



Port Hadlock Wastewater System Project Newsletter – March 2023

Here's an update on our progress toward making the Port Hadlock Phase I UGA Sewer System a reality, and information on next steps and schedule of actions.

Initial Phase I Service Area

The map shows the proposed Phase I sewer system boundary outlined in green. The treatment plant and percolation pond are shown in orange, the inlet line to the wastewater plant is shown in yellow, and the proposed pressure sewer collection lines are a magenta color.

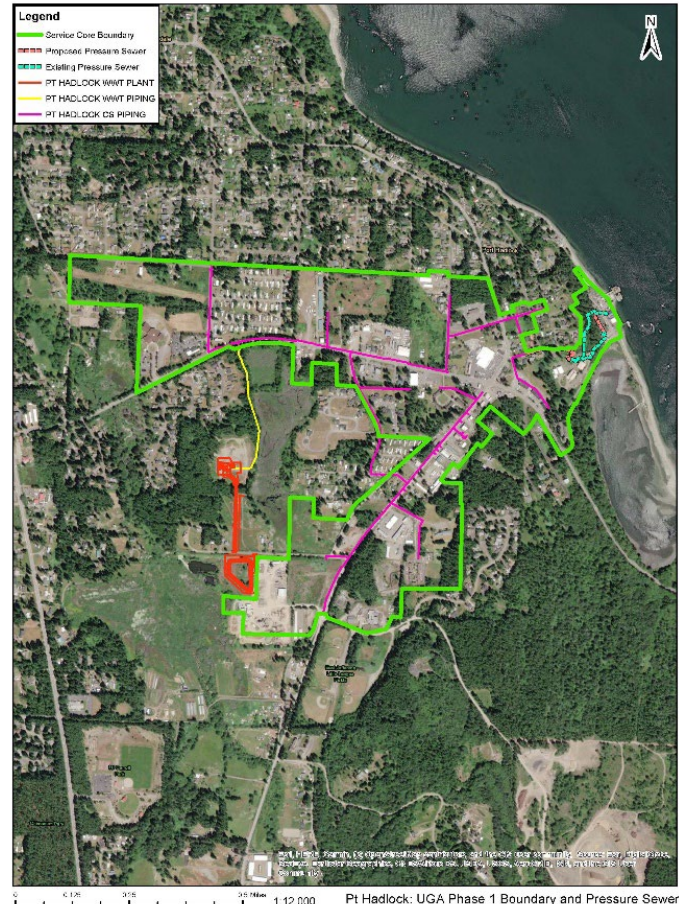
Project Status

The following are key recent progress steps that have been made:

- **Project Design**

- **Wastewater Treatment Plant and Pressure Sewer System** – The entire wastewater treatment plant and pressure sewer system design has been approved by the WA State Department of Ecology, though County staff and consultant are fine-tuning a few design elements and adding a few components, such as a covering of the Membrane Bio-Reactor treatment system, providing solids thickening, and adding odor controls to some components of the treatment system. These additional components of the treatment system are being added with funding additions that have been obtained. It is believed that their addition will provide an improved treatment plant operation.

- **Pressure Sewer System** – Staff are continuing work with numerous property owners to obtain easements that will eliminate or significantly reduce the amount of pressure sewer construction within the State Highway 116 right of way other than planned three crossings of that highway. Because of more stringent Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) construction requirements, the elimination of the pressure sewer within the State Highway will provide significant savings to the project. Easements



obtained so far have eliminated over 3120 feet of pressure sewer in the State Highway and additional easements will eliminate another 1750 feet. The County appreciates the cooperation of all the landowners for their willingness to consider the County's easement requests. As for the three pressure sewer crossings of the State Highway, the County has applied for and is awaiting a response to a variance application from the WSDOT. The request is to allow an "open cut" construction method instead of the need to "bore" these pressure sewers under the State Highway, and an approval should result in a significant cost savings and result in less traffic disruption.

- **Onsite Grinder Pump, Tank, Piping, and Electrical Service** – The County is continuing its work with property owners within the Phase I sewer service area to determine locations for grinder pump, tank, piping, and electric service. Over the next several months, the County will be in communication with property owners within the Phase I area that have existing onsite wastewater facilities, such as septic tanks and leach fields, to gather this information. It is expected that making these new connections won't physically happen until late 2024 or early 2025.
- **Bidding of First Phase of Construction** – The County is presently bidding the first phase of construction for the project – bids are due March 30th. This phase will include site work and grading, including construction of the inlet pipe from State Highway 116 to the treatment plant site, effluent pipe from the treatment plant site to the percolation pond, percolation pond, mitigation plantings, and various other utility installations like water, power, and fiber optics.
- **Port Hadlock Urban Growth Areas Sewer System Permit Applications**
Applications to Jefferson County Department of Community Development (DCD) for construction permits have been submitted and approved, including State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Conditional Use for the plant site and rapid infiltration basin locations, Shoreline, Stormwater, and Floodplain Permits. A State Department of Ecology permit for effluent reuse will be submitted later in the project, and building and other types of permits will be submitted over this year.
- **Tribal Consultations and Historic Places**
Because construction has the potential to impact Tribal cultural resources and/or historical structures, a State-wide established process consulting with Tribes has been conducted. The intent of this process is to assure that construction will not negatively impact any cultural or historical sites. The County will continue our cooperative, partnership-oriented relationship with the Tribes through this process.
- **Sewer Ordinance**
A sewer ordinance is being drafted. This ordinance will include chapters for how property owners can apply for and receive a permit to connect to the sewer system, who will be required to connect, what will be required of those connecting, what charges will be included, what parts of the sewer system on private property will be paid for by project funds, and special provisions for initial customers. While the Sewer Ordinance process will need formal approval by the Board of County Commissioners that will include public hearings, it is

anticipated that a series of public meetings will be held before the public hearings to inform the public of the ordinance requirements and to obtain public input. Look for more information on these public meetings coming up this Spring and Summer.

- **Additional Project Funding**

A recent funding application with the Washington State Department of Ecology (ECY) for grant and low interest loan funding has received preliminary approval from ECY. Our project was ranked #2 out of 151 applications this year! This funding includes \$5,000,000 of grant funds and \$1,670,000 of low interest (0.4% interest over 20 years) loan funding. This ECY determination has been included in the Legislative capital projects funding bill, and is expected to be available by July 1, 2023.

- **Project Schedule**

The following is the anticipated project schedule, but is subject to change and modification depending on multiple factors including: accessibility of the appropriation/grant funds, decisions on best times to bid certain components of the project, sequencing and scheduling of work, and management capability of contracts:

Estimated Date	Component	Comments
March 2023 – October 2023	Bid and start on construction of Treatment Plant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notice to proceed on constructing separately bid Membrane Bio Reactor Unit (MBR) by September 2023 • Treatment and percolation pond bidding began March 6, 2023 with bid opening on March 30th. Expect construction to start by May/June 2023 • Expect to bid treatment plant construction by October 2023
October 2023 – December 2023	Bid and start construction on specifically defined areas of the Pressure Sewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intent is to conduct several bidding periods for specific sections of the pressure sewer.
July 2024 – July 2025	Property Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begin work to connect properties to the sewer
May 2023 – December 2023	Sewer Ordinance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Meetings on Sewer Ordinance – Late Spring and Summer • Board of County Commissioners Hearing/s and consideration – Fall and early winter
Fall 2025	Wastewater System Operational	

- **Project Cost and Funding** (Cost and Funding numbers have been rounded)

Project Construction Cost Estimate - Our existing project cost estimate for construction totals to an estimate of \$34 million.

Project Funding – The Table below summarizes Phase I Port Hadlock UGA Sewer System funding for construction and currently indicates that funding is adequate to complete the Phase I project:

Amount	Status	Source	Purpose
\$3.4 Million	Secured	County – American Rescue Plan Act	Administrative, County management staffing, matching funds for certain grants
\$20 Million	Secured	State – Rep. Tharinger and Legislative Appropriation	Construction – Wastewater treatment plant, inlet line, percolation pond, and some portion of pressure sewer system
\$2.5 Million	Secured	Federal – Senator Murray Appropriation	Construction – Pressure Sewer and Grinder Pumps
\$3.0 Million	Secured	Federal – Rep. Kilmer and Senator Cantwell	Construction - Pressure Sewer and Grinder Pumps
\$6.7 Million	ECY Recommended, requires WA State Legislature final approval	State Dept. of Ecology Grant	Construction – Pressure Sewer and Grinder Pumps
\$35.6 Million	Total Funding Package for Phase I Wastewater System Construction		

New Hire

The County has hired John Black, Engineer III, who brings substantial experience and knowledge on wastewater systems and operations to the team. He will work on all aspects of this project including construction tracking and inspections and working with property owners on grinder pump system locations.

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