

NEWS RELEASE

June 25, 2010

**MASON COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITIES
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TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

RE: Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities update to Commissioners this Tuesday;
Construction Making Headway

Mason County Utilities and Waste Management will provide construction updates and side sewer connections information at the upcoming "5th Tuesday" Mason County Commissioners' meeting in Belfair. The Tuesday, June 29th meeting will be held at the North Mason School District Headquarters at 6 p.m.

It's hard to miss construction when you're in Belfair. Since breaking ground in fall 2009, and beginning substantial construction in early 2010, contractors have been building the conveyance system and water reclamation facility. To date, nearly 50 percent of the pipes have been installed throughout Belfair on SR 3, SR 300 and surrounding streets. The three pump stations are under construction. In addition, the water reclamation facility (treatment plant) foundation excavation is complete, and concrete floors and walls are being be poured.

Property owners required to hook into the system recently began receiving a mailing with information about connections, including a site-specific map indicating hook up location near their property, as well as other details. The upcoming side sewer connections update provided at the Commissioners' meeting will relay next steps for side sewers including policies related to hook ups, and additional information about rates and equivalent residential unit ("ERU") calculations.

The project team has made significant progress in addressing the contaminated soils found on site in May through conveyance pipe installation. This week, crews have continued to excavate soils and truck them to a contaminated soils site in addition to testing and treating some soils on site. Public safety has been an ongoing priority. The crew and inspectors working with the soils have completed a hazardous materials training. To address this issue, SR 300 (near SR 3 between SR 3 and Clifton Lane) has been closed temporarily.

Project funding

The project continues to create construction jobs in 2010 and will to continue through 2011. Through State Legislature appropriation, this project has received funding from Washington State Departments of Ecology and Commerce. In addition, the project received funding from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act by the Washington State Department of Ecology. This state and federal funding has been combined to cover a very large portion of the project costs, including more than \$30 million in grants that do not need to be repaid.

The Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities

Since 2001, Mason County has been working with local constituents and stakeholders to develop the project vision, produce the facilities plan, develop policy for the new wastewater system, and secure funding for the facilities, as required to maintain compliance with the Growth Management Act (GMA). The new Belfair system will use flat plate membrane technology, a sustainable approach to water management that protects Hood Canal and meets Class A standards for future water reuse. The treatment plant has been designed so it can be expanded as the community grows within the Belfair Urban Grown Area (UGA). The project will build a safe, efficient and environmentally-

friendly sewer system that will be the backbone of infrastructure for the Belfair UGA. Completion of the system and full start-up is expected by the end of 2011.

Community outreach

The project team is committed to informing and involving Belfair citizens and commuters throughout the project. Residents of the Belfair community can receive weekly updates about project construction activities and connecting to the sewer. Join our mailing list by emailing info@masoncountywastewater.com.

For media inquiries and information, please contact the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities Hotline at 360-801-2482 or visit the project website at www.masoncountywastewater.com.

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MASON COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITIES & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Emmett Dobey, Director

