MUKILTEO WATER AND WASTEWATER DISTRICT

Founded 1920

Winter—Spring 2011

MUKILTEO PIPELINE

Big Gulch Sewer Reconstruction Project Completed

The District is pleased to report the final phase of the Big Gulch Sanitary Sewer Reconstruction Project has been completed. The total cost of the project is approximately $23 million. The $29.5 to 32.8 million estimate was established due to the complexity of this critical repair and replacement project.

The District's Big Gulch Sanitary Sewer Reconstruction Project was imperative in order to address the complicated impacts of uncontrolled storm water in the Big Gulch drainage basin. This issue threatened the Districts sewer trunk lines that follow the length of the gulch, and carry approximately 80% of the wastewater flow into the District's Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Construction to replace the sewer system began in 2007. The project involved constructing a stormwater headworks structure, a high flow bypass line, a new sanitary sewer pipeline, and an additional line for future needs. The District has also performed extensive stream and sensitive area restoration in the upper sections of the Big Gulch drainage basin, and placed a segment of the sewer pipeline deep underground by using directional drilling techniques to protect the lower reaches of the pipeline from the impacts of Big Gulch Creek.

The final phase of the project involved replacing the wastewater treatment facility's access bridge over Big Gulch Creek, and treatment plant access road safety upgrades. Also included were cleanup measures on the maintenance access road for the sewer line, planting new vegetation, mitigation procedures, and final construction close out processes.

The District is pleased this project is complete and continues to be dedicated to protecting the vitality of Big Gulch for the benefit of this and future generations.◘

Spring Is Coming!

Planting, cleaning, and preparing for the warm summer months ahead are things we do this time of year. As we do, it's also a good time to think of water conservation measures to research, schedule, and implement. Planting drought resistant trees and shrubs, acquiring low flow water hose nozzles and sprinklers, and scheduling irrigation system leak inspections are things we can all do to conserve water and money. ◘

New Drop Box Location

Due to parking lot reconfiguration our payment drop box has been temporarily relocated near the parking entrance gate. Reconfiguration of the parking lot entrance will take place soon and will create a new permanent location for the drop box with a convenient turn around design. We apologize for any inconvenience this process may cause. ◘

Mukilteo Pipeline is distributed twice yearly and is designed to keep Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District customers up-to-date on water and sewer related issues, projects, and conservation education. We appreciate your comments and suggestions regarding this newsletter.

MUKILTEO WATER AND WASTEWATER DISTRICT

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HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday - Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays, & Holidays

Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades In The Works

While water conservation efforts are important, the low-flow toilets and water efficient appliances create a challenge for the wastewater treatment process. As the amount of water flushed through the wastewater collection system decreases with the conservation efforts, the strength of sewage increases.

State of Washington Department of Ecology permit requires testing of several categories throughout the treatment process and this rise in strength of sewage has caused the District to exceed acceptable permit levels. This indicates upgrades to the Oxidation Ditch Extended Aeration System used at the Districts' Wastewater Treatment Facility are needed. To address this matter, three treatment facility upgrade projects have been identified for implementation in 2011.

The first is the Effluent Filter Project, set to be installed in early Spring 2011. This additional filter will be located at the end of the treatment process to perform a final refinement of the treated water and help increase the water quality that is discharged into Puget Sound.

The second project, scheduled to begin in late Spring 2011, is the Digester Improvement Project. The District will install additional aeration equipment in the facility's aerobic digesters. This new, more energy efficient equipment, adds oxygen to assist in the break down of the solids before the liquids are removed in preparation for transport off site.

The Headworks Project, a two part project, is planned for an early Summer 2011 kick off. First the District will add fine screens to stop smaller items like plastics, rags and small toys from entering the wastewater treatment process, reducing damage to equipment. The second part of the project is to install a modernized high energy efficient grit removal system. A considerable amount of fine grit (sand, gravel, eggshells, seeds, coffee grounds and food waste) is carried along with the flow of sewage. If not removed, these grit particles can damage mechanical parts of the treatment system.

The Big Gulch Wastewater Treatment Facility performs an essential function of efficiently cleaning and properly disposing of the sewage it collects. The District is committed to its sustainability, as well as the health and well being of the public and the environment. ◘

Water Source Diversification Brings Benefits to Customers

Historically all water provided by MWWD has been supplied by the City of Everett's water system. In effort towards the District's goal of providing the highest quality water and service, the District participated in the 1997 Clearview Facilities Report to study and develop alternate water supplies.

The District identified the most cost effective method of providing a second source of water for our customers as an intertie with the Alderwood Water and Wastewater District (AWWD). A project to connect to AWWD was identified and outlined in the District's 2003 Comprehensive Plan. Two intertie connections to AWWD were identified and suggested in the 2009 AWWD Interties Predesign Report. The District has recently entered into a contract with AWWD to install two connection points to their system.

The first connection, called the Harbour Point Intertie, began construction in 2010 and is scheduled to go on line in early 2011. It consists of approximately 300 feet of pipe and the installation of apparatus to meter and control the gravity flow of water from one system to the other.

The second connection, called the Paine Field Intertie, will consist of approximately 3500 feet of transmission main, apparatus to meter and control the gravity flow of water, and construction of a pump station at the District's existing 4.5 million gallon reservoir site. Construction of this phase is set to begin later in 2011 and be completed in 2012.

The objectives of these intertie projects is to improve water quality, expand water storage capabilities, provide redundant sources of supply, and provide a financial benefit to District customers by minimizing capital improvement costs. ◘

In Case of Water or Sewer Emergency

For most emergencies we can pick up our phones and dial 911 to receive assistance. However, police and fire personnel do not have access to water or sewer system data, so in the case of water or sewer system problems please call our main office. Our phone system routes calls to an after hours answering service which has instructions for contacting District Staff in the event of an emergency in the evenings or on weekends. Our District telephone number is 425-355-3355. ◘