

November 2010 Meeting Summary Surface Water Management

By Peter Rimbos, Corresponding Secretary

On Monday, November 1, the Greater Maple Valley Unincorporated Area Council held its regular monthly meeting. The major topic discussed was King County Storm Water Management.

Your Area Council serves as an all-volunteer, locally elected advisory body to the King County Council representing all rural unincorporated area residents living in the Tahoma School District.

King County Surface Water Management

Joanna Richey, Assistant Director of the Water & Land Resources Division (WLRD) of King County's Department of Natural Resources & Parks discussed Storm Water Management throughout the County. WLRD works in partnerships to: sustain healthy watersheds; protect wastewater systems; minimize flood hazards; protect public health and water quality; preserve open space, working farms, and forests; ensure adequate water. WLRD also manages the County-wide Flood Control District.

Storm water discharges are generated by runoff from land and impervious areas such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops during rainfall and snow events. Such discharges often contain pollutants in quantities that could adversely affect water quality and, thus, public safety. The many impervious surfaces we have in our built environment tend to concentrate storm water flow and can cause flooding.

Storm water is managed by the State, but each jurisdiction provides local services through its State storm water discharge permits. For all of the Unincorporated Area King County provides such services which include: regulations based on adherence to the Western Washington Storm Water Design Manual; best management practices to protect the public; Capital projects to repair storm and flooding damage and prepare for future events; and engineering studies and monitoring to prioritize problems and take a pro-active approach to solving them.

The State Department of Ecology regulates storm water under Federal Clean Water Act permit authority. The current DOE permit ends in 2011. A new 5-year permit--2012-2016--will be in review in 2011 with similar requirements to the current permit. The permit allows discharge of storm water in national systems such as lakes and rivers. Local storm water management deals with tributaries, not the major rivers (e.g., Cedar, Green, etc.), which are under the purview of the Flood Control District.

Local jurisdictions levy surface water management (SWM) fees through the property tax. SWM fees are uniform for all single-family residential properties within a jurisdiction, such as unincorporated King County. For commercial properties, SWM fees are variable based on amount of impervious surface and, thus, contribution to storm water collection and concentration. Property owners can receive discounts.

In 2010 ~\$19M was collected in SWM fees for all of unincorporated King County. For 2011, due to annexations, SWM fee collections are expected to drop to ~\$17M. The King County Council is now considering an increase in SWM fees for 2011 to cover the backlog of Capital projects. For single-family residential properties in unincorporated King County the SWM fee increase under consideration is \$32 per parcel. The Area Council voted to submit a letter to the King County Council requesting such an increase be opposed for 2011.

[More detailed information on King County storm water services can be found here.](#)

Yarrow Bay Master Planned Developments

Draft Development Agreements (DAs) for the two Yarrow Bay-proposed Master Planned Developments (MPDs) in Black Diamond were submitted to City Staff on September 21 and made available for Public Review. The Draft DAs provide details on the proposed phasing, plans, designs, road changes, etc.

A comprehensive review of the Draft DAs is being conducted by Citizens, who will submit their questions/comments to City Staff by the November 5 deadline set by the City. City Staff will then work with Yarrow Bay to "finalize" the DAs. It is expected that Open-Record Hearings on those "finalized" DAs, in which any member of the Public can participate, will commence shortly after the first of the year before the Hearing Examiner.

13th Annual Model Train Show

The 13th Annual Maple Valley Operating Model Train Show held at the Gracie Hansen Community Center in Ravensdale on

Saturday, October 16, and Sunday, October 17 was a success. More than 500 members of the greater Maple Valley community enjoyed the a wide variety of exhibits, model train layouts, and prizes. [Please click here](#) for more details.

Next Regular Monthly Meeting:

Date/Time -- Monday, December 6, at 7:00 - 9:30 PM.

Location -- Sheriff's Precinct #3 Headquarters, 231st St & SR-169 (across from Fire Station)