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INFORMATION RELEASE  
July 29, 2015

**Kitsap PUD to ask county voters for wastewater treatment authority.**

At their July 28<sup>th</sup> meeting, Kitsap PUD's Board of Commissioners voted to place a proposition on this fall's ballot that would grant the District the authority to treat wastewater.

Presently 19 PUDs in Washington State provide wastewater treatment utility services to their citizens.

While Kitsap PUD does not provide wastewater services, the District has recently been involved in the effort to update the wastewater treatment facility at Port Gamble. That project will replace the existing plant with a state-of-the-art Membrane Bio-Reactor (MBR) plant. These plants, an emerging technology, are capable of producing high quality water that can be reclaimed for other uses. In Port Gamble this water will be used to recharge the local groundwater system.

Said KPUD's General Manager, Bob Hunter, "When we became involved in Port Gamble, the project was being touted for its benefit to the marine environment; that it would open up 90 acres of shellfish beds. We quickly saw another benefit: the ability to reclaim water for our freshwater system."

Kitsap is one of three Washington counties that do not receive runoff from mountain snowpack or glaciers. "We get the water that falls here", said Hunter. "Wastewater treatment plants dump over a billion gallons of that water into the sound every year. This technology allows us to reclaim some of that and return it to our groundwater and streamflow system. We believe MBR technology will emerge as an important water management tool, providing benefit to people and fish."

To keep up with this emerging technology, the District will be asking voters for updated authority on the November ballot. This would allow the district to own and operate wastewater treatment facilities. "This MBR project presented some regulatory challenges", said Hunter, "explicit wastewater authority would position us for a smoother process should a similar project arise in the future."

"Water is just too valuable to treat and pump into Puget Sound. This authority we are requesting, will allow the PUD to own and operate smaller, on-site waste water treatment facilities. This will allow us to complete the water cycle by treating, and returning to the ground, our precious water resources," said Jim Civilla, the PUD's commission president.

For further information contact Bob Hunter, General Manager, at (360) 626-7714 or Jason Nutsford, Assistant General Manager at (360) 626-7716.