

AESTHETIC IMPACT FAQ

- 1. The area of Knott Park and the tidal pond is the second-largest contiguous public open space in the Point (just smaller than the Green). It, along with the trees and homes in the area, provides great beauty and history that is a major focal point for both residents and tourists. The proposed pump station, backup generator, and electrical handling structures threaten to significantly disrupt the appeal of this area. For example, most views looking east on Federal Street and including the huge live oak with the low clearance sign, would likely encompass the pump station. The view of the pond and the 'Little Taj' from Federal Street would similarly be impacted negatively. In addition, the proposed outfall would be significantly larger than the current outfall, visually impacting the view looking into and along the tidal marsh. All the proposals directly impact the neighboring houses, and it appears those that will be burdened the most will have little or no benefits. Is that correct?**
 - a. Both the City staff and the design team are conscientious about the need to build the proposed improvements in such a manner to reduce the potential visual impact. Where such impacts are unavoidable, structures will be designed to be architecturally similar to and blend in with the character of The Point. In the case of the view looking east along Federal Street, the proposed wet-well structure would be approximately the same height above grade as the existing guard rail adjacent to the roadway on either side of Federal Street. As indicated above, the view from the 'Little Taj' located at 401 King Street would be impacted by the construction of the wet-well; however, as previously noted, the top of the wet well would be approximately one foot higher than the guardrail presently in place along Federal Street. While there may be some impacts to existing conditions in The Point due to the proposed improvements, the benefits of such improvements must be weighed against those impacts. In addition to the improvement in drainage service, expected benefits include increases in property values, improved response times for emergency services during rainfall and tidal events, improved water quality, and reduced property damage due to flooding, among others.

- 2. We do not want a tourist destination at the outflow location. What is being done to avoid this?**
 - a. The City and the design team have been taking and incorporating continuous feedback from both the on-site meetings held in March and during individual meetings and through email exchanges. We are working on a design that incorporates all this feedback and that is compatible with the necessary engineering for the outfall. Final designs will be shared with the public as they are approved. Minimizing tourist impact at the Federal Street outfall has been recognized as a priority by the design team and we are working on addressing those specific concerns at this time.