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News Release

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District Pollution Identification and Correction Program Releases 2010 Priority Area Worklist and Issues Final Reports for Dyes Inlet and Enetai Creek Projects

BREMERTON, WA — The Health District has released its 2010 Priority Area Work List (Priority List) for the Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) Program. Utilizing data gathered by the Health District's water quality monitoring program, this list prioritizes Kitsap County streams, lakes and marine waters for clean-up of bacterial contamination.

The PIC Program is responsible for cleaning up Kitsap County surface waters impacted by fecal pollution. This program is primarily funded by the Kitsap County Surface and Stormwater Management Program and grants from the Washington State Department of Ecology. PIC utilizes an innovative "door-to-door" survey process, public education, and intensive water quality monitoring to locate fecal pollution sources. Once located, fecal sources are typically corrected voluntarily by the property owner. However, local on-site sewage and solid waste regulations can be used to enforce correction if necessary. Projects typically take two to five years to complete.

The program has been very effective over the years. Staff have completed **twenty** large scale projects since 1995, evaluated over **5000** properties and ensured the repair of nearly **400** failing onsite sewage systems that threatened county waterways.

The 2010 Priority List describes projects that the Health District plans to work on in 2010. The largest project is located along Horseshoe Lake in South Kitsap. Staff have completed approximately 50% of the necessary property evaluations and have not yet located the source(s) of fecal or nutrient pollution. Other notable projects include Liberty Bay, Sinclair Inlet, Jump off Joe, Kinman, Lofall and Vinland Creeks, and a county-wide stormwater quality improvement project.

Nine projects require a combination of state, federal or local funding before work can begin. Notable among these is additional work along Burley Creek in partnership with Pierce County, and shellfish harvest restoration projects in four shellfish growing areas in Kitsap County.

FINAL REPORTS RELEASED FOR DYES INLET AND ENETAI CREEK PROJECTS

The Health District completed two major projects in 2009; one in Dyes Inlet, and the other along Enetai Creek (located in east Bremerton).

The Dyes Inlet project was huge success as most project area streams including Clear Creek, Ostrich Bay Creek, Phinney Bay Creek, Enetai Creek, Kitsap Mall Creek, and Strawberry Creek are showing significant reductions in fecal coliform bacteria concentrations. Additionally, 19 of 21 marine stations are currently meeting the fecal Coliform standard, and show an improving trend. In this project, staff completed 569 property surveys and identified and corrected 82 failing onsite sewage systems.

The Enetai Creek project was also successful as fecal coliform levels have dropped 60% since 2006. Because of the improvement, health advisory signs posted along the stream due to high levels of bacterial contamination have been removed. In this project, staff inspected 258 properties. Twelve failing onsite sewage systems were corrected, or are in the correction process.

All of 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 8:00am and 4:30pm.