

The Loop and Surrounding Area Information

Public Meeting February 25th 2016.

On Thursday the 25th of February an Open House/Public Meeting was held at Valley View Sewer District to inform residents of The Loop and Surrounding Area (The Loop) about the status of funding and planning for possible sewer construction in their area. A [Cover Letter](#) inviting residents to the meeting and giving them some preliminary information was mailed out on February 17th. Included with the cover letter were an [Income Verification Form](#) and an [Annexation Survey](#) form.

During the Public Meeting a [Power Point presentation](#) was shown followed by time for questions and answers.

During the Open House the following Additional Exhibits were available for review and discussion:

1) Fecal Coliform Readings [Map \(1\)](#) [Map \(2\)](#)

Discussion: Samples taken from streams and wetlands in and, downstream, from The Loop show very high levels of Fecal Coliform bacteria present. Readings are well above the safe limit for direct human contact. These high levels of Fecal Coliform Bacteria indicate that many of the septic systems currently being used by the residents of The Loop are marginally effective, or failing.

2) [Soil Type Map](#) , [System Design Letter](#)

Discussion: It was previously believed that the soil type present in The Loop was a sandy soil very well suited to long term drain field operation. Research, however, reveals that the very best soil type in the area is a Loamy Fine Sand soil (Type 4 soil according to the Washington State Administrative Code)for which the minimum lot size necessary to support a well-functioning septic system drain field is 18,000 square feet. The median lot size in The Loop is 12,000 square feet. The other soil types present in the Loop, Glacial till and Silts, are even less suitable for long term drain field operation.

3) [Historical Project Cost Estimation](#)

Discussion: This exhibit was prepared in response to questions about the process, and accuracy of preliminary cost estimates prepared for sewer construction projects. Cost estimates are compared to the actual low bid submitted by a contractor for each project. For these 19 projects the actual bid was, on average, 9% below the engineers estimate. This is partly because in the estimation process

there is an effort to determine project cost based on the possible worst case construction scenario so that the project will not be underfunded.

Funding Status

The Sewer District has been approved for a partial grant for project survey and design (\$244,000.00), and for a 1.0% loan for all remaining construction and design costs. Grant funding, instead of loan funding, would typically be available for a highly rated project such as this. The District has been in contact with Washington State Legislators to encourage support for adequately funding the Centennial Clean Water Fund in the 2017 budget. If funded, this would be the source of grant funding for the construction phase of this project. In the future the District may encourage you to contact your senator and representatives to express your views on appropriately funding the Centennial Clean Water Fund in the 2017 budget. To that end this [“Fact Sheet”](#) was prepared. It contains sufficient information about the proposed sewer construction project for you to explain your views to your legislators. Project area residents will be kept informed as the District learns more about the Governor’s budget proposal for 2017.