



King County

Department of Natural Resources and Parks

Wastewater Treatment Division

South Treatment Plant
1200 Monster Road SW
Renton, WA 98057

August 20, 2024

Sean Wilson, P.E.
Washington Department of Ecology
Northwest Regional Office
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

Jun Naotsuka
Public Health – Seattle & King County
401 5th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Re: Sanitary Sewer Overflow, Heathfield Pump Station, August 15, 2024

Dear Mr. Wilson and Mr. Naotsuka:

On August 15, 2024, an estimated 40,000 gallons of raw sewage overflowed due to an underground force main break at the Heathfield Pump Station (Heathfield PS). The overflow started at approximately 6:43 a.m. and ended at approximately 7:00 a.m. Heathfield PS is located at 3541 163rd Ave SE in Bellevue, Washington. The overflow was reported to the Department of Ecology and assigned ERTS #733017.

Heathfield PS receives flow from a separated sewer system and discharges into King County's Eastside Interceptor which flows to King County's South Treatment Plant (South Plant) in Renton. There are two 24" force mains at Heathfield PS, one from the 1980s and the other from the 2020s. Force Main 2, the older force main, experienced the line break.

At the time of the incident, King County Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) was working to isolate and repair a leaking discharge valve on Force Main 2. A check valve, that was being used to drain the force main, suddenly closed resulting in significant water hammer and the subsequent force main failure. The resultant discharge of wastewater from the compromised force main traveled on two paths. A portion of the wastewater traveled due east down the pump station driveway and onto 163rd Ave SE. The majority of the wastewater appears to have traveled northeast, down a steep bank and into Vasa/Squibbs Creek (hereto referred to as Squibbs Creek). Some volume of wastewater likely entered Lake Sammamish north of Vasa Park Resort, via Squibbs Creek.

WTD quickly restored Heathfield PS operation using Force Main 1. A contractor exposed and repaired the damaged force main. Contractors were also used to clean and disinfect impacted sidewalks and street surfaces and to remove debris from Squibbs Creek. This initial work was completed by Friday evening. Work continues this week to test the pipe repair and assess the need for additional cleanup actions.

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Public outreach has been extensive and has included door-to-door visits with the neighbors around the Heathfield Pump Station and along Squibbs Creek as well as with the Vasa Park Resort. Notices have also been delivered to approximately 250 households in the area. Beach closure and creek closure signs have been posted. As per Public Health, the posted closure signs will remain in place until August 22, 2024.

Samples for *E. coli* analyses are being collected from a total of nine sites (Figure 1): five along Vasa Creek (one upstream and four downstream of the Heathfield Pump Station) and four in Vasa Park Resort. Samples results for August 15, 2024, through August 19, 2024, are presented in Table 1.

While Force Main 2 has been repaired, the observed pipe condition is of concern. WTD is currently assessing the Heathfield Pump Station's capabilities to handle full winter weather flows with a single force main. In addition, WTD is looking into an emergency relining project for Force Main 2. In conjunction with this work, WTD is reviewing the feasibility of installing a temporary bypass line.

To prevent recurrence, WTD remains committed to investing in our conveyance inspection programs.

If you have any questions about this overflow event, please feel free to contact me at 206-477-5600 or Rachael Dyda at 206-263-1716.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:



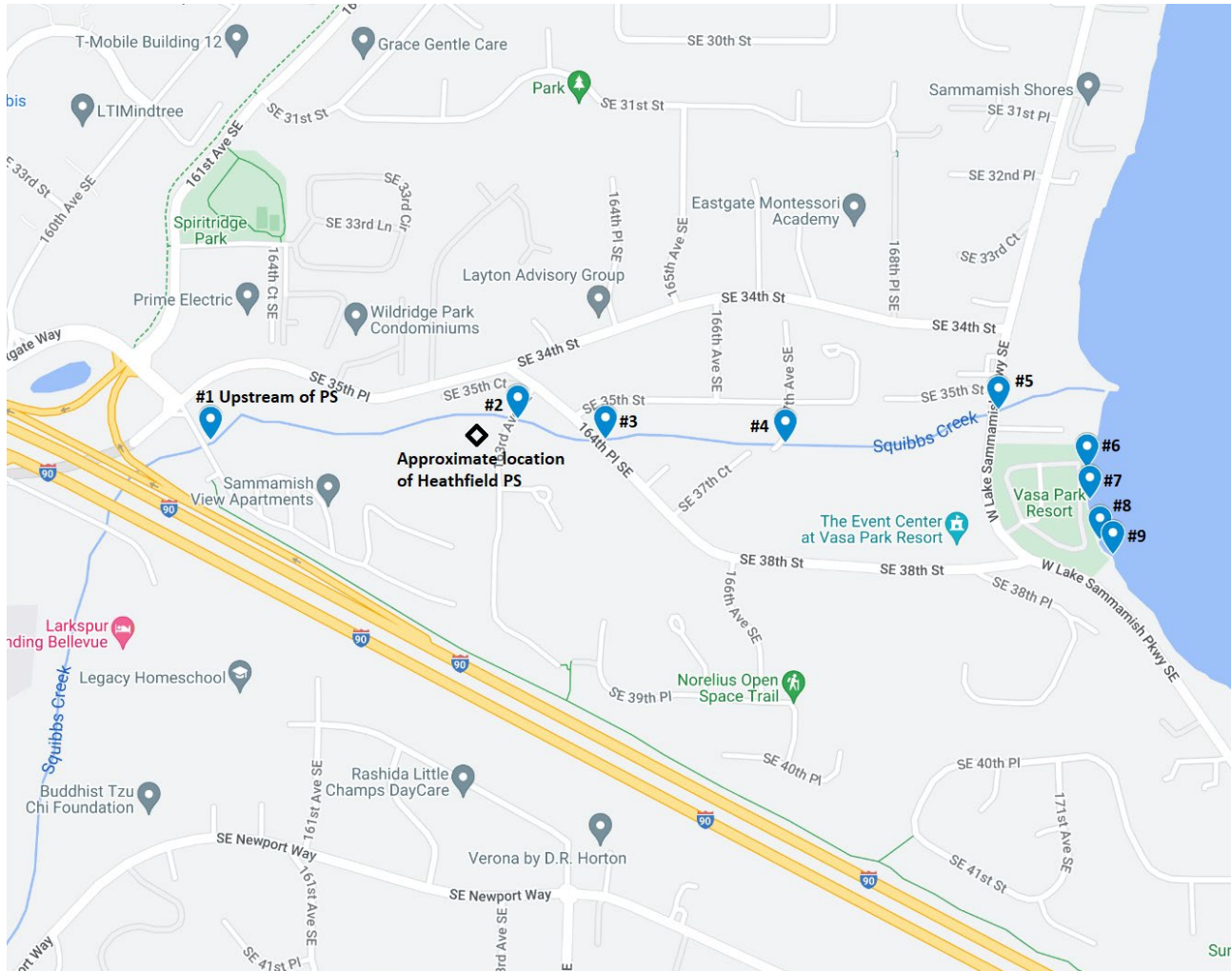
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Rebecca Singer
Operations Manager

cc: Kameron Gurol, Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP)
Bruce Kessler, Deputy Director, WTD, DNRP
Jeff Lafer, Project/Program Manager IV, WTD, DNRP
Norm Cook, Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager, East Section Offsite, WTD, DNRP
Chapin Brackett, Process and Environmental Compliance Manager, WTD, DNRP

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Figure 1. Nine sampling locations for *E. coli* for Heathfield Pump Station Overflow, August 15, 2024



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Table 1. *E. coli* Sampling Results. Results are as colony forming units per 100-mL (CFU/100-mL)

	Vasa Cr. is same as Squibbs Cr.			E.coli
Map #	Locator Description	Sample #	Collect Date	E.coli [CFU/100ml]
1	Vasa Creek-at SE Eastgate Way (background sample site)	L84548-1	8/15/24	11
		L84552-1	8/16/24	14
		L84553-1	8/17/24	17
		L84554-1	8/18/24	290
		L84563-1	8/19/24	58
2	Vasa Creek-at 163rd Ave SE (just below Heathfield PS)	L84548-2	8/15/24	7,900
		L84552-2	8/16/24	5,700
		L84553-2	8/17/24	3,400
		L84554-2	8/18/24	2,800
		L84563-2	8/19/24	590
3	Vasa Creek-at 164th PI SE	L84548-3	8/15/24	22,000
		L84552-3	8/16/24	8,100
		L84553-3	8/17/24	6,600
		L84554-3	8/18/24	4,600
		L84563-3	8/19/24	760
4	Vasa Creek-at 167th Ave SE	L84548-4	8/15/24	41,000
		L84552-4	8/16/24	19,000
		L84553-4	8/17/24	12,000
		L84554-4	8/18/24	5,700
		L84563-4	8/19/24	2,300
5	Vasa Creek-at W Lake Sammamish Parkway SE crossing	L84548-5	8/15/24	64,000
		L84552-5	8/16/24	24,000
		L84553-5	8/17/24	12,000
		L84554-5	8/18/24	5,000
		L84563-5	8/19/24	1,400
6	Vasa Park-left side of beach (Lake Sammamish)	L84548-6	8/15/24	5
		L84552-6	8/16/24	170
		L84553-6	8/17/24	16
		L84554-6	8/18/24	1,000
		L84563-6	8/19/24	13
7	Vasa Park-middle of beach (Lake Sammamish)	L84548-7	8/15/24	4
		L84552-7	8/16/24	100
		L84553-7	8/17/24	11
		L84554-7	8/18/24	100
		L84563-7	8/19/24	10
8	Vasa Park-right side of beach (Lake Sammamish)	L84548-8	8/15/24	15
		L84552-8	8/16/24	86
		L84553-8	8/17/24	17
		L84554-8	8/18/24	77
		L84563-8	8/19/24	12
9	Vasa Park-far right side of beach (Lake Sammamish)	L84548-9	8/15/24	4
		L84552-9	8/16/24	77
		L84553-9	8/17/24	15
		L84554-9	8/18/24	51
		L84563-9	8/19/24	15