



## Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project

### Sammamish Waterway Condos Association Briefing Summary

Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 6 p.m. | Virtual Meeting

#### Attendees

##### *King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) project team*

- Annie Pfeifer, King County WTD community relations
- Liz Matson, King County WTD project manager
- Danny Applegate, HDR Project Engineer
- Steve Botts, King County WTD real property agent
- Hannah Peshkov, King County WTD real property agent
- Morgan Calder, PRR community relations support

##### *Sammamish Waterway Condos*

- Richard Redelfs, community association manager
- 3 board members

#### Purpose

King County's Lake Hills and Northwest Lake Sammamish Sewer Upgrade Project team briefed the Sammamish Waterway Condos Association at the condos regularly scheduled board meetings. The project sewer route follows the Sammamish River Trail, crossing under the Sammamish River onto the condo's property just north of Leary Way. The project team provided an update on design progress and construction timeline delays, and what residents can expect when construction begins.

#### Introduction

Annie Pfeifer, King County WTD community relations, thanked the condos association for hosting the discussion and facilitated project team introductions. Annie then reviewed the meeting agenda that included a project overview and



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status update, ways the project team plans to keep community partners informed, and a project timeline. Annie highlighted that following the presentation, there will be time for questions and answers as well as learning more from the condo association about their fire lane improvement project.

Annie provided an overview of King County WTD, calling attention to the county service area that includes 1.9 million people, 5 treatment plans, and nearly 400 miles of pipeline. Annie explained that, for this project, water travels through local pipes owned and maintained by the City of Redmond. That water then travels through King County's regional pipes that carry it to a treatment plant. She emphasized that WTD's mission is to protect public health and enhance the environment by collecting and treating wastewater while recycling valuable resources for the Puget Sound region.

### [Project overview and status update](#)

Liz Matson, King County WTD project manager, shared that this project will upgrade 4.5 miles of an aging sewer pipe that runs through Redmond and carries wastewater to the Brightwater Treatment Plant in Woodinville. King County is proactively replacing this pipe to ensure continued and reliable service for 50 years or more. Liz presented maps of the project route, calling out what neighborhoods the pipe passes through, where the limits of the project area are, and where the pipe crosses into the condo's property along the Sammamish River Trail.

Danny Applegate, HDR project engineer, shared where the project will cross the Sammamish River. He noted key considerations for construction across the river to include maintaining native wildlife habitat and the navigability of the waterway. Danny talked about the planned construction method of open trench construction, which is a method where a hole is dug from the surface to lay a new pipe. To cross the Sammamish River, the contractor will use an underground method called microtunneling where machines use a rotating cutter head to move through soil and rock, breaking up solid material. Crews will dig shafts at both ends of a tunnel below the river, then remove the machine through the shaft on



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the other side. Danny emphasized this method will help reduce impacts on fish and wildlife.

### Detour routes and restoration plans

Annie provided construction information about detour routes required during intermittent closures along the Sammamish River Trail. Work will be performed in sections and may not be consecutive, so closures between construction access points will require off-site detours. Annie acknowledged that this trail is of particular importance to the communities living nearby and commuting along the trail so the west and east sides of the trail will not be closed at the same time, except for when trenchless crossings occur. Access to the Leary Way pedestrian bridge will be maintained using flaggers to direct traffic. Due to limited access points, the detour will route travelers onto nearby sidewalks, paths, and bike lanes. Detour routes were created with substantial input from the community and the county has made several adjustments based on feedback to ensure safety during construction.

Annie added that the trail will be fully restored after construction. Restoration will include relocating maintenance holes off the trail where possible, replanting removed habitat, repaving affected areas of the trail, and widening the trail where possible, between Northeast 85th Street and Leary Way.

### Project timeline update

Liz shared the updated project timeline and noted that the construction start date is delayed. Construction is expected to begin in 2026 and is anticipated to take three years to complete. A newsletter sharing this update will be mailed and emailed out to community members in early 2024.

Liz reviewed next steps on the project, including continuing permit acquisition in 2024, hiring a contractor in 2025, and beginning construction in 2026. Liz highlighted that the team will review easement information for the condo association before permitting starts.



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### Keeping community members informed

Annie shared ways to stay up to date on project information, highlighting the project website and email listserv. Annie added that the project team will continue to attend community events, provide fieldwork notices when needed, and provide community briefings upon request.

Annie provided personal and general project contact information with the group that included:

- Annie Pfeifer, community relations, at 206-263-3203 or [amurrillpfeifer@kingcounty.gov](mailto:amurrillpfeifer@kingcounty.gov)
- Visit the project website to sign up for email updates at: [www.kingcounty.gov/KCRedmondSewer](http://www.kingcounty.gov/KCRedmondSewer)
- Enroll in text alerts: text KING REDMONDSEWER to 486-311

### Condo fire lane improvement project

Richard Redelfs, community association manager, shared that the condo association is working with the fire lane project liaison through the city fire department.

### Question and comments

The following questions and comments were asked by board members during the Q&A session at the end of the meeting:

*Is there a chance to review the tree selection input you've received from the condos in the past? Can we change the tree selection if your preferences have changed?*

The WTD project team responded that they intend to match what is currently planted as much as possible. The project team shared that they collected input from the condos association in 2020 when working on easements and will share that input with the condos association. The condos association is invited to let the project team know what their tree preferences are, and the project team will try to match them. The project team caveated that they are following a tree replacement policy that might limit the type of tree species they can plant.