape areas will help reduce the amount of paved area along S Riverside Dr and will not be designed with a curb to increase water infiltration. The updated design also includes a plaza with seating along the eastern edge of the site. A series of stone markers will be located between the plaza edge and the shoreline. Each stone will include an elevation marker to help demarcate sea level rise. Art will be integrated within the site along the central pathway. The proposed artwork includes a series of cedar posts with a reflective area oriented into the interior of the pathway that these posts will frame. *See figure 1 for more detail*

Design updates to the facility include changing the color of the generator to better match the surrounding materials, additional guardrails along the head house, updated gate design, and refinements to the guardrail and fencing along the perimeter of the facility. The western façade of the facility will include scoring in the concrete at 1-foot intervals to highlight sea level rise. *See figure 2 for more detail*

**Agency Comments****None****Public Comments****None****Summary of Discussion**

The Commission organized its discussion of the pedestrian land bridge around the following issues:

- Connectivity and access to the site
- Architectural and landscape design development
- Sustainability and materiality
- Lighting and art integration

*Connectivity and access to the site*

The SDC commended the project team for creating an expanded open space that is physically and visually connected and recognized that the space will be welcoming and inviting for future users. The Commission then recommended the project team continue coordinating with SDOT to improve access to the site using pedestrian focused solutions such as identifying and/or prioritizing a primary pedestrian route to the site through the adjacent neighborhood. Commissioners also recommended they continue exploring the placement of bollards within ROW on southwest edge to better define pedestrian movement adjacent to the site.



Figure 1: Updated site design proposal



Figure 2: Updated facility design

Commissioners agreed that the expanded open space will serve as a great amenity for the surrounding community, but recommended the project team continue working with adjacent property owners to balance pedestrian safety with the needs of adjacent industrial businesses.

#### *Architectural and landscape design development*

The SDC commended the project team for the updated design of the building and landscape. Commissioners recommended the project team consider continuity between materials on the pump station to ensure that finishes and colors are consistent. The Commission then recommended the project team use the western façade of the pump station as an area to visually represent what the future could look like within this community and in other neighborhoods as a result of climate change. Commissioners then encouraged the project team to consider using vertical fencing instead of having a CMU wall on the northern section of the western façade.

The SDC then commended the project team for their landscape proposal. Commissioners agreed the proposed space was well thought out and fit together. The commission appreciated that the open space extended into the adjacent ROW. Commissioners acknowledged that the landscape areas would be heavily used and encouraged the design to think through the proposed planting material.

#### *Sustainability and materiality*

The SDC commended the project team for placing trees within the ROW without using curbs.

#### *Lighting and art integration*

The SDC appreciated how the updated landscape design is responding to the proposed art. Commissioners also appreciated the location and design of the art piece, which will reinforce and remind users of sea level rise.

### **Action**

The Commission thanked the project team for their presentation on the design development phase for the South Park Pump station. Overall, the SDC appreciated the project team's response to previous recommendations. Commissioners also appreciated the project team for creating open spaces that are welcoming and inviting to the public, providing sustainability and resiliency measures within the design, and for setting a precedent for designing public space within industrial area. The SDC voted, 10-0, to approve the design development phase for the South Park Pump Station with the following recommendations:

1. Continue coordination with SDOT to improve access to the site using pedestrian focused solutions such as such as identifying and/or prioritizing a primary pedestrian route through the adjacent neighborhood
2. Balance pedestrian needs with needs of adjacent industrial businesses so they can continue to function
3. Continue exploring the placement of bollards within ROW on southwest edge to better define pedestrian movement in the area
4. Continue to think about continuity of materials used throughout the project
5. Consider changes to materiality of CMU blockwork in front of the generator
6. Continue to think about how to emphasize onsite educational component, using the building façade as a canvas.
7. Continue to work with SDOT on space activation in the boom truck area when not in use