



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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City Completes Repairs to Eagle Harbor Sewer Line

Bainbridge Island, WA, 06/02/09 – Repairs to a ruptured sewer line near Hawley Cove Park on the northeast beach of Eagle Harbor were completed early this morning, according to Lance Newkirk, the city’s Deputy Director of Public Works for Operations and Maintenance.

“The repairs went very smoothly,” Newkirk said. “A repair band was installed around the pipe, which will prevent further leakage and add structural integrity to the pipe segment as a whole. Once the band was installed, we put the lift pumps through three test cycles to confirm that the repairs were effective, and re-established normal operations at around 7 am. By 9:30 am, crews had completed restoration of the beach and were demobilized.”

City staff first became aware of the leak, caused by corrosion in the 32 year old sewer line, on Saturday afternoon. Because the pipe lies in the tidal zone, repair activities were restricted to low tides. A temporary repair band was applied early Sunday morning, but an incoming tide prevented a full assessment of the pipe’s condition. Further investigation this morning showed that the leakage was localized, and no longitudinal damage to the pipe segment was observed.

The Kitsap County Health District was notified of the spill immediately and has issued a ten-day “No Contact” advisory for marine waters in Eagle Harbor. The Health District took monitoring samples at Waterfront Park beach yesterday and will do so again next Monday as part of their ongoing beach monitoring program. According to John Kiess, Water Program Manager for the Health District, the results of Monday’s sampling will be evaluated to determine whether the ten day advisory may need to be extended.

City staff will continue to monitor the pipe to ensure that repairs are effective. “Bainbridge Island is not alone its need to address its aging sewer and water infrastructures,” Newkirk said. “This is an issue that cities across the nation are struggling with, as much of our public works infrastructure, built in the early and mid-1900’s, is beginning to decay.”

The City has been monitoring the shoreline sewer network around Eagle Harbor for the past few years, but a corrosion assessment conducted last year was inconclusive in determining the need for action, Newkirk said. “Updating and improving our beachfront sewer system is one of many projects that needs to be considered as the city prioritizes activities for our Capital Improvements Plan,” he added.

Approximately 140,000 gallons of untreated waste are believed to have been released as a result of the leak. The departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife have been kept informed throughout the repair efforts. An orange-brown algal bloom, which has been reported near island shorelines, is a natural occurrence and is unrelated to the spill, Kiess confirmed.

The city’s Police Marine unit and Harbormaster will assist utility staff in monitoring the site for reasons of environmental and public health safety. For information on health advisories, contact the Kitsap County Health District at 1-800-2BE-WELL, or visit www.kitsapcountyhealth.com.

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Additional Background:

Detailed narrative of today’s repair activities:

During this morning’s repairs, contract crews were stationed at lift stations at Olympic Drive, Sunday Cove and Lovell Ave., and pumper trucks were used collect sewage that would otherwise have flowed through the damaged pipe while repairs were made. Traffic controls were set up at 3:30 am to support smooth traffic flow to the Ferry Terminal, and pump crews began work at 4 am. Repair activities commenced at 5 am, as soon as tides allowed. The temporary repair applied Sunday morning was removed at 5:30, the condition of the pipe assessed between 5:30 and 6:00, and permanent repairs were completed by 6:30 am.

A repair band was installed around the pipe, which will prevent further leakage and add structural integrity to the pipe segment as a whole, and new restraint collars were installed to replaced damaged ones. The repair band is equal to or stronger than the existing pipe, adding structural integrity to the entire repaired pipe segment. Once the band was installed, the lift pumps were put through three test cycles to confirm that the repairs were effective. Normal operations were re-established at approximately 7 am. By 9:30 am, crews had completed restoration of the beach and were demobilized.