

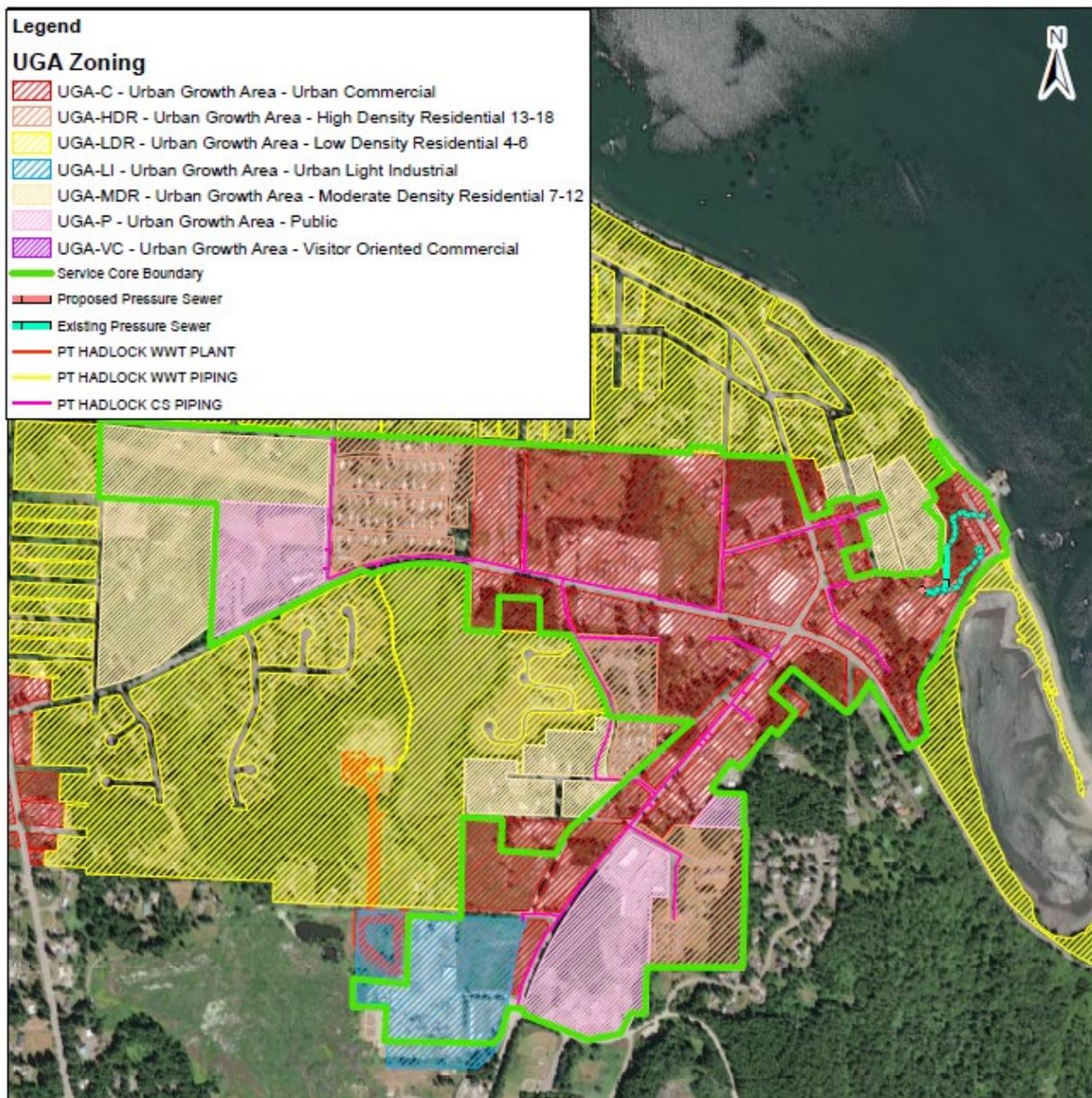


# Port Hadlock Wastewater System Project Newsletter – July 2022

Here's an update on our progress towards 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 below shows the proposed Phase I sewer system boundary outlined in green. Note the boundary is slightly modified from earlier boundaries based on property owner discussions. Map overlays include the urban levels of zoning that will be established when sewer is available to each area within this Phase I boundary. The treatment plant is shown in orange, the rapid infiltration basin in red, 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** – The plant is presently close to 100% of design and in the process of being submitted to State Department of Ecology (Ecology) for approval. A major part of the wastewater treatment plant is the Membrane Bioreactor (MBR), which will treat wastewater to a Class A standard. Ecology encourages, with this level of treatment, using effluent for reuse, such as groundwater recharge, and will permit such use. In the case of the Port Hadlock sewer system, this water will be infiltrated into the aquifer. The MBR has already been bid with a set price and will be manufactured remotely and shipped to the plant site for installation. Our contract with the manufacturer gives us until early fall of 2023 to issue a notice to proceed in construction of the MBR. The rest of the treatment plant has been designed around this key component of the overall treatment process.
- **Rapid Infiltration Basin** – The basin is presently at 100% of design and in the process of being submitted to Ecology for approval.
- **Inlet Pipeline** – The inlet pipeline is presently at 100% of design and in the process of being submitted to Ecology for approval.
- **Pressure Sewer System** – The pressure sewer is presently at 90% of design and will soon be submitted to Ecology for approval. Additionally, the County has been working with the Washington Department of Transportation to address concerns they may have related to construction of pressure sewers within State Highway 116. Significant design efforts have taken place to reduce actual construction of pressure sewers in State Highway 116, where such opportunities can be considered, because State requirements can be costly.
- **Onsite Grinder Pump, Tankage, Piping, and Electrical Service** – The County is working with a local firm experienced in onsite septic and treatment systems to provide information, on key properties within the Phase I sewer service area, where the grinder pump, tankage, piping, and electric service will best be located. Project engineers will use this information to provide a final design for these sewer system components. Over the next several months, the County and contracted firm will be in communication with many property owners within the Phase I area that have existing onsite wastewater facilities, such as septic tanks and leach fields, to work with each property owner in gathering this information. It is expected that making these new connections won't physically happen until late 2024 or 2025.

- **Port Hadlock Urban Growth Areas Sewer System Permit Applications**

Many of the sewer system applications for permits have been submitted, including the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) permit, a Conditional Use Permit for the plant site and rapid infiltration basin locations, a Shoreline Permit, and a Floodplain Permit, all with the Jefferson County Department of Community Development (DCD). These permits are being processed by DCD. 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 the next year. Additionally, the County is working with WSDOT on applying for a franchise agreement and variance for some areas where the pressure sewer will need to be in the State Highway 116 right of way.

- **Tribal Consultations and Historic Places**

Because there is a potential that construction of the sewer system might impact Tribal cultural resources and/or historical structures, a State-wide established process of consulting with Tribes has to be followed, as well as assuring that construction will not negatively impact any State classified historical places. This process is well underway and an on-site meeting has been held with interested

Tribes. At a minimum, a plan for construction will be in place to address if any cultural sites are found, and in some especially sensitive areas pre-digs might be conducted to assess the likelihood of resources being located where construction will happen. Some locations might also require an onsite archaeologist to be present during construction. 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 to the sewer system, what will be required of those connecting, what charges will be included, and special provisions for initial customers. The Sewer Ordinance process will need formal approval by the Board of County Commissioners and will include public hearings, and 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.

- **Jefferson County Public Utility District**

Jefferson County and the Jefferson County Public Utility District (JPUD) continue to work closely together on all aspects of this PHUGA sewer system with the expectation that JPUD will be under contract to operate and maintain the system once it is operational. Including JPUD at this early stage allows for their input and ideas to be incorporated into the design.

- **Project Schedule**

The following is the present anticipated project schedule, but is subject to change and modification depending on multiple factors including: processing time for permits, accessibility of the appropriation/grant funds, decisions on best times to bid certain components of the project, and approval timing by Ecology and other regulatory agencies. Here is the proposed schedule:

Date	Component	Comments
July – Oct. 2022	SEPA, Conditional Use, Floodplain, and Shoreline Permit effort and issuance	
August 2022	Submittal of 100% design drawings for Ecology approval	Anticipate Ecology approval in September 2022
July – Dec. 2022	Cultural Resource and Historic Places permits	
October 2022	Apply for Ecology project construction funding	
Nov. 2022 – Jan. 2023	Bid and begin construction of inlet line, wastewater treatment plant site grading, and construction of Rapid Infiltration Basin	
Jan. – March 2023	Bid and start on construction of Treatment Plant	Give notice to proceed on constructing MBR Unit by September 2023
March – July 2023	Bid and start construction on a defined area of the Pressure Sewer	Intent is to conduct several bidding periods for specific sections of the pressure sewer.
July – Oct. 2023	Bid and start additional sections of the Pressure Sewer	
Late 2024 – Fall 2025	Wastewater System Operational	

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

Project Cost Estimate - Our existing project cost estimate for preliminary, administrative, permit efforts, design, and construction totals to an estimate of \$34 million. A note on this estimate:

- Current, unprecedented inflationary and bidding climate uncertainties and fluctuations make this number tentative, though it does include a substantial contingency to account for these variables.

Project Funding - To date, substantial funding has been obtained for the Phase I Port Hadlock UGA Sewer System, though additional funding efforts are continuing:

Amount	Status	Source	Purpose
\$1.4 Million	Secured	State – Rep. Tharinger and Legislative Appropriation	Design
\$1.9 Million	Secured	County – American Rescue Plan Act	Various Tasks
\$20.0 Million	Secured	State – Rep. Tharinger and Legislative Appropriation	Construction – Wastewater treatment plant, inlet line, rapid infiltration basin, and some portion of pressure sewer system
\$2.5 Million	Secured	Federal – Senator Murray Appropriation	Construction – Pressure Sewer
<b>\$25.8 Million – Sub Total Amount:</b> Will allow design and construction of wastewater treatment facility, inlet pipeline, grading, rapid infiltration basin, and full design of pressure sewer system and construction of some portion of the pressure sewer system			
\$3.0 Million	Pending	Federal – Rep. Kilmer and Senator Cantwell	Construction - Pressure Sewer
\$5.0 Million	Planned	State Dept. of Ecology	Construction – Pressure Sewer
<b>\$33.8 Million – Total of Secured, Pending, and Planned Funding–</b> Will allow completion of all or most of the pressure sewer system within the Phase I sewer system area			
\$1.0 to \$2.0 Million	Potential	Federal – US Department of Agriculture and/or US Economic Development Agency	Construction – Pressure Sewer
<b>\$34.8 to 35.8 Million - Total Funding Package to build full Phase I Wastewater System</b>			

- **What Happens to PHUGA Land Use Zoning with Wastewater System?**

Major land use changes will be enacted when the Phase I UGA Sewer System is constructed:

- Existing rural zoning will be replaced with urban levels of zoning for all properties receiving sewer service located in the Phase I sewer system boundary
- Higher density residential development can be provided
- Economic and business developments will be allowable
- Existing developments can be expanded and grown
- Vacant land area on properties that presently contain drain fields or drain field reserve areas will no longer be necessary

- **New Hire**

The County has added another part time engineer to this project with the hiring of David Peterson, the recently retired City Engineer for Port Townsend. His extensive experience in planning for, designing, and constructing large capital projects, including wastewater treatment and conveyance systems, is a big plus for this project.

**Contact information**

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