

Commissioners' Corner



Len Englund

This year the Lakehaven Board voted to do something that we've been talking about doing for a long time: making the investment in a new Administration Headquarters Building! The new building will replace the current Administration Building, located on 1st Avenue (just north of 320th). Having been built in the 1970's, the Administration Building is aging, undersized, and very energy inefficient. Along with the new energy efficient Administrative Headquarters Building, we'll be performing other needed repairs to our Water Shop as part of this project.

The building plans have been drawn, the building permits have been issued, all the building committee work is essentially done and, as of this writing in early August 2021, land clearing is now underway! It is exciting to see all the hard work our staff, architects, consultants and planners have done preparing for this building. What was just recently only a conceptual idea, is becoming a reality!

The rewards go well beyond energy efficiency. Today, several different administrative tasks are being performed in different buildings. Those buildings include the current Administration Building, our Water Shop – located behind the Administration Building, and at our Lakota Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is located several miles away from the main office area. This means that, on a daily basis, critical personnel must pick up the phone or travel to other staff they need to interact with. I think we can all agree that this is not a very efficient way to conduct business.

Those tasks will be made much easier when our staff is all housed in the same building! As a Lakehaven ratepayer, you'll see smoother operations as you come into our new building too. Customer Service and Developmental Services will be located across from each other near the entry of the building, making it easy to access these resources to pay bills or inquire about water/sewer service. Engineering staff will be located upstairs with ample room to lay plans and drawings out for easier review.

Continued...

Lakehaven Links

Our Mission

The Lakehaven Water and Sewer District is committed to the continued delivery of safe, reliable and high quality drinking water and environmentally responsible sewer service to our customers.

Board of Commissioners

Ron Nowicki, President
Len Englund, Vice President
Don Miller, Secretary
Laura Belvin, Commissioner
Peter Sanchez, Commissioner

Regular Board of Commissioners meetings are held at 6:00 p.m. the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Please check the website for meeting information.

Contact Us

Federal Way: 253-941-1516
Tacoma: 253-927-2922
After Hours Emergencies:
253-941-1516

Business Hours:
Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.lakehaven.org

Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit

The Washington State Department of Ecology has issued a Draft Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit intended to reduce total inorganic nitrogen entering into the Puget Sound. High nitrogen levels in any body of water promotes the growth of algae. When algae dies, it consumes dissolved oxygen, thereby reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available for fish and other aquatic organisms.

The draft permit, currently in the public comment phase, would apply to fifty-eight publically owned domestic wastewater treatment plants discharging to Puget Sound. The District operates two of the wastewater treatment plants that will be subject to the permit requirements. We have submitted comments, essentially aimed at making certain that the Department considers all reasonable alternatives to its monitoring guidelines and applies the best science available to address its nitrogen remediation goals. While this initial permit is initially aimed at adding monitoring, operating, and reporting requirements for the District's facilities, it is anticipated that additional treatment requirements will follow to further reduce the level of nitrogen discharged in the wastewater effluent. This has the potential to require significant costly improvements to the wastewater treatment systems at both plants.

Commissioners' Corner, cont. from page 1

The Board meeting room will be updated with the latest digital and electronic equipment. Field staff will be near the meter readers and Customer Services staff they regularly interact with. Co-locating these functions will enhance the experience for our staff and create efficiencies that will enable us to provide the most cost-effective service possible to you!

We anticipate occupying our new building by December 2022. District employees are looking forward to a new building and better designed office space to do their work. The next time you have an opportunity to visit the Lakehaven Administrative Building, you will see the progress on our new building. You'll also need to adjust where you park as much of our parking lot is being used as a staging area for construction equipment (and eventually the new building).

At some point, the Administration Building will be demolished. It has served us well for over forty years and doesn't owe us a thing!



The site location has been cleared in preparation for the new headquarters building and parking lot.

Redondo Electrical & West Odor Control Upgrades

The District has completed preliminary designs to upgrade a portion of the electrical systems and odor control facilities within the Redondo Wastewater Treatment Plant. This planned \$22 million dollar renovation to the Plant, which was last upgraded in 1986, will replace about half of the electrical and odor control components used in the wastewater treatment operations. Expanding the capacity of the electrical system will also allow for planned future treatment process upgrades. Due to the complexities of keeping all of systems within the plant operational while replacing the electrical infrastructure, the District has obtained approval from the State to procure the Plant upgrades through the General Contractor/Construction Manager delivery method. Final design and permitting processes are expected to run through mid-year 2023 and the completion of construction is planned for late 2024.