

NEWS RELEASE

January 15, 2008

MASON COUNTY UTILITIES & WASTE MANAGEMENT

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**TO: KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN,
SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE
SUN**

**RE: Joint Belfair Wastewater Facilities/WSDOT Open House Part of Upcoming
Commissioners' Meeting in Belfair**

Mason County Commissioners will host two Belfair improvement projects at their upcoming "5th Tuesday" Commissioners' Meeting in Belfair on Tuesday, January 29. These two separate projects – the County's Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities and Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) SR 3 Belfair Area – Widening and Safety Improvements will each present project information at this event. Staff from both projects will be available to address citizens' questions starting at a 5 p.m. open house, followed by overview presentations as part of the regular meeting agenda beginning at 6 p.m. This "5th Tuesday" Commissioners' Meeting will be held at Belfair Elementary School.

Citizens are encouraged to attend this event to:

- Speak to project team designers and ask specific questions about design and coordination between these two projects.
- See the latest drawings of WSDOT's SR 3 project and Mason County's Belfair wastewater system conveyance line and treatment facility locations.
- Hear how the SR 3 project will help reduce congestion through Belfair.
- Learn about the membrane bioreactor (MBR) wastewater treatment technology being selected for the treatment plant, and how it functions.
- Find out plans to coordinate the infrastructure transfer from septic to a sewer system utility.

Mason County has hired CH2M Hill to design the wastewater treatment and water reclamation system within Belfair. The project will build a safe, efficient and environmentally-friendly sewer system within key areas of the Belfair Urban Growth Area (UGA). This system, the first with new membrane technology in Mason County, is seen as a pivotal element vital to the health of Hood Canal. Septic systems have been identified as one of the causes of nitrogen-pollution in Hood Canal. These wastewater facilities are needed to provide a sustainable approach to water management that protects Hood Canal and treats wastewater to Class A standards for water reuse. On a long-term basis the project will be the backbone for urban infrastructure in Belfair as mandated by the Growth Management Act.

The Washington Department of Transportation (WSDOT) SR 3 Belfair Area – Widening and Safety Improvements project addresses several safety concerns through the SR 3 corridor by extending the left-turn lane, reducing the number of vehicle conflict points and moving conflict points away from busy intersections. The end result will be improved traffic flow and safety on SR 3 in Belfair. In addition, the treatment of storm water runoff will help improve adjacent streams and the Hood Canal.

For additional information or questions please contact the Belfair Wastewater and Water Reclamation Facilities Hotline at (360) 801-2482 or visit the project website at www.masoncountywastewater.com. For information regarding the WSDOT's SR 3 project, please call the project engineer at (360) 570-6606 or visit the project website at www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR3/BelfairImprovements.

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Emmett Dobey, Director

