

**NEWS RELEASE**

**March 21, 2011**

**MASON COUNTY UTILITIES & WASTE MANAGEMENT  
411 NORTH 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
SHELTON, WA 98584  
(360) 427-9670**

**TO: KMAS, KRXV, 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 announces Side Sewer Drop-In Session to assist property owners with side sewer construction**

---

The Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities Project will host a Side Sewer Drop-In Session for property owners to talk one-on-one with county staff and consultants about the equivalent residential unit (ERU) estimate for their property and ask questions about their side sewer connection. The meeting will be held:

**Tuesday, March 29, 2011**

**4 to 6 p.m.**

**North Mason School District Headquarters (71 E. Campus Dr, Belfair, WA 98528)**

The drop-in session precedes the regularly scheduled 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Commissioners Meeting, which will include a presentation on the project.

Businesses are encouraged to attend and provide their 2010 water usage data to facilitate finalization of ERU designation for their property, either in person at this event, or via email at [info@masoncountywastewater.com](mailto:info@masoncountywastewater.com). Twelve months of water data is requested for verification purposes.

With construction making significant progress, and most remaining work centralized at the water reclamation facility site, side sewer connections for property owners is now a primary focus. Side sewer stubs have been installed from the main conveyance line and property owners will begin to construct their side sewer from their buildings to the stub in the street in late spring/summer this year. Mason County has developed a qualified contractors list, and will offer a county-led hookup program to make the hook up process easier for property owners. The project team will continue to coordinate with property owners to ensure that information is available regarding connection requirements and that they are aware of the connection process. This detailed information will be made available to property owners through a mailing in late March.

**New project funding awarded**

The project was recently awarded an additional State Revolving Fund grant to extend the sewer down side streets along SR 3 was awarded in February to make connections easier for property owners who are not adjacent to the main sewer line. The county continues to pursue additional grants and loans to support property owner costs of connecting to the system.

**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 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 Growth 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. Substantive construction of the system has been underway since early 2010. 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](mailto:info@masoncountywastewater.com).

For media inquiries and information, please contact the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities Hotline at 360-801-2482. Property owners are encouraged to view the side sewer page (<http://www.masoncountywastewater.com/sewers.aspx>) on the project website for more information.

###

## **MASON COUNTY UTILITIES & WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Emmett Dobey, Director

