

# WATER LINES

**BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT**

Serving the Greater Birch Bay Area Since 1968

Fall Newsletter 2009

## A Big Thank You!

This summer was exceptionally hot and dry, which would normally add stress to our water supply system as we attempt to keep up with surging demand. The month of June kicked off this summer trend with 19 consecutive days without rainfall and only 0.42 inches of rain total. For July, temperatures swelled to 90 degrees and had many days with sustained temperatures above 80 degrees.

Thanks to our customers' support for the Water Wisely Voluntary Watering Schedule and other conservation practices, usage did not experience any significant spikes and remained below the District's historical peak record of 1.93 million gallons. This enabled the District to serve our customers while keeping enough water in storage to provide for fire fighting and other contingencies, despite the challenging weather pattern.



In the next month or so, the District will meet with the other members of the Whatcom Water Alliance to review this year's conservation program and develop next year's regional program. **THANKS AGAIN!**

## Sewer Maintenance and Prevention at the District

The District actively works on reducing inflow and infiltration (I&I) from groundwater and stormwater into our sanitary sewer system. The I&I program at the District includes Monitoring, Maintenance and Prevention. Program components of each category are explained in more detail below:

### **MONITORING**

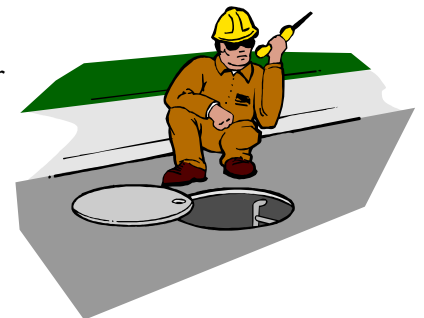
- Portable flow monitors that track known or potential infiltration sources.
- Special closed circuit TV cameras that inspect for broken pipes, fittings, gaps, holes and water infiltration. The camera is lowered through the manhole and maneuvered through the sewer line.
- Smoke testing helps to identify areas of breaks, improper connections and other system problems. This is done by injecting sewer lines with non-toxic colored gas.

### **MAINTENANCE**

- Sewer jetting uses water at high pressure to remove roots, debris and other material in sewer lines.
- The District actively replaces loose, broken or ill-fitting manhole rings.

### **PREVENTION**

- The District installs manhole covers (seals) to prevent large volumes of stormwater from flowing into the system
- The District is currently testing out a sealant material that can repair cracks in underground concrete piping and structures. If successful this will remove the need for expensive excavation to fix sewer leaks



# From Garbage to Garden: Composting

**Composting is a great way to recycle yard waste food scraps and save money!**



- Creates fertile, soil building material
- Recycles and adds nutrient and organic matter back into the soil
- Helps grow plants with less water, fertilizer or pesticides
- Keeps waste out of landfills and reduces your garbage bill
- Generates less waste. Compost is one solution to solid waste management problems.
- Helps keep fats, oils and greases (FOG) out of sewer systems

**What can you compost?**

- Leaves, grass clippings, dead plants, stalks, twigs
- Vegetable scraps, soiled paper, spoiled food
- NO meat, dairy or any animal product

**Where can you use compost?**

- Flower, garden beds
- Around trees and shrubs



## DID YOU KNOW!

Yard trimmings and food residuals account for **23%** of the U.S. waste stream.

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

## Birch Bay Drive Sanitary Sewer Forcemain Project

The District is working on developing a project to replace 9,000 feet of existing 14 inch forcemain from Pump Station #3 to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with multiple large pipes made of high density polyurethane (HDPE). The existing pipe is 35 years old and constructed out of asbestos concrete, which is a weaker piping material and not as durable as HDPE. The current forcemain transports 95% of all sewer flow to the WWTP.

The District is expecting to solicit bids from contractors in October and hoping for work to begin by the first part of November. The majority of the construction will occur during the winter.

## Fats, Oils & Greases

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are an expensive problem for sewer systems. By doing your part at home, you can help to keep the District sewer system running efficiently.

**FOG Build-up Can Cause:**

- Raw sewage to overflow and back-up into households and businesses
- Reduce capacity and operation of wastewater treatment facilities
- Increase sewer rates due to expensive clean-ups and repairs of clogged pipes and pump stations

**Sources of FOG:**

Common household sources of FOG are food scraps, meat fats, lard, oil (frying, salad, cooking), margarine, butter, baking goods, sauces and dairy products.

### TAKE ACTION!

- Pour FOG into a covered container instead of the sink and dispose of it into the garbage once it cools
- Trap food scraps with a sink strainer
- Scrape & collect food scraps for your compost



**Published by**

Birch Bay Water & Sewer  
7096 Pt. Whitehorn Rd.  
Birch Bay, WA 98230  
Phone: (360) 371-7100  
Fax: (360) 371-2806  
Website: www.bbwsd.com

**Commissioners:**

Don Monfort  
Carl Reichhardt  
Patrick Alesse

**General Manager:**

Roger M. Brown