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MUKILTEO WATER WORKS

Water & Sewer District Merger Completed

Following the November 2007 election, the Olympus Terrace Sewer District merged into the Mukilteo Water District. The combined District has been working hard to pull together the resources of each organization in order to better serve the ratepayers. For example, the merger has combined the billing for both water and sewer services, so ratepayers need only write one check or make one stop to pay bills. Likewise, it takes only one call to receive answers to billing questions or concerns about either water or sewer service.

The public can address both water and sewer questions or issues in one location. Development related matters that previously required someone to visit both Water and Sewer Districts separately to address utility related questions can now be resolved through one source.

One of the most promising opportunities afforded by the merger is the ability to better coordinate the maintenance of the water and sewer systems through a unified maintenance program. Staff is committed to uncovering ways the combined District can better serve our ratepayers, such as through cross-training. As we move further into the post-merger, staff is also working diligently to explore opportunities to better coordinate and maximize cost savings in the combined District. The District's Board of Commissioners and employees look forward to serving the ratepayers through the long-term efficiencies that will continue to be realized through our merger.



Big Gulch Efforts Continue

The District is committed to protecting its existing resources while trying to enhance the local environment. Over the last five years, the District has been proactive in plans to address the impacts of uncontrolled storm water on the sewer lines that follow the length of Big Gulch into the District's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Following major storm events in both 2006 and 2007, the District Commissioners, working under emergency powers, authorized efforts to protect the sewer line from the threat of washing away. Since that time, work has been undertaken to relocate the sewer line away from the creek as well as to rebuild the upper sections of Big Gulch to protect the sewer line. Most of this work was completed in 2007. Presently the District is developing plans to move the lower reaches of the sewer line away from the impacts of the creek. As proposed, the new line will be directionally drilled and placed in a small bore tunnel almost 2,500 feet in length. The planning and design effort should be completed by the fall of 2008. Construction is planned for the first half of 2009. The time and effort to address this issue has been significant. The impacted sewer line carries approximately 80% of the wastewater generated within the City of Mukilteo. It is critical to secure and protect this important sewer line from the impacts of uncontrolled storm water. The project area in question offers unique challenges to work within. Not only is the area impacted by storm water, which is not under the District's authority to control, but the physical environment is very steep and subject to unstable soil conditions. As we move forward, we are sensitive to these conditions and are working closely with the City of Mukilteo and various state and federal permitting agencies to protect the sewer line and the Gulch.



Wastewater Treatment Plant Saves Energy

While energy rates keep rising, the focus of the Mukilteo Water District has been on how to conserve energy. The District's Wastewater Treatment Plant has found another way to decrease its energy consumption. By replacing existing equipment with more energy efficient and reliable equipment, the WWTP will decrease its energy costs for aeration up to 25% per year. The WWTP will replace outdated surface brush rotors and install turbo blowers with diffused aeration to provide oxygen for its biological process. Besides saving the District up to \$16,100 per year on energy consumption, the newer equipment will also decrease noise and aerosols—a definite positive when it comes to employee health concerns. We encourage all ratepayers to tour the Wastewater Treatment Plant. To arrange your tour, please contact the main office at 425-355-3355 or the Plant Manager at 425-355-6637.

Operations Focus on Water Quality

As part of our ongoing water quality program, the Mukilteo Water District is in the process of replacing blow-off assemblies in several neighborhoods throughout the District. Fire hydrants are used to flush main lines that are looped together, blow-off assemblies are utilized to flush dead-end water mains. During yearly leak surveys, higher than average leakage rates were identified in the assemblies. The District decided to replace them with assemblies which are more compatible with the ductile iron fittings used in water main construction and don't lend themselves to corrosion as readily. The replacements are being prioritized based on the potential for damage in the event of a failure. Water service is typically interrupted for 4-6 hrs to complete the replacement. This work is important for water quality and will help reduce leakage in the water system, which in turn helps keep rates down. If you have any questions regarding blow off replacements please call our main office.

CORRECT CUSTOMER NUMBER?

The District is pleased to have had the opportunity to serve a number of our ratepayers for many years. During this time we have changed in an attempt to be more efficient and service oriented. These efforts have caused modifications to our processing system. We ask our customers to assist us to ensure posting of your payments can be accomplished accurately. **Since the customer number is the best way to access your account information we ask that you use that number and not the meter number or old reference number.** Customer numbers stay with the property to which they were originally assigned. To avoid incorrect posting of payments, if you should move to another residence within the Mukilteo Water District, you will need to use the customer number that coincides with the new service address. If you are mailing a payment, it should be sent to P.O. Box 260, Mukilteo WA 98275. There is not a mail receptacle at the physical address and your payment may be returned causing a posting delay. For City of Mukilteo residents, please remember that due to the merger, Olympus Terrace Sewer District account numbers are inactive.

Mukilteo Water Works is distributed twice yearly and is designed to keep Mukilteo Water 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 DISTRICT

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