



The PIPELINE

An Information Resource for the Customers of the Hazel Dell Sewer District

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"The District is dedicated to providing quality and efficient wastewater services to the community we serve."

Salmon Creek Treatment Plant Phase 4 Expansion Project Update

The District is working with its local partners, Clark County and the City of Battle Ground, in the early stages of planning for the next expansion of the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant located in the Felida area. The Salmon Creek facility, along with associated pipelines and pump stations, form the backbone of our regional wastewater transportation and treatment system. This system is owned by Clark County and is used to transport and treat most of the flows generated with the District and all the flows produced by the City.

As customers and residents of the District, you are aware that growth patterns in our area have remained strong, even during the last few years of softer economic times. This expansion is needed to continue to meet the needs of growth in our area and also to keep the system up to date and reliable, so that we can safely provide service to you and meet all the current regulatory requirements. Planning for the expansion is just starting this year with the intent that all the improvements are in place by 2008.

The costs for the improvements are currently estimated to be approximately \$60 million, as you may have read

recently in the *Columbian*. The *Columbian* also discussed how the District is successfully pursuing low cost financing options, such as those offered by the State Public Works Trust Fund system in order to do everything possible to minimize the final costs to our customers. Even with responsible management and low cost financing, we anticipate that there will need to be a series of rate increases over the next several years to address the project costs.

We need your help and input in planning for the project and its associated costs. We are currently structuring a comprehensive public outreach program designed to gather your input as part of our planning process. Please look for opportunities to participate in this planning process in the next few weeks and months. If you would like to schedule a speaker to address a specific group or topic, please contact Kim Thur at the District office or via e-mail at kthur@hdsd.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Direct Debit Payment Option Now Available

In response to customer requests, the District is pleased to offer direct debit as a payment method to our customers. To request a form, please contact the Finance department at (360) 750-5876, or you can send an email to smartinez@hdsd.com. We can mail, fax or e-mail you a form. Forms will also be available at the front desk for those customers wanting to take advantage of this payment method.

Transfer of Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Under Review

On July 8th of this year, the District Board of Commissioners President, Neil Kimsey, signed a letter to County Commissioners requesting transfer of ownership of the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (SCWTP) from Clark County to the Hazel Dell Sewer District.

The District is pursuing this consolidation in an effort to streamline the overall administrative effort required for the SCWTP. We believe that efficiencies in both cost and time will be realized through reductions in the number of layers of management, elimination of duplicate functions, and a simplified decision process. We believe the cumulative effects of this action will result in a simplified delivery of

service for the sewer ratepayers.

While County officials are not necessarily opposed to the request, they have decided this would be the appropriate time to undertake a comprehensive review of all the options associated with the County's future long-term needs as it pertains to sewer service. The question then is whether the SCWTP would be best served by remaining under County ownership, District ownership or the City of Vancouver ownership, who is also interested in owning the plant. The study is expected to take between nine months to a year. An opportunity for public comments is also being planned.

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DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENT OPTION NOW AVAILABLE

Hazel Dell Sewer District Welcomes New District Manager, Bob Bandarra



The Hazel Dell Sewer District is pleased to welcome Bob Bandarra as its new District Manager. Bob replaces Patty Grau, who retired in February of this year.

Bob Bandarra has been the General Manager of the Woodinville Water & Sewer District since March 1991. Before that Bob worked as the Utilities Manager for the City of Redmond, Washington for seven years. Bob has worked in either the water or wastewater field since 1975. A graduate of California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, Bob's undergraduate degree is in Environmental Engineering, and he has a Master's degree in Public Administration from Seattle University.

In November 1999, Bob was elected to the Bothell, Washington City Council. In January 2002, Bob was elected Mayor of Bothell. Bob has served on various elected officials' regional committees in King and Snohomish Counties, such as the Suburban Cities Association and the Snohomish County Tomorrow. Bob has been a member of the Rotary, and local Chambers of Commerce of South Snohomish County, Northshore and Woodinville. He has also been actively involved in activities of professional associations such as the Pacific Northwest Section of the American Water Works Association. Bob is a Past Chair of the Seattle Purveyor Committee and was appointed by the Governor to the Washington Public Works Board. Bob was also an appointee to the Washington Department of Health's State Water Advisory Board.

Please Update Your Records With Current Sewer Payment Remittance Address

As reported in a previous Pipeline, the District has changed our sewer payment remittance process. Our customer remittances are now being processed by the Joint Processing Center, which is operated by Clark Public Utilities and Clark County. Our current bills are being sent out with a new post office box number listed on the return envelope.

We are still receiving some payments, which are using the incorrect post office box number. Please send all sewer service payments to the following address:

PO Box 8955
Vancouver, WA 98668-8955



It is extremely important to include the complete account number on your remittance slip; this includes the hyphen and all zeros. Please pass this information on to your "bill payer" vendors also.

As always, please continue to direct any questions regarding your account to the District's Finance department.