



RE: *Belfair Wastewater & Water Reclamation Facilities Hook-Up*

Dear <Enter Name Here>:

You are receiving this notification because your property line is within 500 feet of the current proposed sewer alignment for the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities pipeline. As a result of this project septic systems within key areas of the urban growth area of Belfair will be converted to a county-operated sewer utility. Septic systems have been identified as one of the causes of nitrogen-pollution in Hood Canal. These wastewater facilities are needed to provide a sustainable approach to water management that protects Hood Canal and treats wastewater to Class A standards for water reuse.

*In July of this year, Mason County Commissioners passed Ordinance 91-07 establishing that properties within 500 feet of the proposed sewer alignment as required to hook into the system as it becomes available. Mason County Public Utilities and Waste officials are now identifying to which properties this ordinance applies.*

#### **What does this mean?**

- ✓ Your property has been identified as in the first set of properties that will be required to connect to the new sewer system when the project comes on line.
- ✓ Connecting to the system does have associated fees that you as a property owner will be responsible for:
  - There will be a hookup fee to connect to the public sewer. The connection fee is being developed and is likely to be between \$3,200-\$5,000 per Equivalent Residential Unit. A single family home is one Equivalent Residential Unit.
  - In addition, there will be costs to re-plumb your sewer to connect to the public system and disconnect from your septic tank. Sometimes this is referred to as “building a side sewer.” Costs to do this work vary depending on your property’s topography, distance from building to property line and the contractor used for this construction. The average costs are expected to be \$2500 - \$3000.
  - Once the system is operational, the average household can expect to pay \$86-\$100 per month for sewer service.
- ✓ The County is developing a plan to coordinate side sewer connections.

On a long-term basis the project will provide the backbone for urban infrastructure in Belfair as mandated by the Growth Management Act. The mainline sewer, pump stations and water reclamation facility (treatment plant) associated with the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities project are currently in the design phase.

We are working to identify opportunities for low interest loans and group contracting mechanisms to help pay for the cost of hooking up to the new sewer system. We will keep you informed as more information about these opportunities becomes available.

Likely you will have questions about this infrastructure change. You can find additional information by visiting our web site at [www.masoncountywastewater.com](http://www.masoncountywastewater.com). If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the project hotline at (360) 801-2482. We look forward to working collaboratively with you through this infrastructure change.

Sincerely,

Emmett Doby  
Director, Mason County Utilities and Waste Management