

MUKILTEO WATER AND WASTEWATER DISTRICT

Founded 1920

Winter—Spring 2012

MUKILTEO PIPELINE



Water Supply Diversity Projects Nearing Completion

By: Rick Matthews

Until recently the Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District (MWWD) purchased all of its water from the City of Everett (COE). The connection points between MWWD and COE are located in the Northerly and Easterly boundaries of the MWWD service area. Emergency planning for an uninterrupted water supply and benefits in maintaining water quality led MWWD to negotiate and enter into a Water Supply Agreement with the Alderwood Water and Wastewater District (AWWD).

Two new points of connection with AWWD were planned in the Southerly and Easterly boundaries of the District. The first point of connection, at Harbour Pointe Boulevard, was completed in 2011 and is currently in operation. The intertie provides a redundant supply, reduces transmission requirements across Paine Field, improves water quality and reduces the wholesale cost of water to the District by reducing COE pumping and transmission system costs.

The second point of connection to AWWD is at Beverly Park Road paralleling Paine Field Airport. This intertie connects a new transmission main to a booster station located at the base of MWWD Reservoir No. 4. Plans and permits were finalized and the project went to bid in the Fall of 2012. KLB Construction, Inc. of Mukilteo was awarded the contract. As of March 2012 the majority of the transmission piping has been completed and work is commencing on the booster station site.

This project will allow the complete filling of the 120' Reservoir, improve water quality by reducing retention time and reduce the wholesale cost of water to the District by reducing COE pumping and transmission system costs. The anticipated completion date for this project is Summer of 2012. ■

Paperless Billing and Online Bill Pay

By: Sue Parks

We've had many customers asking about paperless billing and online bill pay. In response to these requests, the District will be offering the following services:

- **Now** offering paperless billing through doxo.com, a digital file cabinet. Simply sign up with doxo (it's free!) and all future documents, including billing statements, will be sent to your doxo account. You can also make debit payments (also free!) directly from your doxo account to the District.
- In the **near future** - Watch our website (www.mukilteowwd.org) for new information regarding additional online bill pay options. ■

Scheduled Rate Increases

By: Sue Parks

In March of 2011 (following the completion of the Water and Wastewater Comprehensive Plans), the District commissioned Financial Consulting Solutions Group (FCS Group) to prepare a rate study to evaluate if District rates should be adjusted. FCS Group recommended rate schedules be increased over a multi-year period. The recommended and approved overall 2012 rate increases are 4.2% for Water, 5% for Westside Wastewater, and 3.5% for Eastside Wastewater. Implementation of rates will impact each class of customer differently. Details of the rate increase are on our website under Customer Services at www.mukilteowwd.org. ■

Payment Drop Box in Permanent Location

To address concerns raised as result of a security audit, and liability of after hours parking lot usage, the District has installed energy efficient low wattage LED lighting, a parking lot security gate, and a turn-around driveway for customers to conveniently make payments into our drop box 24 hours a day. ■



Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades Continue

By: Gil Bridges

The District's Big Gulch Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) has been upgrading its aging structures to increase efficiency, and remain in compliance with State of Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) guidelines.

The upgrade included new equipment at the end of the treatment process to filter the treated water and help increase the water quality that is discharged into Puget Sound. Additional equipment was also installed in the facility's aerobic digesters to assist in the breakdown of the processed waste before the liquids are removed in preparation for transporting solids off site.

The District has now gone to bid for the Headworks Improvements Screening and Grit Removal Project. This project will rebuild the Headworks section, which is the first area of the treatment facility to receive waste and is designed to screen out undesirable material from wastewater.

Most non-biodegradable material that enters the WWTF is normally screened out and taken to a landfill. This material is not able to be broken down in the biological treatment process and has the potential to damage equipment as it builds up over time. Also, this material takes up valuable space in the treatment process since it decreases the capacity of the WWTF to treat wastewater.

The Headworks Project will include a new grit removal system as well as a series of tanks known as selectors. The new grit removal system will be able to remove approximately 95% of the grit entering the treatment facility compared to the existing 50%, which will greatly enhance the biological treatment process. The selector tanks are designed to create an environment favorable to the growth of organisms beneficial to the treatment process.

This project, engineered by Gray & Osborne, Inc. Consulting Engineers, is the final of three projects designed to increase the rate at which the facility can adequately treat waste at the WWTF.

Encouraged public water conservation efforts of installing low flow plumbing fixtures and appliances decreases the water dilution of the wastewater. This decrease creates a higher strength of waste flowing into the treatment facility. These upgrades are designed to address the issues of the increased waste strength, and ensure the capability of the facility to efficiently handle the increase well into the future.

The awarding of the bid for this final part of the upgrade, as well as an estimated start date, is still to be determined. The project will take approximately one year from beginning to completion. ■

Wastewater System Test Upcoming

By: Kevin English

In this age of government waste many people lack the confidence that public entities truly care about their customers and are working in their best interests. Here at the Mukilteo Water & Wastewater District, dedicated staff work very hard to assure that we spend our ratepayers' dollars wisely and in ways that improves service and increase productivity or longevity of the water and sewer systems.

One of the tasks we perform is to audit the wastewater system for failures, leaks or unauthorized connections that can allow storm water to enter the system, thus increasing pumping and treatment costs. These types of connections are prohibited due to the added demand they place on the wastewater system pumping and treatment facilities.

The way in which we conduct these audits is to utilize a special fan that blows non-toxic smoke into the sewer system via manholes. This smoke travel through the mains and up the side sewers, typically exiting through the plumbing vents on the tops of houses. Sometimes plumbing deficiencies allow smoke to enter the home through sinks or drains but this is very rare.

The smoke will also escape anywhere there is a failure or unauthorized connection such as a broken side sewer or gutter downspouts and yard drains. This smoke is easily spotted by crews that conduct the testing and the location is logged for future repair.

District staff will be conducting smoke testing in "Oldtown" Mukilteo this spring during April & May. During this time customers may observe smoke blowing out of roof vents, manhole covers or storm drains. This is normal and should not be a cause for alarm. ■

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.

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