

NEWS RELEASE

Jan. 21, 2011

**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 Project celebrates one year of construction and nearly 70 percent completion; thanks Belfair community

This week marks 52 weeks of active construction for the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities Project. Crews have overcome weather challenges, unexpected contaminated soils and lengthy night work to keep the overall project on budget and on schedule to be constructed by the close of 2011.

The project's success to this point would not be possible without the patience and cooperation of the Belfair community. Much of this summer's work laying the main conveyance lines in State Route 3 is now complete and residents will soon see the pump stations taking shape along SR 3 and off of Romance Hill Road. In addition, the water reclamation facility is moving along quickly, and the project website shows the latest photos from the construction progress of the water reclamation facilities.

At this significant one-year landmark, the project has:

- Provided notice to proceed on two significant projects – one for conveyance, one for the water reclamation facility
- Finalized clearing, excavation and poured foundations for all housed structures – three pump stations and one water reclamation facility
- Laid more than 26,000 feet of conveyance lines
- Poured 2,000 tons of concrete at the water reclamation facility
- Installed more than 225 tons of rebar
- Employed three construction crews of 10 for more than 60,000 hours since the project started
- Supported approximately 35 Full Time Employees monthly through project-related activities, including construction, engineering and community outreach
- Removed 2,400 tons of contaminated soil
- Opened and restored 16,000 feet of roadway
- Hosted a tour of the water reclamation site for US Representative Norm Dicks, Governor Chris Gregoire, Commissioners Lynda Ring Erickson and Tim Sheldon, and other local elected and agency representatives

Side sewer connections for property owners will be the next big phase of the project and the project team continues to coordinate with property owners to ensure that information is available regarding connection requirements and they are aware of the connection process. Side sewer stubs have been installed from the main conveyance line and property owners will begin to construct their side sewers in late spring this year. In addition, Mason County is coordinating with local contractors to develop a qualified contractors list to make the hook up process easier for property owners, and exploring the possibility for a county-led hookup program.

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 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.

Project funding

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 county continues to pursue additional grants and loans to support property owner's costs of connecting to the system.

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. Construction photos have been posted to the project website at www.masoncountywastewater.com.

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MASON COUNTY PUBLIC UTILITIES & WASTE MANAGEMENT

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