



# BRINGING SEWERS TO UN-SEWERED URBAN AREAS: A SUCCESS STORY

Presented by John Hendron and Zach Schrempp

#### TUKWILA LOOP NEIGHBORHOOD BACKGROUND





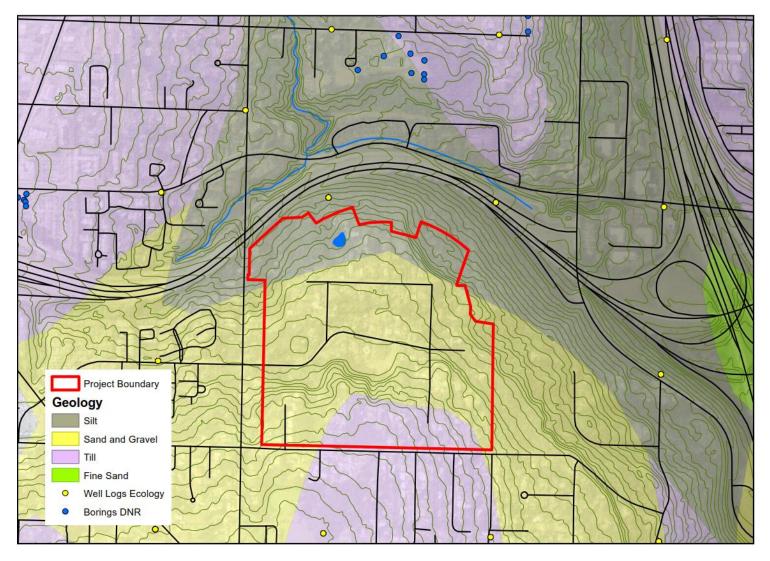
# TUKWILA LOOP NEIGHBORHOOD BACKGROUND

- Approximately 70 acres, 140 existing homes
- One of the last unsewered urban areas in Valley View Sewer District's service area
- Many failed septic systems





#### SOILS AND FAILED SEPTIC SYSTEMS





#### **ORIGINAL PROJECT CONCEPT**

• Opportunity seen to construct gravity sewers through the neighborhood as one large project





#### SUMMARY OF SUCCESSFUL PROJECT



- Grant and loan funding for sewers was obtained from DOE and King County (CDBG)
- Project was constructed as District extension in 2018-2019
- As of early 2019, <u>84 percent</u> of property owners had <u>connected</u> to the system



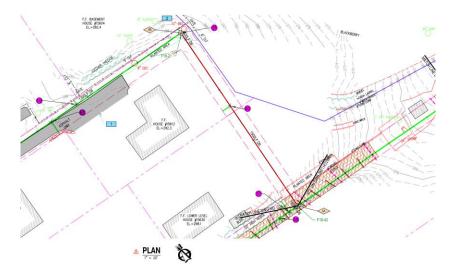
# **IMPORTANT POINTS FOR PROJECT SUCCESS**

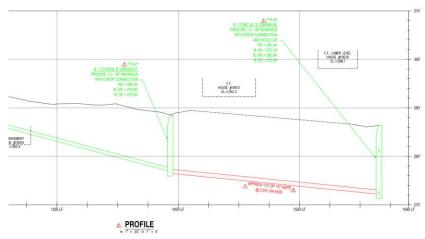
- 1. Components of a Successful Grant Application
- 2. Public Outreach
- 3. Easement Negotiation
- 4. Innovative Construction and Bidding
- 5. Progressive Connection Charge
- 6. Tukwila Connection Ordinance



FUNDING FOR \$6.8 MILLION PROJECT COST

- The majority of this project was grant-funded
  - Project was ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 160 statewide applications
  - <u>\$4.5 million in DOE grant</u> <u>funding</u>
  - <u>\$300,000 in CDBG Grant</u> for low income
- <u>Remainder in forgivable</u> interest loan from DOE







#### DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY GRANT FUNDING

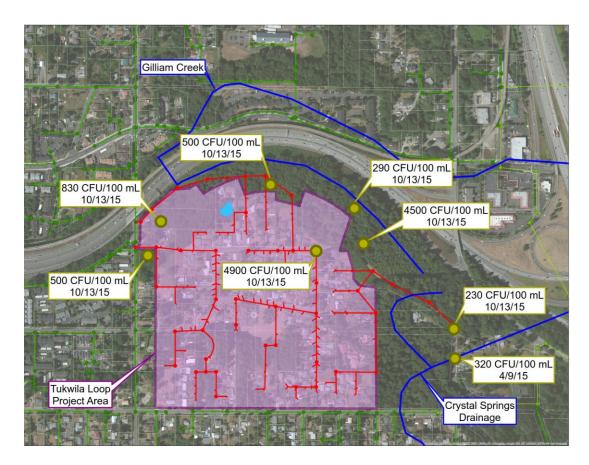


- Components of the successful grant application:
  - Letters of support from Muckleshoot Tribes and Tukwila
  - Working closely with DOE staff to determine ways to strengthen application
  - There was strong evidence that septic systems impacted surface water quality, and that this project would address that problem



#### SURFACE WATER QUALITY TESTING

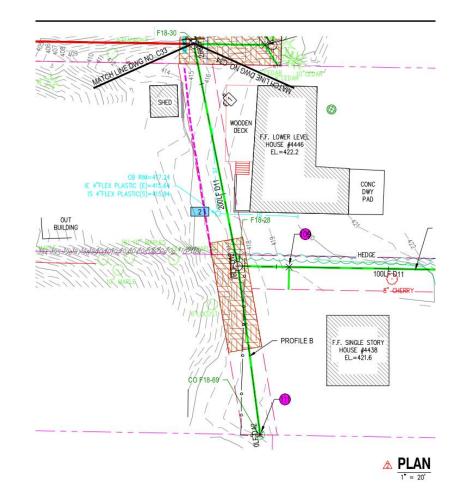
- Current and historic coliform testing of surface waters showed elevated levels downstream of the Loop
  - Immediately downstream, Tukwila 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave S project to improve fish passage in Gilliam Creek





### PUBLIC OUTREACH AND CDBG

- Open house
  - Breakout sessions for participants to ask questions 1on-1
- Community Development Block Grant
  - Pays for installation of sewer for low-income households
  - Gains project support from those who want sewers, but do not want their low-income neighbors to be forced into the project





# EASEMENT NEGOTIATION AND ACQUISITION

- 80 easements were acquired, but more were prepared
  - Iterative process
- District manager relentlessly pursued agreements
  - Having a staff member working as an advocate for the job is critical to acquire all necessary easements
  - Begin with "softer" techniques, then slowly escalate
    - Modest offer -> Professional appraisal -> Condemnation process if necessary
  - The presence of a staff member in the field frequently interfacing with property owners spreads knowledge of the benefits of sewers



#### EASEMENT NEGOTIATION AND ACQUISITION





#### **CONSTRUCTION PHASE 1: SEWER MAINS**

- Primarily traditional open-cut construction
- Directional drilling, curved sewers used on challenging alignments
- Approximately \$450,000 was saved on Phase I by reusing native backfill instead of using imported backfill





#### **CONSTRUCTION PHASE 2: SIDE SEWERS**

DESCRIPTION	BID AMOUNTS
Schedule A – Individual Pump Stations – North Central	\$
Schedule B – Plumbing Relocations – Dispersed	\$
Schedule C – Northwest	\$
Schedule D – West	\$
Schedule E – Southwest	\$
Schedule F – North Central	\$
Schedule G – Central	\$
Schedule H – South Central	\$
Schedule I – Northeast	\$
Schedule J – East	\$
Schedule K – Southeast	\$

Item		Project Lot ID				
No.	Item Description	No.	Qty	Unit	Unit Price	Total
A1	Mobilization/Demobilization (8% Maximum)		1	LS	\$	\$
A2	Shoring & Trench Safety Systems (Minimum \$1/LF)		240	LF	\$	\$
A3	Individual Pump Station and Force Main for 4420 S 156 <sup>th</sup> Street, Tukwila 98188	4	1	LS	\$	\$
A4	Individual Pump Station and Force Main for 4422 S 156 <sup>th</sup> Street, Tukwila 98188	5	1	LS	\$	\$
A5	Individual Pump Station and Force Main for 4432 S 156 <sup>th</sup> Street, Tukwila 98188	6	1	LS	\$	\$
A6	Individual Pump Station and Force Main for 15518 44 <sup>th</sup> Place S, Tukwila 98188	7	1	LS	\$	\$
A7	Common Force Main, 1.5-inch and 2-inch Diameter		750	LF	\$	\$
A8	Excavate and Haul Unsuitable Material and Replace with Select Backfill		10	TN	\$	\$
A9	3-inch Thick Concrete Patio Restoration with Welded Wire Fabric		12	SY	\$	\$
A10	E-One Unit Decorative Rock		2	EA	\$	\$
TOTAL BID SCHEDULE A \$						

- Side sewers are built for property owners who chose to connect at time of project construction
- Individual pump stations implemented in a few locations where gravity sewer not possible
- 11 separate construction contracts for side sewers to allow small contractors



#### **PROGRESSIVE CONNECTION CHARGE**

- Discounted connection charge for those connecting at time of construction
  - Side sewer included at time of construction but not for later connections
- Future connections/future development charges higher

Charge Type	2018 Connection	2019 Connection
SFR	\$4,250	\$9,000 + 3% per yr
New Lot	N/A	\$15,000 + 3% per yr



# TUKWILA SEWER CONNECTION ORDINANCE

- Tukwila Loop property owners required to connect to sewer:
  - Title change/sale of property
  - Major remodel
  - Septic system failure/repair



# CONCLUSIONS

- <u>84 percent of property owners</u> <u>have connected to the system</u>
  - The speculation risk incurred by the District in constructing this project paid off
- The project achieved all of its goals, and can serve as a model of the steps necessary to successfully conduct public outreach, design, fund, and construct a collection system in a large un-sewered urban area





