



# **West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project**

**Project Management and Engineering No. 19-01**

## **Phase One Public Outreach Summary**

Municipality of Anchorage  
Anchorage, Alaska  
March 24, 2020 – April 24, 2020



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- Attachment A: Postcard
- Attachment B: Advertisements in the *Anchorage Daily News*
- Attachment C: Press Release
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## Introduction

This public outreach summary is used for tracking and documenting public involvement activities for Phase One of the West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project (Snow Disposal Project). It outlines the Phase One public involvement strategies for the period of March 24 through April 24, 2020, and the methods used to engage and inform the public on the Snow Disposal Project. The summary includes a description of the online open house and virtual meeting, the tools used for implementation, and the results of the public outreach during Phase One.

## Overview of Phase One Public Involvement Activities

The project team conducted a variety of public outreach tactics to engage and inform the public on the Snow Disposal Project. The tactics used in Phase One are described below.

### Online Open House and Virtual Meeting

On Tuesday, March 24, 2020, the Snow Disposal Project team hosted an online, interactive, self-guided public open house on the project website that was available through Friday, April 24, 2020. The online open house consisted of a total of eight sections that outlined project information and one section that included ways to comment on the project. The purpose of the online open house was to inform the public of the Municipality of Anchorage's (MOA's) West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project and receive feedback on site selection criteria and potential locations to be considered.

### Virtual Meeting – Project Team Live Chat

In addition to the online open house site, the project team hosted a virtual meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at which members of the public could interact with the project team through the online open house site via a live chat feature.

### Attendance

A total of 35 visitors attended the online open house on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm, 8 of whom also participated in the virtual meeting live online chat. The live online open house was viewed 137 times from March 24, 2020, to April 24, 2020.

### Advertising

The online public open house was advertised in the following ways:

- Meeting information on the project website: [www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com)
- Postcard mailer to residents near the project area (total of 4,139; Attachment A)
- An advertisement in the *Anchorage Daily News* (Attachment B)
- Presentations at the Turnagain Community Council and Sand Lake Community Council meetings
- A press release sent out by PM&E (Attachment C)
- Postings to nextdoor.com
- Flyers posted around the project area (Attachment D)



## West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project Phase One Public Outreach Summary

### **Summary of Comments**

The comments received during the online open house and the virtual public meeting (Attachment E) focused primarily on the snow disposal site selection process, the need for a new site location, the possible need for wetland permitting and mitigation, and communication with other agencies and organizations such as Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility.



## West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project Phase One Public Outreach Summary

# Attachment A

## Postcard



# West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project



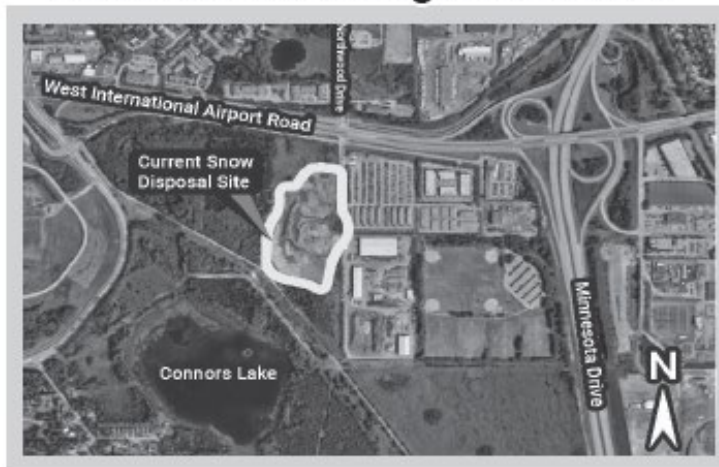
West Anchorage  
Snow Disposal Project  
2525 C Street, Suite 500  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

## Online Open House & Virtual Public Meeting

Online Open House  
March 24 - April 24, 2020

Virtual Public Meeting  
Tuesday, March 24, 2020  
from 4:30-6:30 pm

[www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com)





# West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project



**Online Open House**  
**March 24 - April 24, 2020**

**Virtual Public Meeting**  
**Tuesday, March 24, 2020**  
**from 4:30-6:30 pm**

**Visit [westanchoragesnow.com](http://westanchoragesnow.com)**

The Municipality of Anchorage is collecting information on potential locations for the placement of snow removed from West Anchorage streets during winter. Snow disposal location criteria and public feedback will be considered as part of a site selection process.

You are invited to attend an Online Open House to learn about the project and provide your feedback on site selection criteria and potential locations to be considered.

If you have any questions, please contact the project public involvement lead, Josie Wilson, at (907) 644-2030 or [Josie.wilson@hdrinc.com](mailto:Josie.wilson@hdrinc.com).

**Stay in-the-know**



Sign up to receive email updates on our  
website at [www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com)

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## West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project Phase One Public Outreach Summary

### **Attachment B**

**Advertisement in the  
Anchorage Daily news**





## West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project



**ONLINE  
MEETING  
DETAILS**

### Online Open House

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 | 4:30 pm – 6:30 pm

[www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com)

The Municipality of Anchorage is collecting information on potential locations for the placement of snow removed from West Anchorage streets during winter. Snow disposal location criteria and public feedback will be considered as part of a site selection process.

You are invited to attend a Public Open House to learn about the project and provide your feedback on site selection criteria and potential locations to be considered.

Visit [westanchoragesnow.com](http://westanchoragesnow.com) for project information or to submit comments. **Comment period from March 24 to April 24, 2020.**

If you have any questions, you may contact  
Josie Wilson at 907 644-2030.

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## West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project Phase One Public Outreach Summary

# Attachment C

## Press Release



PROJECT MANAGEMENT  
**PM&E**  
& ENGINEERING

# Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Project Management & Engineering Department

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 24, 2020

### **Municipality of Anchorage Goes “Virtual” for Project Management and Engineering Public Meeting for the West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project**

*The Municipality of Anchorage Project Management & Engineering Office is hosting an online open house and virtual public meeting for the West Anchorage Snow Disposal Site project. The public is invited to attend and participate in the virtual meeting on Tuesday, March 24 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. by visiting the project website: [www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com).*

**ANCHORAGE** – In response to the [“Hunker Down” order \(EO-03\)](#) and guidance to avoid social gatherings, the Municipality of Anchorage shifted a previously planned in-person public meeting for the West Anchorage Snow Disposal Site Project to an online open house format with a live-chat virtual meeting.

The project team is offering a virtual meeting through a live-chat feature on the website on **Tuesday, March 24, 2020 from 4:30-6:30pm**. The Online Open House will be available **March 24 through April 24, 2020** for participants to learn about the project and to leave comments. Members of the public can visit the project website at [www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com) and then chat online with project team members during the virtual meeting, similar to a traditional public meeting.

The Municipality of Anchorage is collecting information on potential locations for the placement of snow removed from West Anchorage streets during winter. The project is in the information-gathering phase and the public is invited to learn about the project and to provide feedback on the site selection requirements for a future potential site as part of the site selection study.

Please join the project team at 4:30pm on Tuesday, March 24 online at [www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com) to interact with the project team, to learn about the project, and to provide feedback on site selection criteria for potential locations for the West Anchorage Snow Disposal Site Project.

All public comments received during the live chat and through the website will be considered by the project team. The public can also submit comments via email or mail by April 24, 2020 to [info@westanchoragesnow.com](mailto:info@westanchoragesnow.com) or by visiting the project website at [www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com). People may also sign up for the project distribution list to have project updates sent right to their inbox.

###

Media contact: Chelsea Ward-Waller, 907.575.8583, [chelsea.ww@anchorageak.gov](mailto:chelsea.ww@anchorageak.gov)

***About Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Project Management & Engineering Department (PM&E)***

*PM&E designs and builds public works projects that provide a safe, convenient, and efficient transportation network throughout Anchorage. Voter-approved bonds fund the majority of these projects, which include sidewalks, transit facilities, roads, trails, drainage, and other public facilities that support Municipal Maintenance and Operations.*



## West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project Phase One Public Outreach Summary

### **Attachment D**

#### **Project Flyer**



# West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project

Project Management and Engineering No. 19-01

## Please Join Us!



**Online Open House**  
Tuesday  
March 24, 2020 from  
4:30 to 6:30

visit:  
[westanchoragesnow.com](http://westanchoragesnow.com)



The Municipality of Anchorage is collecting information on potential locations for the placement of snow removed from West Anchorage streets during winter. Snow disposal location criteria and public feedback will be considered as part of a site selection process.

You are invited to attend a Public Open House to learn about the project and provide your feedback on site selection criteria and potential locations to be considered.

Visit [www.westanchoragesnow.com](http://www.westanchoragesnow.com) for project information or to submit comments.

Comment period from March 24 to April 24, 2020.

If you have any questions, contact Josie Wilson at (907) 644-2030.



## West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project Phase One Public Outreach Summary

# Attachment E

## Comment Log

West Anchorage Snow Disposal Project Phase One Comment Log								
Comment Number	Date	Comment Type	Commenter	Organization	Comment	Response Date	Responded By	Response
1	3/6/2020	In Person - Turnagain Community Council	John Johansen	AIA - Manager of engineering, environmental, and planning	Opinions on "why" this project is happening - meeting minutes reflect when he was speaking and his questions. Seretary will provide minutes.			
2	3/17/2020	Email	Frank Rast	Public	<p>Hello Josie</p> <p>I am quite interested in this project as I have been lobbying for years to get the Northwood Snow dump leased at a more reasonable rate. I realize that keeping that site is a dead end. It would be nice if the public got a little more background on this rather than the "does not meet contracting requirements" description on the website. I understand that literally an act of congress would be required to lease the Northwood Site at a reasonable rate. Very unfortunate because the MOA taxpayers actually own the airport through the State.</p> <p>I understand that Northwood and Raspberry is the likely site and it is unfortunate that a HLB property listed as a future neighborhood town center will now be a snow dump. What a scenic welcome site for visitors traveling down Minnesota Drive on their way to Kenai. Similar to the snow dumps lining the Seward Highway. This site also has potential for development as affordable R2-M Housing. A developer across the street just got approval for the R2-M height variance. Looking at a snow dump instead of the Chugach Mountains will not help his development</p> <p>I hate to say this but the AS&amp;G Fill site would be an option if the trucking costs are not too high and the airspace was cleared with FAA and the Airport. The fill site is 300 feet down at the end of my block on Seaciff. I really don't want to look at a snow dump for 6 months out of the year, but this may be a better community option than Northwood and Raspberry.</p> <p>I will be asking Sara and Mia if they can contact Senator's Murkowski and Sullivan to see if a more reasonable lease can be provided at the current Northwood site.</p> <p>Thanks in advance for considering my comments.</p> <p>Frank Rast</p>			<p>Hi Frank,</p> <p>Thank you for your comment. The project team is taking it into consideration as part of the site selection study.</p> <p>In this process the city is considering the long term lease of the existing site but development costs are high even to retrofit it for current water quality standards. These development costs would be lost at the end of the lease unless a more permanent land agreement can be reached.</p> <p>We are sensitive to the impacts on current and potential residents. It is understood that the Raspberry site will potentially have more of these impacts and that will be factored into the selection process.</p> <p>The project team has looked into the AS&amp;G site and found that financially, it is not a viable option. Due to the distance, trucking costs would greatly increase and since MOA does not own the land there would be purchasing costs to overcome.</p> <p>We appreciate your involvement on the project and will keep you posted with the progress.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>
3	3/23/2020	Phone and Email	Judy See	Public	<p>Hello - I live in SW Anchorage - 1 block over from Dimond HS track. We r a swamp in this area. Our house has 2 sump pumps.</p> <p>When Arlene Street was recently redone, a semi truck got stuck in the muck. In the easement behind our homes the electric box has been tipped over for years. Each spring our phone service is not usable for a few days due to high water. The returning fowl swim in these flooded areas.</p> <p>PLEASE do NOT even consider this area for snow dumping - should there be any room.</p> <p>Thank you for reading this request.</p> <p>Sincerely, Judy See</p>	3/23/2020	Josie Wilson	Judy called the PI team before sending her email. Email does not need to be responded to. She just wanted her comment for the record.
4a	3/24/2020	Virtual Meeting Online Chat	Name not given	Public	Hello. Are the two potential sites shown on the webpage the only potential sites under consideration/that meet the criteria?	3/24/2020	Julie Makela	Hi! This is Julie Makela, Project Administrator. Those are the two potential sites at this point that we believe meet the criteria. We are open to considering other sites suggested by the public.
4b					Also, one of the several reasons the existing site no longer is viable is because it would need improvements to meet water quality standards. What improvements would need to be made to a new site to make either of them compliant with WQ standards?	3/24/2020	Julie Makela	Both of the potential sites would have to be fully upgraded to current snow disposal regulatory standards. The potential sites are large enough to have the WQ features necessary to meet water quality standards. One of the features would be settling ponds and periodic water quality monitoring.
5a	3/24/2020	Virtual Meeting Online Chat	Margaret Auth	Spendard Community Roadhouse - Member of the Executive Committee	I am most interested in keeping snow dumps away from residential neighborhoods. As someone who has lived near the current snow dump, I would like to say that the sounds from the trucks can be very loud and not just where they dump the snow. They also sometimes illegally use their air brakes on International. There's a reason it's illegal to use them in the city, but still, they do. . I do know there is a need for the snow dump as my husband was the chair of the Spenard Community Council and I know this has been an issue for the Muni for years because the land is State owned.	3/24/2020	Josie Wilson	Thank you for your comment. This is Josie, the public involvement lead. I am sorry to hear that. I appreciate you taking the time to provide your comments and feedback. We will add this comment to our public feedback. Thanks Margaret! Would it be okay if we got back to you on your question about the the design of the potential site and minimization of contamination?
5b					I also have a question: Because this will hopefully be a better planned snow dump than that currently used, will the Muni line the area to minimize contamination? I feel I have made all the comments I need to make at this time. I thank you for taking the time to do this presentation. I would appreciate more information on the design when you can get that information to me.			
6a					Just reread Connor's Bog "Advantages" list; not sure additional access to that area is necessarily a good thing. Connors Lake supports nesting loons as well as other bird and wildlife habitat. Current access seems to be adequate for those who enjoy this area. Improvements to the parking area off Jewel Lake would be interesting to see if those amenities would be viewed by users of the area as an acceptable trade off for loss of some of the parkland.	3/24/2020	Josie Wilson and Bill Spencer	We have several project team members online. Your questions are wonderful. We will answer as many as we can. We are also tracking all of these comments as part of the public involvement outreach. So, if we need to get back to you on a few of the questions, we will.
6b					This is Cathy Gleason, Turnagain CC President. I have several questions: 1) What zoning district/s would allow this proposed snow disposal facility?	3/24/2020	Bill Spencer	1)I will have to check on the specific zoning requirements for snow disposal sites, it is my understanding that these two parcels meet the required zoning criteria.
6c					2) Is the Municipality open to a rezoning process, if needed, to choose the best location?	3/24/2020	Bill Spencer	2) the Muni is open to rezoning if that is needed to use the best location



6d	3/24/2020	Virtual Meeting Online Chat	Cathy Gleason	Turnagain Community Council - President	3) What kind of Muni and Federal permitting would be required for a snow disposal facility?	3/24/2020	Bill Spencer	3)I believe the project will need a conditional use permit for the site, if we choose the site in Connors we will need approval from the Parks and Rec commission. Also needed will be a wetlands fill permit from the Army Corp of Engineers.
6e					4) Is the Connors Bog site dedicated parkland? If not, how close is the site to dedicated parkland and the portion of the park located on Airport property?	3/24/2020	Bill Spencer	4) yes I believe the north east corner of the bog is dedicated park land, currently lightly used
6f					5) Has the Strawberry Bog site been used as wetland mitigation for previous wetland fill projects elsewhere in Anchorage? 6) Is there any Conservation Easement designation on the Strawberry or Connors Bog sites? 7) Has the Heritage Land Bank identified either of the sites to be used as part of a Muni wetland mitigation bank?	3/24/2020	Bill Spencer	5,6,7) HLB has indicated that the answer to all of these is no.
6g					8) Based on the locations along Minnesota Dr. of both identified sites, visual mitigation would be needed at either site, so they would not be seen from the road. Any other land use proposed for dedicated park land would required a vote of the people to undedicate it.	3/24/2020	Bill Spencer and Julie Makela	8) We will maintain as much of the existing treeline as possible and then augment with berms and landscaping. Hi Cathy! It's Julie Makela, Project Administrator. You are correct there are municipal codes regarding dedicated parkland. I don't have the exact code in front of me but the code does allow for other municipapl use of dedicated parkland. If the Connors Bog is our preferred alternative, we will need to get Parks and Rec commission approval, Planning and Zoning commission approval and Assembly approval. We can follow up later with the exact code that allows for other municipal use of dedicated parkland.
						4/7/2020	Josie Wilson	AMC 25.10.080.C is the code that lays out the steps for other municipal use of dedicated park land
6h					Either of the two sites identified include wetlands, hydrology impacts to adjacent remaining, undisturbed wetlands as well as surrounding upland areas would need to be looked at as well. Just reread Connor's Bog "Advantages" list; not sure additional access to that area is necessarily a good thing. Connors Lake supports nesting loons as well as other bird and wildlife habitat. Current access seems to be adequate for those who enjoy this area. Improvements to the parking area off Jewel Lake would be interesting to see if those amenities would be viewed by users of the area as an acceptable trade off for loss of some of the parkland. Many thanks to all of you for making the best of the situation we find our city in right now! I really appreciate your prompt responses and look forward to participating as the project moves forward. Signing off — it's dinner time!	3/24/2020	Josie Wilson and Bill Spencer	Josie Wilson: Hi Cathy, you have a very good point. Some of the +/- were from an operational point of view and not an impact point of view. You bring up a good point. I'll take that down as a note and look into it. Thank you for your suggestion.  Bill Spencer: We will be looking closely at environmental impacts as we move forward. Many of the water quality parameters can be overcome with design of appropriate treatment. Hydrology impacts can be both negative and positive and we will look at those impacts as well.
7	3/24/2020	Virtual Meeting Online Chat	Chris Conlon	Public	How about a cement pad with waste heat from the power plant across the highway piped underground just melted as the mountain grows. Then put a greenhouse on it and grow food during the rest of the year. Would you return current site back to recreation space? Ball fields, dog agility park etc?	3/24/2020	Josie Wilson, Bill Spencer, and Julie Makela	Now that is a creative idea, not sure my scope includes looking at that option but now you have my imagination going. We would have to see how the the BTUs penciled out and of course the melt water would just run off the pad and freeze creating a massive glacier. The heated greenhouse also has promise, we had hot house tomatoes in Kenai from the old diesel plant in the 60s. The current snow disposal site is owned by the airport. We currently rent the property on a short term basis. We're unsure of the airport's long term use plans are. The airport and muni were unable to reach an agreement on the land swap. All of the land around the airport is valuable to all parties. We will be taking all of the public comments from the virtual meeting today and creating a follow up communication and including the comments as part of the public record.
8	3/24/2020	Virtual Meeting Online Chat	Al	Public	What site locations meet your stated needs? Are both sites on city property? Are you desiring an Pkwy access for the Strawberry site? How do you desire to access the Strawberry site? Your map is useless, because of the chat page overlap. Perhaps you will consider a actual meeting with readable maps.	3/24/2020	Josie Wilson, Melinda Tso	We have two potential sites identified at this stage.We call these two sites: Strawberry Bog and Connor's Bog. Hello Al,Size of 14 acres or more of vacant land Centrally located to the current West Anchorage snow removal operations area to minimize haul times Allowance for 24/7 operations Allowance for operational lighting and sounds Minimized impacts to residents Economically viable development and operations cost Access from a collector roadway or higher roadway classification Able to be permitted for intended use (zoned appropriately). Yes, both sites are owned by the Municipality. The Connor's Bog site is Parks use and the Strawberry Bog site does not have any departmental use currently defined. Based on our concept look at the Strawberry site, there are restrictions for making an access off of Raspberry. The access would come off of Northwood Street south of Raspberry
9	3/24/2020	Virtual Meeting Online Chat	Jacki Armstrong		In my opinion the proposed Connor's Bog site appears to have fewer, and lesser, downsides-in particular the traffic impact. I do not however I ride my bike by the current snow dump several times a week and the traffic issue is re. Connor's Bog vs. Strawberry is significant. Access from International is, in my opinion, safer and less disruptive than would be Raspberry.	3/24/2020	Melinda Tsu	This is Melinda Tsu, Project Manager. We will add your feedback to all of our collected comments. Do you use the Connor's Bog area recreationally? We've looked at a concept access route to the Connor's Bog site and it would be off of the current access from International and Northwood St. For the Strawberry Bog site access would come off of Northwood south of Raspberry Road. In fact, there are restrictions to allow access off of Raspberry so the access would come off of Northwood, which would be a new impact. Your comments are noted and we appreciate this type of feedback on potential impacts to the public.
10	3/24/2020	Virtual Meeting Online Chat	Joe Sanks	AWWU	Hello all, AWWU here. Simple question. Both proposed site locations are near AWWU sewers. Access to the sewer mains will not be compromised? No encroachment into the sewer easement?	3/24/2020	Julie Makela, Josie Wilson,	Hi Joe! It's Julie Makela. We haven't looked too in detail to site details for either of the potential sites. As always we will work with AWWU on protecting facilities.