



Pleasant Harbor Marina in Brinnon

THE CONNECTOR SPRING 2024



Manzanita Substation site work



Setting the power transformer.

Greetings neighbors,

For the last several years the PUD has been making preparations for the new substation on our Manzanita Campus to replace the old Union Substation by the Chevron. Slowly, year after year, the commission has approved the transmission and distribution construction projects through the annual budget process to prepare for 2024. At the beginning of 2024, the commission awarded the Manzanita Substation site work to DJ's Electrical and they began work in March. This new substation will not only provide a more reliable and robust power supply to Union, the district that I represent as commissioner, but it will also eventually be loop fed with the T3 substation across the water in Potlatch. This will enable the PUD to loop feed the entire south end of our system, meaning if one of the two subs needs to be taken offline for maintenance or if there is an outage at one of the subs, the other can pick up the load.

This project is just one of two major utility infrastructure projects slated for the Manzanita

Campus. PUD staff are working on several funding applications to pay for the Manzanita Water Storage reservoirs, a component of the Union water consolidation project. This project will serve several of the PUD's water systems in Union by providing standby storage as well as a draft fire hydrant for Fire District 6 and have a backup generator installed to keep the water available during power outages. While the substation will be constructed this year and hopefully be online in early 2025, the water portion will take a while longer. The PUD has applied for several grants and appropriations, and the board recently approved staff to move forward with a hybrid grant/loan application to the Public Works Trust Fund as a backup option in case the grant funding does not come through.

Other projects in Union this year include a new reservoir, booster station and backup generator at Vuecrest, starting this spring. Out of the \$1.37 million price tag, the PUD was able to get grants for all but \$35,000 of the cost. The power and water crews also have

partnered with Alderbrook Golf & Yacht Club and Hood Canal Communications to replace hundreds of feet of mainline and replace power cable ahead of AGYC's paving schedule throughout the community.

Our partnerships with local businesses and customers have helped us accomplish many of our annual strategic plan items over the last few years. Our partnerships with Mason County and our state representatives have helped us obtain the funding to get much of this work completed without impacting our water and power rates. These partners are extensions of our PUD 1 team, and the PUD 1 commissioners want to recognize the work that has gone into building these relationships to serve our customers. Great job everyone and thanks for your partnership.



Mike Sheetz,
Commissioner District 1

State and Federal Investments Support Utility Relocation Projects

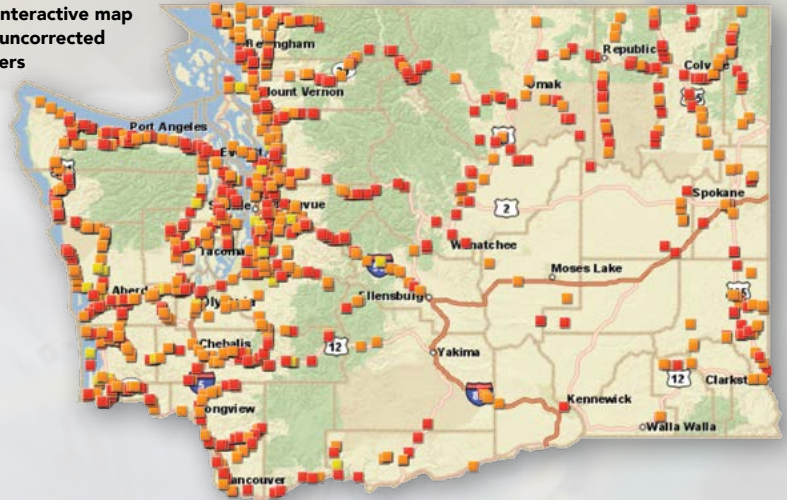
March and April were busy times for us on the state and federal lobbying fronts. For the last several years, I have attended the Public Power Rally in Washington, D.C. I travel to the other Washington with the Washington PUD Association delegation, made up of over 40 PUD general managers, commissioners, and government relations professionals. The first few years I attended this D.C. rally I was getting my feet wet and seeing how the lobbying game was played. I learned how to hone my messaging to our congressional delegates and their staffers to make them care about what was happening on the Hood Canal and in Mason County. I hoped that the repeated visits both in D.C. and here in Mason County would help PUD 1 in our pursuit of federal appropriations and to help us gain support for bills that benefitted our public power customers and also to fend off bills that poised harm to our ratepayers. It took about three years before the first one paid off. In 2021, Rep. Derek Kilmer chose Mason PUD 1's Duckabush Utility Relocation project on his list of appropriations. We received \$1 million to support this work to accommodate the estuary restoration project on Duckabush Road.



Presenting to Sen. Maria Cantwell in D.C.

Last year, I set up meetings with Senator Maria Cantwell's and Senator Patty Murray's staffs. I left D.C. a little disheartened thinking my pitch wasn't well received, but then Senator Cantwell included \$1.5 million in her appropriations request to support Jorstad Substation in Lilliwaup. That request ultimately didn't make it out of committee, but we resubmitted it again in 2024. Now Senator Cantwell remembers where Mason

WSDOT interactive map showing uncorrected fish barriers



PUD 1 is every time I meet with her, and she remembers the things we are working on. This relationship building was especially important this year in D.C.

I was tasked to present to the Senator the financial impacts to PUDs as a result of the state culvert/fish passage lawsuit, which requires WSDOT and counties to replace fish barriers by 2030. Senator Cantwell created a National Culvert Removal Replacement and Restoration Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Transportation but it did not include funding for utility relocations. In my speech to her and her staff, I handed out packets showing the incredible impact (in the millions!) that these fish passage projects are having on Mason PUD 1's budget. Then I showed her the hundreds of projects slated for Western Washington over the next three years and asked how utilities, especially small utilities, are supposed to sustain these giant hits to our operating budget. Many of these projects could force us to take on debt for relocating utility lines to accommodate these WSDOT fish passage projects. She agreed and committed to drafting a bill that will enable PUDs to access this grant program and to make other applicants consider and budget for utility relocations as part of their application process. This was a huge win!

I promptly came back to Washington State and brought the same problem statement to our state representatives in the 24th and 35th districts. PUDs want to be good partners and we want good outcomes for fish, but we can't sustain multi-million dollar hits to our budget each year for WSDOT projects that don't have anything to do with providing safe, reliable utility services. We already have our own long list of utility work to do.

Luckily, Senator Drew MacEwen of Washington State's 35th District and Representative Steve Tharinger of the 24th District agreed. While they weren't able to get the entire statewide PUD request in the budget, some of us were able to get our projects included. Rep. Tharinger included \$1.8 million, and Senator MacEwen included \$800,000 for Mason PUD 1's Lilliwaup Corner Project. This will give us \$2.6 million to move the power lines underground to accommodate the fish passage and habitat work that WSDOT will conduct on Highway 101. Because of their investments in PUD 1, this project will not have an impact on our power rates.

That's good news for this year, but the WSDOT map shows three impending back-to-back projects in design on U.S. Hwy 101 in Brinnon that will require us to relocate power lines in the next couple of years. There's still more work to be done on this front and we will continue to work with WPUDA and our state and federal delegations to come up with a more permanent solution to the funding impacts, but for this session, my commissioners and I are very appreciative of Senator Cantwell's work on the federal level and Senator MacEwen and Representative Tharinger's support at home. Our state and federal representatives have been generous with their time and appropriations for Mason PUD 1, and I look forward to continuing these partnerships over the next several years to achieve good outcomes for our shared constituency.



Kristin Masteller
General Manager

As usual, we have several big projects on the docket for 2024.

After wrapping up Agate Beach Phase 2 in late 2023, the final Phase 3 was awarded in April. This phase will see the booster pump, HVAC, electrical and standby generator all installed and closed out. This will complete the work at Agate Beach water system after the last few years of mainline replacement and building the reservoir and booster station. Now the customers who were on a waitlist for connections will finally be able to connect to the public water supply!

Lake Arrowhead's final phase of mainline replacement has also begun this spring. Previous years saw smaller sections of mainline replacement and an iron & manganese treatment installation. This water system will be nearly brand new and will serve the Lake Arrowhead community well for decades to come. The work was funded through Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loans with most of it qualifying for loan forgiveness (grants).

Vuecrest water system will get a new reservoir, booster station and back up generator in 2024, thanks to grants and state appropriations. This water storage will enable customers on that system's waiting list to connect to the public water supply.

Canal View water system in Eldon is nearly complete with the design to rebuild the water mains along U.S. Highway 101 and rebuild the well house across from the Eldon Store. The PUD is working through the permitting process with WSDOT this spring and will put the construction out to bid by fall of 2024.

Shadowood water system's improvements design should be approved by Department of Health this spring and this construction that includes new mainline, a new reservoir, booster station and backup generator will be put out to bid by the end of 2024 with construction to start in late 2024 or early 2025.

The Twanoh consolidated water system plan should finally be approved in 2024 and the PUD will put that construction on 2025's strategic work plan to complete. This includes interconnecting the two water systems to enable customers on the waiting list to connect and providing a redundant water supply to both Twanoh Heights and Twanoh Terrace customers.



PUD 1 crew replacing mainline at Lake Arrowhead

In addition to the big projects that the contractors are doing, the PUD water crew has replaced over 800' of mainline in Alderbrook so far, 1,200' of mainline outside of the Lake Arrowhead community, and will work on other replacement projects this year. This is in addition to their normal daily maintenance projects. Looking forward to moving these big projects ahead and we will keep you updated as they progress.



Brandy Milroy
Water Resource Manager

PUD 1 Conducts PFAS Testing for Group A Systems

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large family of human-made chemicals. PFAS has been used in a variety of



stain-resistant, water-resistant, and non-stick consumer products. It is also found in certain types of firefighting foams, that have been used by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports. These chemicals continue to be released into our environment from older products and discarded materials.

In 2022, the PUD received a grant from the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) to do the initial testing on all our Group A Community Water Systems wells. Out of the 53 wells on these systems, six wells in five of

our water systems came back with detectable levels: Belwood A, Cherry Park, Island Lake Manor, Springwood, and Woodland Manor.

According to DOH, the six wells that have detections are below the State Action Levels (SAL). With detection on the six wells, this required one additional quarterly PFAS sampling. If the results of the second sample have detection but is less than 20% of the SAL, then sampling will only be needed every 3 years. If the detection is between 20% and 80% SAL, two additional quarterly samples are required. When the two additional quarterly PFAS samples results come back, if the SAL is less than 80%, then monitoring is reduced to every three years; if it is over 80%, SAL quarterly monitoring is required.

If any of the PFAS samples ever do come in above the SAL, DOH would require public notification, investigate the cause, and

take action as directed by DOH. If any of the PUD wells test beyond the reporting limits, the water system is required to have treatment. DOH has funding available through their Emerging Contaminants Fund to design and install treatment with the possibility of up to 100% loan forgiveness. **Currently, none of the six wells are above the State Action Levels.**

The Environment Protection Agency (EPA) released a 2024 Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Once it has been approved, any PFAS results above EPA's MCL will then trigger the water system to automatically install treatment.

Be on the lookout for the most recent Consumer Confidence Report for your water system to see if there were any detected PFAS in the well. Reports for 2023 will be sent out no later than June 30, 2024, and will be available online.

For more information regarding PFAS visit Washington State Department of Health website, <https://doh.wa.gov/community-and-environment/contaminants/pfas>.

WATER CONSERVATION

in Effect from May through September

The Washington State Department of Ecology has issued a statewide drought declaration on April 16th. This declaration affects nearly all of Washington state except for limited areas around Seattle, Everett and Tacoma. Citing low snowpack and forecasted dry/warm spring and summer, the drought declaration was unusually early this year.



WATER CONSERVATION

in effect June through September

Addresses ending in ODD numbers

1 3 5 7 9

Water on
ODD days of the month.

Addresses ending in EVEN numbers

0 2 4 6 8

Water on
EVEN days of the month.



During the months of June through September your cooperation is very appreciated and also imperative to help us avoid pressure loss and introduction of bacteria into the water supply. When that occurs, we have to put water systems on a Boil Water Advisory, chlorination and a rigorous testing process until we get confirmation that the water is safe to drink.

Thank you for helping us be proactive and for reducing peak water usage.

As a result of this early declaration, we are implementing our water conservation program earlier this year. While the PUD has not had any issues with water supply in past drought seasons, we don't want to run any risks if we have an excessively dry summer. We also understand the relationship between groundwater pumping and potential impacts on surface water like fish bearing streams and irrigation for farmers and golf courses. Locals also like to enjoy our rivers and streams for recreation in the summer months.

We understand that it is prime planting season and people are starting their gardens and bringing their yards back to life after the winter. A lawn only needs 1 to 1.5 inches of water, once or twice a week, depending on the weather. Garden plants and flowers need about one inch per week as well, and only the top inch or so of soil needs to be moist. Overwatering is just as harmful as under-watering, according to various landscapers and botanists.

Please help us conserve water by watering every other day. At this time this is a voluntary compliance conservation action. If any of our

Washington Drought Declaration



telemetry alarms go off on any of our water systems to alert us that the water levels are low, the PUD will follow our emergency response plan and notify all customers on that water system that conservation actions are mandatory, and we will move into monitoring and enforcement phase of our plan. This sometimes happens on smaller systems where customers are all watering their lawns and washing cars at the same time and the pumps can't keep up with the demand. Following the every other day method should alleviate this risk.

The PUD will have more water conservation kits available at the front counter of the office which include moisture meters, a rain gauge and hose nozzle. Please inquire with customer service if you would like to take a kit home to help you conserve.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS regularly meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Meetings are now held both in person and remotely. The call-in instructions for the public are posted on the PUD website along with the meeting packets. For more information on meetings, please visit mason-pud1.org or call the PUD office.



www.mason-pud1.org

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