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Barge ramp being installed and tested on July 20, 2017 for the first time.

PROJECT PROFILE: BARGE RAMP DESIGN

The Port of Bellingham needed a large, durable ramp for transferring cargo to and from barges in Whatcom Waterway, a narrow strip of saltwater protruding landward from Bellingham Bay and flanked by an industrial waterfront area currently under transformation. Once we were awarded the contract through the customary qualifications submittal process, structural engineer Charles Waugh, P.E., S.E., went to work designing a unique ramp to meet the varied challenges associated with the location.

Among those site challenges is tidal range, which historically has fluctuated by 12 feet within 24 hours. The ramp must function within a significant vertical range of more than eight feet in order to connect with barges rising and falling with the tide. Since the Port initially intends to use the ramp

infrequently, it must be easily removable from its anchor points on the pier. Additionally, since the anticipated loads are quite heavy, the ramp must be strong while also light enough to lift into position with a crane. Finally, the materials selected for the ramp must withstand the rigors of a marine environment.

At approximately 50' long and 15' wide, the ramp has a capacity of up to 120,000 pounds for heavy transport vehicles to access shipping barges or floating platforms. It is built of galvanized steel to resist corrosion, and designed to allow for permanent installation and operation by hydraulic lifts at a future date.

The contractor chose to have the ramp fabricated in modules in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In part this was because the main beams were longer than could be accommodated in any galvanizing facility in Washington. Wilson staff visited the manufacturing facility twice during the assembly phase to observe the progress of the work. The completed ramp was then transported by flatbed truck to Bellingham and bolted together. This heavy-duty marine structure is an impressive sight to behold and will serve the Port for many years to come.



Abhinav
Jain



Julia Rice

INTRODUCING THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR STAFF

Please join us in welcoming Abhinav Jain and Julia Rice, the newest additions to our team. Abhinav is a recent graduate from the University of Washington, where he earned a Master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Julia is a recent graduate from Michigan Technological University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering. Both Abhinav and Julia are already busy supporting senior engineers on different projects. We are excited to work with these young engineers as they continue on their respective career paths.



Our booth at the Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts' 2017 Spring Conference in Yakima, WA.

WILSON ENGINEERING TO ATTEND FALL CONFERENCES

As the weather begins to shift toward cooler temperatures and shorter days here in the Pacific Northwest, the fall conference season is upon us. We plan to attend industry conferences throughout Washington, starting with Evergreen Rural Water of Washington's Fall Conference and Trade Show, held August 29-30 at the Tulalip Resort in Marysville.

Next up is the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts' Fall Conference and Trade Show, scheduled for September 27-29 at the Wenatchee Convention Center. On October 3-5, the American Public Works Association will hold its Fall Conference at Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick. The Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association holds its Annual Conference and Exhibition on October 22-25 at the Hilton hotel in Vancouver. Rounding out October is the Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council's 2017 Conference at the Wenatchee Convention Center on October 24-26.

We look forward to connecting with past and current clients at these events, as well as meeting new clients to assist with their engineering and surveying needs. Conferences also provide valuable networking opportunities with equipment vendors as well as other consultants offering services complimentary to ours. If you are attending any of these conferences this fall, please be sure to stop by our booth and say hello.

WATER QUALITY PROJECT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The fall season also brings two important deadlines for project funding opportunities.

Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF or SRF) Loans

Provided for by the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), and administered by the Washington State Department of Ecology, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program is funded via an annual EPA capitalization grant, state matching funds, and principal and interest repayments on past CWSRF loans. This program provides low interest and forgivable principal loan funding for wastewater treatment construction projects, eligible non-point source pollution control projects, and eligible Green projects. This program is managed in accordance with federal regulations and guidelines, as well as state rule and statute.

Applicants looking for CWSRF loans can apply for funds through the annual Water Quality Combined Funding Cycle and its application process, where one application would be submitted for funding consideration for the following three funding opportunities: CWSRF loans, Centennial grants or loans or 319 grants.

Applications are accepted annually, starting in August and ending October 16th. Eligible public bodies include counties, cities, towns, special purpose districts and Tribes. For more information on this program, including which types of projects are eligible and how to apply, please visit: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/fundprgms/CWSRF/oppSRF.html>.

Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)

The Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) makes funds available to drinking water systems to pay for infrastructure improvements. It is administered by the Washington State Department of Health. This loan program is funded through federal and state money and subject to state laws and additional federal regulations. The program provides low interest preconstruction and construction loans or grants to publicly owned (municipal) and privately owned drinking water systems. These loans or grants cover capital improvements that increase public health and compliance with drinking water regulations. Loan repayments can range from 6 to 20 years. In some cases, partial loan forgiveness is offered.

The construction loan cycle opens October 2 - November 30, 2017. For more information on this program, as well as application forms and contact information, please visit: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/WaterSystemAssistance>.



Squalicum Boathouse at Zuanich Point Park, Bellingham, WA

50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Our celebration marking 50 years of providing engineering and survey services is happening Sunday, September 17th. The celebration will take place at the Squalicum Boathouse, located at Zuanich Point Park in Bellingham, from 12pm-3:00pm. There will be catered food and beverages, outdoor games, live music, and other fun activities. We look forward to seeing all those "friends of Wilson" who plan to attend. Cheers!

STAY CONNECTED



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Wilson Engineering, LLC has been providing engineering and survey services to the Pacific Northwest since 1967.