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News Release

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Health District Releases 2008 Water Quality Report and 2009 Priority Area Worklist

Stream Health Advisories Also Updated

BREMERTON, WA --- The Health District, in partnership with the Kitsap County Surface and Storm Water Management Program, today released its 2008 Water Quality Monitoring Report summarizing bacterial contamination levels in Kitsap County streams, lakes, and marine waters for the 2008 water year (October 1, 2007 - September 30, 2008). One highlight from the report is that more streams had improving water quality trends than in previous years: 17 streams improved in 2008 versus 12 in 2007 and seven in 2006. Only one stream, Lofall Creek on Hood Canal, had a significant worsening trend in 2008.

The Health District today also released its 2009 Priority Area Worklist for the Pollution Identification and Correction Program. This report identifies the 19 areas where bacterial pollution cleanup projects are being conducted in 2009 and explains how these areas were selected. A map of the priority areas is included with this news release. One of the cleanup projects profiled is on East Bremerton's Enetai Creek, where a health advisory has been in place since 2005. As a result of Health District efforts, bacterial concentrations in Enetai Creek have decreased almost 90% since 2004, resulting in the lifting of the health advisory there in 2009, as discussed below.

The Health District has also updated its health advisory list for streams contaminated with fecal coliform bacteria. The Health District updates these advisories each year using recent monitoring data. Water quality improved enough in 2008 that the District was able to lift the health advisories on four previously listed streams: Daniels Creek in North Kitsap, Enetai Creek

and Steele Creek in Central Kitsap, and Sacco Creek in South Kitsap. Health advisories remain in place for Phinney Creek, Lofall Creek, and Ostrich Bay Creek. Due to a variety of factors including District cleanup activities and increased public awareness and participation, the number of streams with health advisories has dropped significantly over the last few years: from 11 in 2007, to seven in 2008, and to only three in 2009. A map of the health advisory streams is included with this news release.

All the documents discussed in this release are available to the public online at www.kitsapcountyhealth.com. For more information, contact the Health District at (360) 337-5235, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

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