

The Drain Report

With Your Help We Can Solve This Problem

By Ken Kase

During severe wet weather sewer flows can double or even triple when compared with dry weather flows. This increase is caused by infiltration and inflow, or I & I for short. If sewers are cracked or leak, they allow extra water to enter the sewer system during wet weather. Our sanitary sewer system should only have connections from plumbing fixtures. Downspouts, footing drains, catch basins and sump pumps should not be connected to the sanitary sewer system. Those connections should be connected to the storm sewer system. With leaky pipes and illegal connections our sanitary sewer system can become overloaded with water that should not be there. When the system is overloaded it can overflow, and that is not pleasant for anyone!

In order to prevent pollution and to serve our customers well, we must not allow our facilities to become overloaded. We have designed our facilities to handle all the sanitary sewer flows for the entire District including anticipated growth and a certain amount of I&I. In order to maintain the treatment capacity we have, excess the I&I needs to be controlled.

We have studied, measured and video inspected the I&I problem. The severity of the problem varies within the District. The age of the system, type of pipe materials used and the quality of the installation inspection all are factors in the I&I problem. We have determined that much of the I&I is coming from private property.

A policy is being developed whereby an area that has excessive wet weather flows can be declared an I&I Rehabilitation Area. Private property owners in these areas will then be contacted.

It is our intention to get property owner's permission to allow us to inspect their side sewer. This inspection may include a pipeline video inspection, smoke test, dye test, and a review of all connections to the sewer. There is no cost for this inspection and the information gathered can be used to identify any problems that may lie hidden in your sewer. If I&I related problems are detected then the District is ready to assist you with the solution and may even provide a low interest loan to cover the costs. If no I&I related problems are detected, then you can be assured that you are not part of the problem.

Property owners that decline this inspection or fail to take corrective action can expect a surcharge on their sewer bill. Surcharge amounts collected will be used by the District to eliminate I&I within the District.

The Commissioners and staff at Midway Sewer District would like to thank you in advance for your assistance with this I&I program.



Sewage overflowing a manhole due to an overloaded sewer.

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Special points of interest:

- Midway Sewer District has one of the lowest monthly rates in the state.
- The Board meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Please contact the office for the meeting time.
- Midway serves the Cities of Des Moines, SeaTac, Kent, Federal Way, Normandy park, Burien, and the Port of Seattle's SeaTac Airport.
- There has not been a rate increase since 2005!
- You can expect fast personal service when you need it.
- Our employees care about their customers.
- We have a single focus of providing quality sanitary sewer service and have been in business since 1946.

It Has Been A Busy Year!

By: Vince Koester



Wow, a lot happened in 2007. The Marine View Drive Bridge was completed, which included a portion of our new 48" outfall. And speaking about the outfall, that project was challenging, fun and successful. It is not every day that this District builds a large pipeline through a public park, sensitive marine environment, and out into a navigable marine waterway. The mixing zone of the new outfall was analyzed. We sampled, studied and reported on the sediments in the vicinity of the old and new outfalls as required by the DOE. The eelgrass disturbed by the outfall construction was restored. The flow from the 30" outfall and the Port of Seattle's IWS has already been redirected to the new outfall.

We also replaced a whole bunch of sewer mains along 16th Ave. S. in the south end of the District in conjunction with the City of Des Moines street improvement project. At the office we reduced the staff by one position and outsourced the printing and mailing of the bills. The District website was developed. District staff painted the office and built a new ramp wall at the entrance. We worked on and completed acquiring GPS coordinates for all the manholes in the District. The Geographic Information System (GIS) became a working system providing vital district information to District staff and also became portable via the use of laptop computers. A new comprehensive sewer maintenance program and database together with new sewer inspection software was implemented. 5 buildings at the treatment plant were re-roofed. Treatment plant monitoring equipment was upgraded. We cleaned approximately 9 miles of sewer main and performed video inspection on about 5 miles of sewers; and adjusted 37 manholes to match street grade. We also began the Comprehensive Sewer Plan update. This plan helps to ensure that we can continue to meet the future demands of the cities we serve while meeting any regulatory constraints and requirements. Oh, I forgot to mention that we treated and disposed of 1.75 billion gallons of sewage, while maintaining about a 95% efficiency in the removal of BOD and TSS, both measurements of sewage strength.

2007 will be a tough act to follow but we still have a lot to do! If Proposition 1 had passed (the transportation ballot measure) the District would have had to reroute a significant portion of the sewer collection system out of the way of the SR509 freeway extension, all on short notice. We plan on continuing our tradition of providing quality service at a reasonable price for all our customers!

Take A Tour Of The Sewer

By: Ken Kase

Come on down and check us out. We would love to show you what we are up to. Tours of the Midway Sewer District treatment plant are free. All you have to do is call us at 206-824-2760 and schedule a tour appointment. If you prefer, you can email us by going to our website at www.midwaysewer.org/ and click on "contact". You could take a virtual tour at our website, but it is just not the same as being there. For your safety, we will provide hard-hats and safety glasses. No open-toed shoes please. Groups size is limited to 20 people per tour. The plant is located at 1200 S. 216th Street, in Des Moines, WA.



The secondary sewage treatment facility at Midway Sewer District's Des Moines Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Board of Commissioners



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Midway Sewer District

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