

## Water leak? Indoor Water Meter Monitors now available

Does your water bill seem too high? Want to get a better handle on how much water you are using? As a new service to our customers, Skagit PUD now offers indoor Water Meter Monitors for purchase or on loan.

The Water Meter Monitor can be easily installed in your residence or commercial building and provides an on-demand visual display of the actual meter reading along with indication of leaks. This easy to use device allows you to monitor your use of water during customer-defined time

intervals as well as displaying the current reading of the water meter. The Water Monitor Meter can be located generally anywhere indoors, within several hundred feet of the water meter.

Call our customer service department today, 424-7104, to see if your home or business qualifies for our Water Meter Monitor program.



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### Judy Reservoir to Mount Vernon Water Transmission Pipeline: Phase 1 LaVenture Road to College Way

In an effort to renew aging pipelines and provide capacity for projected future growth, work is scheduled to begin this summer on Phase I of the Judy Reservoir to Mount Vernon transmission pipeline project.

Phase I, which is located within the city of Mount Vernon, will follow the Kulshan Avenue right-of-way

starting at East College Way and connect to existing transmission lines at the intersection of North LaVenture Road and Kulshan Avenue. The estimated cost for Phase I of the project is \$4.7 million.

Phase I represents the first leg of a proposed 36-inch, 6.6 mile pipeline project designed to serve as the long-term replacement of our existing 24-inch transmission line from Judy Reservoir. The project follows a right-of-way acquired in 1961.

In order to minimize activity on

the site, the pipeline project is being constructed in conjunction with a city of Mount Vernon sanitary sewer force main. The PUD will be working with the city and the selected contractor to minimize impacts to the local neighborhood, as well as the greater community. The pipeline will cross several streams and wetlands that will be temporarily disturbed prior to restoration.

We anticipate the construction activities associated with the pipeline to extend for 30-45 working days.

OWNED BY THE PEOPLE WE SERVE!



### IN THE PIPELINE

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Skagit PUD teams with other community stakeholders to help market Mount Vernon as a great place to live, play and do business.

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The Skagit County Board of Health has extended the deadline for fluoride implementation until March 15. Read what our next steps are in this process.

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Learn how you can easily monitor your water usage and be alerted if you have a leak or not.

#### Pipeline Project | 4 |

Phase I of the Judy Reservoir to Mount Vernon transmission project is scheduled to start this summer. See what we are doing to upgrade and maintain our water system.



# Skagit Public Utility District PIPELINE

Winter 2009  
Owned By The People We Serve

NEWSLETTER FOR SKAGIT PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT CUSTOMERS

## District Partners With EPA's WaterSense® Program

SKAGIT PUD HAS TEAMED WITH THE U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense program to help customers save water for future generations and reduce costs on their utility bills.

WaterSense aims to decrease indoor and outdoor water use through water-efficient products and simple water-saving practices.



The program encourages customers to look for WaterSense labeled products, which have been independently certified for efficiency and performance, and promotes water-saving techniques that reduce stress on water systems and the environment.

"The goal of EPA's WaterSense program is to help Americans save water and money by offering simple ways to reduce water use through water-efficient product choices," says Sheila Frace, Director of the EPA Office of Water's Municipal Support Division. "Using water more efficiently can help delay the need to create more supplies, saving communities money and resources, as well as ensuring that

Water-Saving > SEE PAGE 2

### WINTER STORM DAMAGE



(Above) PUD staff inspect severe bank erosion at our Gilligan Creek intake site. Gilligan Creek is the source for 70-percent of the PUD's water supply.

### Winter storms create havoc with water supply system

Excessive water flow at our source waters and major landslides have put recent stress on the PUD's water supply system. January's heavy rains and rapid snow melt created conditions that forced the PUD to take several water supply intakes out of

Storms > SEE PAGE 2

## Promoting water-saving practices

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water will be available for future generations.”

The average home, retrofitted with water-efficient fixtures, can save 30,000 gallons per year. If one out of every 10 homes in the United States upgraded to water-efficient fixtures, it could save more than 300 billion gallons and nearly \$2 billion annually.

“Skagit PUD is proud to be a WaterSense partner,” said Kevin Tate, community relations manager.

“We look forward to working with our customers to improve water efficiency awareness and promote WaterSense labeled products and water-saving practices inside and outside the home.”

WaterSense labeled products must meet EPA’s criteria for efficiency and performance. Independently tested and certified products may bear the WaterSense label, which makes it easy for

consumers to identify and select a variety of quality, water-efficient products and services for their homes and lawns.

To find water-efficient products locally, Lowe’s and The Home Depot are Skagit County WaterSense Retailer and Distributor partners.

*SAVE. Over the course of your lifetime, you will likely flush the toilet nearly 140,000 times. If you replace older, existing toilets with WaterSense labeled models, you can save 4,000 gallons per year.*



## Storm damage forces repairs

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service in order to make emergency repairs.

- **Mundt Creek.** Landslides damaged the access road and exposed a 10-foot section of the collector pipeline.
- **Gilligan Creek.** Severe bank erosion exposed the collector pipeline. Two landslides damaged the employee access walkway and parking area.
- **Turner Creek.** Excessive water flow caused gravel and sand to fill the intake basin.

The estimated initial cost to do repairs is \$200,000.

## LOOKING FORWARD: Reputation built on hard work

A year ago at this time, the PUD was engaged in a strategic planning process. We met with community advisory groups and sought their input on the direction the PUD should head. Out of those sessions, we developed our mission, vision and core value statements. We also heard comments that the PUD “needs to be more visible in the community.”

### New look

Last fall we hired a graphic design firm to help design a new logo and address our visual identity.

The previous logo design was difficult to read, easily confused with other county entities, and was expensive to reproduce. As a result, we are saying good-bye to our old logo and ushering in a new, cleaner look.

### Our brand

We may have a new look, but a brand is much more than logos, colors, and business card formats. Skagit PUD’s reputation or “brand” is really the product of many



different factors that create an overall impression of our utility. Our brand image is the way that people think, feel, and respond when they hear the words “Skagit PUD.” The brand has to stand for something and as an organization, we have to act and perform consistent with that image.

Every District employee is a brand ambassador. With every customer contact and whenever we represent the PUD, our employees have the opportunity either to strengthen the Skagit PUD brand

or to cause it to lose some of its luster.

### Our mission remains unchanged

Generations of PUD employees have built our reputation over the last 70 years with their hard work, passion for quality, and commitment to our customer-owners.

Every PUD employee is expected to further that legacy as we strive to keep our brand promise and provide safe, reliable and affordable utility services to our customers.

## Community marketing partnership to highlight city’s many positives

**S**KAGIT PUD IS PARTNERING with other community stakeholders to help launch the Mount Vernon Community Marketing Campaign. The campaign is designed to help brand Mount Vernon and communicate the city’s many positive attributes as a place to do business, work, live, visit, learn,

and play. This initial three-year marketing campaign is supported by a unique community partnership that includes the business community through Mount Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Skagit Valley Hospital, Skagit Valley

College, Mount Vernon School District, and city of Mount Vernon, with the support of Port of Skagit County and Skagit PUD, and other partners. The campaign’s launch will include local and regional advertising, a new Web site with links to



community organizations and activities, quarterly community newsletter and television program, and other tactics.

For those who live and work in Mount Vernon, we all know hundreds of reason why we can “get a great life” here. And that’s the story Skagit PUD is going to help tell.

## Annual Native Plant Sale slated for March 20-21 & April 18

Skagit Conservation District is holding its annual native plant sale on **Friday, March 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays, March 21 and April 18 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the WACD Lynn Brown Plant Materials Center, 16564 Bradley Road in Bow. Native plants improve local water

quality, reduce soil and wind erosion, clean the air, reduce energy costs, help protect homes from wildfire, attract and support local wildlife, and beautify property.

Trees clean water in two ways; by preventing soil erosion, either by holding soil in place or by trapping it as it is borne overland by wind or water and by trapping

nitrogen and phosphorous, thus reducing the occurrence of these two elements in drinking water. Trees planted along waterways can be very effective in reducing the amount of soil washed into streams and rivers.

For more information and pre-order sales, contact the Skagit Conservation District at (360) 428-4313.

## Fluoride Update

### County extends fluoridation deadline

The Skagit County Board of Health has extended Skagit PUD’s implementation deadline to fluoridate the Judy Reservoir water system to March 15, 2009.

The initial 2007 implementation order, which was extended eight months last May, expired January 15, 2009. According to Health Department Director Peter Browning, the time frame for implementing fluoridation was probably “too aggressive.”

According to news reports, two of the county’s three commissioners have stated that they would consider rescinding the order to fluoridate the water supply. The 60-day extension will be used by the county commissioners to review the original decision.

“Our view from the beginning is that fluoridation is an unfunded mandate that has been imposed on the PUD,” General Manager David Johnson said.

“It puts us in the middle ground that is a no-win situation.”

The PUD has put its agreement with consulting engineering firm Black & Veach on hold until county commissioners decide on what course it plans to take with fluoridation issue.

