

The Drain Report

Fall 05

Des Moines Creek Basin Committee Asks For Sewer Trunk & Outfall

Plans to improve the habitat of the Des Moines Creek for the benefit of wildlife, including salmon, require the use of the District owned trunk sewer and outfall. A group known as the Des Moines Creek Basin Committee, comprised of the Port of Seattle, the Washington State Department of Transportation, King County, and the cities of Des Moines and SeaTac, have studied the basin and prepared several capital improvements designed to reduce erosion and restore the creek. They want to use portions of the District's 24" trunk sewer and the entire 30" sewer outfall both constructed in 1966 and the outfall diffuser constructed in 1984. In all they want to use 2.13 miles of District owned pipeline.

The existing pipelines, when they are available for use by the committee, will connect to new pipelines that will connect to

large water storage basins located on the Tye Valley Golf Course. The series of pipelines will be used to partially drain the water storage basins during storms. This will help to minimize the harmful excessive creek flows that have caused habitat destruction and stream bed and bank erosion in the past.

Before the Des Moines Creek Basin Committee can use the existing pipelines, the Midway Sewer District must complete all portions of its new 48" sewer outfall. The District is in the process of obtaining construction permits for the submarine portion of the new outfall. This proposed sewer outfall construction project is planned for the area near the shoreline at the Des Moines Beach Park and will extend westerly out into Puget Sound approximately 1850 feet. If all goes well, construction on the submarine outfall should be in progress by August of 2006.

MAP FUND UP & RUNNING

Our Midway Assistance Program (MAP) fund is for our customers in need of assistance in paying their Midway Sewer District bill. Money is collected from generous contributions made by our customers. Contributions can be made by writing in and paying an extra amount on the front of the payment stub. Our MAP Fund is administered by the Salvation Army. They keep the funds for us, as well as, screen applicants for assistance. Thank you to our individual and commercial customers who have already contributed. Contributors will receive a thank you letter from the Salvation Army, which can be used for tax purposes.

Please help out your neighbors with a contribution to our MAP fund with your next payment. You can contact the Salvation Army regarding our MAP Fund at (253) 946-7933.

DISTRICT LAB RIGHT ON TARGET

Have you ever wondered how the Midway Sewer District knows it is doing its job correctly? We have two full time staff members dedicated to analysis of the incoming and outgoing sewage, as well as, the treatment process itself. John Hura, the District's Water Quality Analyst and Gail Small, the District's Lab Technician, have a combined 34 years of experience working at the Midway Sewer District.

The District lab is certified to analyze samples for bio-chemical oxygen demand (BOD), total suspended solids (TSS), and PH, as well as, determine the effectiveness of the effluent disinfection system. They must maintain the certification of the lab by periodically analyzing correctly tested samples provided by the Department of Ecology (DOE). The lab staff at Midway Sewer District have maintained their DOE certification since they initially received it in February, 1992. Congratulations to the Midway laboratory staff for a job well done!



Commissioners:
Vincent Koester
Jack Hendrickson
George Landon

Manager:
Ken Kase

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CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!

The Midway Sewer District (MSD) is required by law to belong to the Utility Underground Locating Center (UULC). The UULC is comprised of utility system owners who operate and maintain utilities of many sorts. The primary function of the UULC is to notify the utility owners of an excavator's intention to dig.

Professional contractors and private property owners must contact the UULC at (800) 424-5555 to explain how, when and where they want to dig. The UULC then notifies the utility owners who have facilities in the area of proposed excavations.

By calling (800) 424-5555, excavators are able to take advantage of a free service offered by the utility owners to 'mark' their facilities. MSD is obligated to identify the location of existing sewer facilities within two business days of being notified by UULC that an excavator plans to dig within the district.

The excavators, utilities and the public all benefit from this service. People need to be safe from the dangers associated with accidentally finding existing utilities. Utility operators benefit by not having to replace functioning systems that are rendered useless by damage.

The UULC members take pride in maintaining quality systems for providing service to their customers. Please help us and yourselves by knowing where and where not to sink your shovel!

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG! (800) 424-5555.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TOURS

The Des Moines Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant offers tours to individuals, schools, and community groups free of charge. Tours generally take about one hour to complete. It is an opportunity to find out first hand how your sewage is treated, including how the solids are removed and what processes are employed in significantly removing pollutants from your wastewater before it is disposed of. Be sure to schedule your tour group early. Call 206-824-2760 to make your reservation.

BUYING OR SELLING A HOME

Summer seems to be the home buying and selling "season." When you sell a home in the District, Midway Sewer needs to be contacted, usually by the seller or Escrow Company, for a closing bill. Sewer charges need to be paid through the date of closing by the seller. By law, sewer service charges stay with the property, and are the responsibility of the property owner. A closing bill request needs to be in writing and must include the service address and date of closing; the buyer's name would also be helpful information. Closing bill requests can be faxed to (206) 878-2692.

Commissioner's Forum

COOPERATION



Vince Koester, President

When governmental entities work with a spirit of cooperation to achieve specific goals, everybody benefits, especially the public. We at Midway have always gone the extra mile to work with our neighbors to bring about positive results to the environment and to our customers.

We are now in the process of working cooperatively with the Des Moines Basin Committee to help them realize their dream of a vastly improved habitat in Des Moines Creek. Their project needs the District's soon to be decommissioned outfall that extends out to the sound, to transport excess creek runoff safely through the basin, thus minimizing erosion and habitat destruction. Midway is in negotiations with all the members of the basin project on ways that the District will be able to allow them to use our pipe in a way that will not be in conflict with state laws and will be a benefit to our customers.

The folks from the Basin Project have been assisting us in applying for and (hopefully) obtaining the permits needed to extend our new outfall out into the sound (a process that has taken eight years). The City of Des Moines for their part may allow the District to temporarily use some of their property for a staging area during the construction of our outfall.

Midway assisted these cities in constructing the Des Moines Creek trail from South 200th Street to where it now ends at our treatment plant. We did this by assisting in the engineering and environmental process and by supplying the grading and gravel base for the trail along with our pipe installation.

These are just a few examples of when we cooperate with our neighbors, our environment and customers benefit.

PERMITS AND FEES

The District expects anyone who connects to or alters a sewer to first obtain a permit from the District. The District must also obtain permits and pay fees to various government agencies in order to conduct its business. A portion of your bi-monthly sewer bill goes towards the payment of these fees. Some of the fees paid in 2004 include:

- **National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) fee +/- \$46,000 per year**
- **Dept. of Ecology Biosolids fee +/- \$5,400 per year**
- **Yakima County Health Dept. Biosolids permit +/- \$1,200 per year**
- **King County Local Hazardous Waste Management Program (LHWMP) fee +/- 40,000 per year**
- **Puget Sound Clean Air Agency +/- \$850 per year**
- **Dept. of Ecology Laboratory Accreditation fee +/- \$500 per year**

Payment of these fees supports the various agencies abilities to enforce existing laws meant to protect you and the environment. It is their job to see to it that we are doing our job correctly. Additionally, programs such as the King County LHWMP provide useful information on how to safely dispose of dangerous and hazardous waste. They also provide the "wastemobile" service. For more information about this program go their website at www.govlink.org/hazwaste/index.cfm.

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