



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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Outfall Reconnaissance Inventory Begins Next Week

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, August 19, 2009 – City Water Resources staff will launch a new effort next week to identify and correct sources of pollution from the city’s stormwater system and other island waterways that may be impacting Puget Sound. Funded in part by a state Department of Ecology grant, the city’s Outfall Reconnaissance Inventory (ORI) project will be carried out through an interlocal agreement with the Kitsap County Health District, which is coordinating similar efforts throughout the county. The project is part of a set of activities which the city is required to carry out under its Municipal Stormwater Permit, through which the state Department of Ecology regulates discharge from the island’s stormwater system.

The goal of the project is to identify and correct sources of dry weather pollutant contamination by surveying pipes, streams and other waterways that drain to Puget Sound. “In general, stormwater conveyance systems should only flow when it’s raining. Sampling flows in dry weather when groundwater levels are low can help us identify specific point sources of pollution.” said Ryan Ericson, the city’s Water Resources Engineering Technician.

Beginning with the outer Port Madison Bay area, staff and volunteers will walk the shoreline and explore streams that flow into the sound to locate outfall pipes. “We’ll be looking for signs of pollutants like soap, oil and grease, illicit discharge from businesses and residences, failing on-site sewage systems, leaky sanitary sewer lines, fertilizers and animal waste,” Ericson said. “Once contaminated areas are identified, we’ll coordinate with the Health District to further investigate and address the problem.”

Once review of the Port Madison Bay area is complete, the North side of Eagle Harbor (Wing Point to Weaver Creek), Little Manzanita and Fletcher Bay will be evaluated during the summers of 2010 – 2012. An additional segment of beachfront will be added each year thereafter until the full perimeter of the island has been inspected. At that time, problem areas will be reevaluated and the process repeated.

Shoreline property owners will be notified by mail before activity begins in their area. Residents with questions about the ORI may contact Ryan Ericson at 842-2016, or Stuart Whitford, Kitsap County Health District Pollution Identification and Correction Program Manager, at 360-337-5674. Additional information about the ORI will be provided at the city’s annual Water Resources Open House, scheduled for late October.

Citizens are always encouraged to report concerns about water quality by calling Kitsap One Water Quality Hotline at 360-337-5777 or the City of Bainbridge Island Water Resources Group at 842-2016.

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