

MUKILTEO WATER AND WASTEWATER DISTRICT

Spring/Summer 2009

MUKILTEO PIPELINE



Founded 1920

Big Gulch Efforts Continue

Over the last six years, the District has been involved in efforts 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. Since emergency repairs were done in December 2006, the Big Gulch Sanitary Sewer Reconstruction Project has constructed a stormwater headworks structure and a high flow bypass line. Construction has also been completed on a new sanitary sewer pipeline, an additional line for future needs, and the restoration of the stream and adjacent areas in the upper sections of the Big Gulch drainage basin. The construction contract to move the lower reaches of the sewer line away from the impacts of the creek has recently been awarded, and work has begun. As designed, the new line will be directionally drilled and placed in a small bore tunnel almost 2,500 feet in length. This new pipeline will extend downstream to the wastewater treatment plant access road where it will be connected into the existing pipeline which flows into the treatment plant. The horizontal directional drilling technique minimizes environmental damages by drilling the pipeline underground and going beneath the sensitive areas. We expect construction of this segment of the project to be completed by the end of the summer. Completion of the entire project is expected by the end of 2009. The final phase of the project includes replacing the bridge at the bottom of Big Gulch, which is the access route to the wastewater treatment plant. The Big Gulch sewer trunk line carries approximately 80% of the wastewater generated within the City of Mukilteo. The District has worked with the City of Mukilteo and various state and federal agencies to implement this very difficult and complex repair project to a major piece of public infrastructure, and we will continue to work to protect the sewer line and the Gulch.

Website Coming Soon!

The District has been working on the creation of a website and hopes to have it up and running by June 1, 2009. The web address is www.mukilteowwd.org. In addition to rate information and water quality reports, Board of Commissioners meeting information and minutes will be posted. Visitors will have the opportunity to learn about District projects, such as Big Gulch, by browsing the site as well. In the future, customers will have the ability to view their accounts, and make payments. So, check it out, and feel free to give us your comments concerning the site.

New Billing Format

The District is pleased to have had the opportunity to serve our ratepayers for many years. During this time we have changed in an attempt to be more efficient and service oriented. Recent efforts to modify our processing system has resulted in an updated customer number and a new look to the billing statement. The customer number has been streamlined to remove additional digits, and the new statement format has allowed the District to save on printing and processing costs. We ask our customers to assist us in our efforts to ensure that 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 the modified customer number located on the payment stub of your billing, and not the meter number or old reference number.** This is especially important when using online payment services. You may add zeros at the beginning of the customer number if required by your bill paying service. Please also ensure correspondence and payment information reflects our address as 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.



Small Changes, Big Impacts

Excessive amounts of fat and grease can do the same thing to the pipes in your home as it can to your arteries. Imagine the affect on our bodies when our arteries become clogged causing serious health issues. Fats, Oils, and Greases (FOG) from cooking oil, salad dressing, butter, ice cream and other sources enter the sewer system and collect and harden on the walls of the pipes. Many people think rinsing cooking pans and dishes with hot water makes the grease melt and that is the end of it. However, at some point the FOG cools down, becomes a gel and builds up on the inside of the pipe. If the drain lines in your home become blocked, it could become a major burden on your finances. Damage to your home and the cost for a plumber or drain cleaning service may be extensive. You can significantly reduce your chances of causing a blockage in your home's plumbing by collecting that cooking oil in containers and wiping the oils and grease from those pans and dishes into the garbage before washing them. Taking care of your home is as important as taking care of your health. So trim the fat and wipe off the dishes. You'll feel better and your drains will continue to flow freely.

Investments and Improvements

The District's 2009 Capital Improvement Budget was approved in March of 2009. The District continues to invest in maintaining, and improving the water and wastewater systems within our service boundaries. This year the District is working with Snohomish County Airport to make water and wastewater system improvements on Com-mando Road which will enhance service capabilities to our Westside customers. At the Wastewater Treatment Plant, the District will be completing a project to upgrade the aeration system which will increase system efficiency in order to save an estimated \$31,000 per year in energy costs. The District's Water and Wastewater Comprehensive Plans will both be updated this year, as required by the Washington State Department of Health and the Washington State Department of Ecology. Pre-design work for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Headworks Reconfiguration Project and for the Outfall Replacement Project, is also set to take place in 2009. These projects, which are tentatively scheduled for 2010, are necessary due to the age of the structures.

Decrease Equals Increase

You can take steps to reduce your water usage and possibly qualify for rebates for installation of water efficient appliances. One way to reduce water usage is to determine if there are any slow leaks in your home by using leak detection tablets in your toilet tank. Another indoor water saver option is to install low flow showerheads and faucet aerators to reduce the amount of water you use on a daily basis. There are also low flow garden hose nozzles and automatic shutoff sprinkler timers available.

Other outdoor water conservation tips include only watering when needed. One inch of water per week, including rainfall, is all your lawn needs. Group plants according to their water needs, making watering more efficient. Sweep sidewalks and patios with a broom instead of hosing them off. We request you water only every three days as part of our use water wisely lawn watering program.

Leak detection tablets as well as indoor and outdoor water conservation kits are available at the District office. Inquiries regarding rebates for installation of qualified toilets and clothes washers can be made by calling the WaterSmart Rebate Program at 1-877-467-0926.

The 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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