

Opportunity for Innovative Wastewater System Design *Belfair Urban Growth Area – Mason County, WA*

Mason County is seeking proposals from wastewater system engineering organizations to prepare plans, specifications and estimates for a wastewater treatment and collection system to serve the Belfair Urban Growth Area (UGA) in northeast Mason County. Since there is no sewer system in the Belfair UGA, this is an opportunity to design and offer assistance during construction of an integrated, highly efficient system. The initial sewer service area will serve a population of about 600. Growth and system expansion may triple the served population by 2015.

A Facilities Plan has been prepared and approved by the Washington Department of Ecology and a Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement has been issued. The collection system will include grinder pump and gravity sewers with a pump station in its initial phase. Treatment will use membrane bioreactor technology and ultraviolet disinfection to produce Class A reclaimed water that will initially be used for upland forest irrigation and for other reclaimed water uses as they develop.

Based on estimates developed in the Facilities Plan, sufficient funds are available, primarily through various State of Washington grant and loan programs, to pay for design and construction. Mason County Commissioners consider it urgent to use the available funding promptly and effectively to significantly reduce or eliminate the impacts of Belfair's septic systems on Hood Canal and allow regional growth pressures to be managed in the designated UGA. This is a vanguard project for Mason County and will be closely watched by state, federal and tribal governments.

Mason County will receive proposals until 4:00 p.m. Thursday, July 12th. The proposals will first be rank ordered by a technically-oriented screening committee based on qualifications and approach. The 2 to 4 highest ranked organizations will be interviewed on or about July 26th and ranked again. Negotiations will be conducted, beginning with the highest ranked firm, until a contract is approved by the Mason County Board of Commissioners. A "notice to proceed" is expected before the end of August.

Mason County is very interested in innovative approaches to the design work that would enable construction of elements of the system as soon as possible. The County is also interested in facilities designed for sustainability and rock solid operational reliability that can be easily and economically upgraded and modernized. Mason County expects proposing organizations to demonstrate both organizational and personnel experience designing membrane bioreactor facilities and modern collection systems. The designer will also be responsible for site-specific environmental documentation, permitting and assistance with land acquisition.

Proposals will be very limited in size and must be prepared according to directions. A complete "proposal direction package" is available by contacting Ms. Kerry Worf, 360-

427-9670 ext. 207, klw@co.mason.wa.us weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by writing to Kerry Worf, Mason County Utilities, 410 North 4th Street, Shelton, WA 98584.