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News Release

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Health District Kicks Off Liberty Bay Watershed Restoration Project

Partnership Formed to Clean Up Liberty Bay

BREMERTON — The Liberty Bay Watershed Restoration project will kick off with a public meeting on **Wednesday August 5, 2009 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** at the Poulsbo Marine Science Center, 18743 Front Street, in Poulsbo.

The Health District, the Poulsbo Marine Science Center, the Kitsap Conservation District, and the Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management (SSWM) program are partnering to conduct the Liberty Bay Watershed Restoration Project. The Health District was awarded the Centennial Clean Water Fund grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology to implement cleanup efforts on Liberty Bay.

The purpose for the project is to reduce fecal coliform bacteria contamination of Liberty Bay streams and marine waters. (Elevated fecal coliform bacteria is an indicator of the presence of bacteria and viruses that can cause illness). The project will investigate all fresh water drainages to Liberty Bay extending from Keyport in the southwest, to Nesika Bay in the southeast. (A map of the project area is attached).

Health District bacteriological data collected at Big Scandia, Bjorgen, Daniels, and Dogfish Creek (south fork), show continued contamination by fecal coliform (FC) bacteria. Although Daniels Creek is now improving, it was so polluted that signs advising against public contact were posted between 2005 and 2008. In addition, Liberty Bay is listed by the Washington State Department of Ecology as impaired for fecal coliform bacteria, as are Lemolo, Bjorgen, Johnson

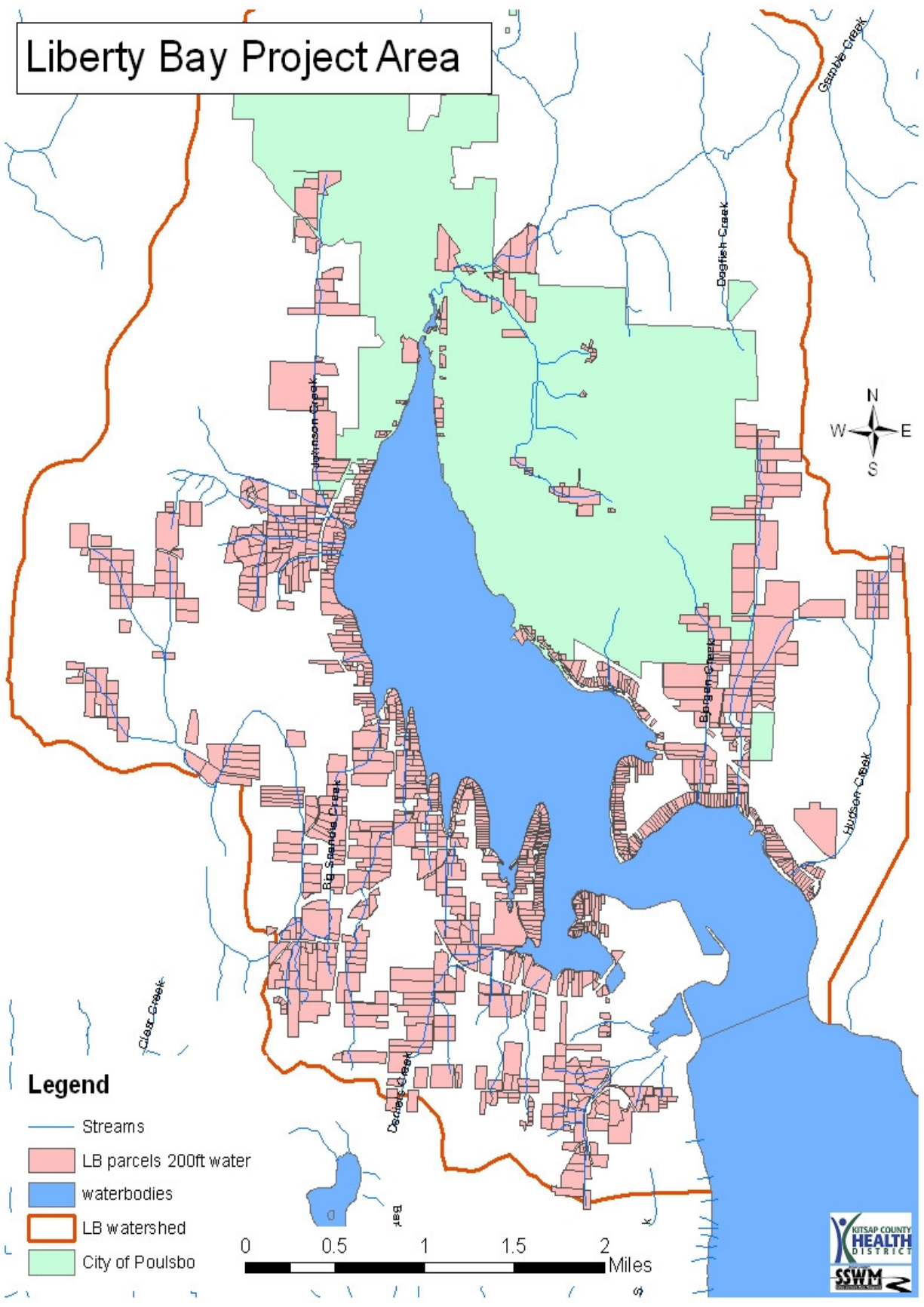
and Barrantes Creeks. Potential fecal pollution sources include failing onsite sewage systems, failing municipal sewer system infrastructure, and animal waste.

A water quality cleanup plan (Total Maximum Daily Load) is currently being developed by the Washington State Department of Ecology for Liberty Bay. This project is a key component of this cleanup plan.

For more information, contact Eva Crim at (360) 337-5621 or crimeva@health.co.kitsap.wa.us.

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Liberty Bay Project Area



Legend

- Streams
- LB parcels 200ft water
- waterbodies
- LB watershed
- City of Poulsbo

