



# Department of Ecology Status Report: 2006 Supplemental Budget

Reducing toxic threats, cleaning up Puget Sound and managing our water

## Part 1: Saving Puget Sound and Hood Canal

### Speed Up Toxic Site Cleanup Programs

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$4 million (capital) State Toxics Control Account

- ◆ Since July 2006, Ecology has already begun cleaning up 15 additional sites.
- ◆ By July, we expect to have targeted 40 to 50 sites and begin to negotiate with liable parties, or use state financing to perform cleanups and then attempt to collect from liable parties.

### Bellingham Bay and Port of Tacoma Cleanup

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$7.5 million (capital) Local Toxics Control Account for Bellingham Bay, \$1.75 million (capital) Local Toxics Control Account for Port of Tacoma

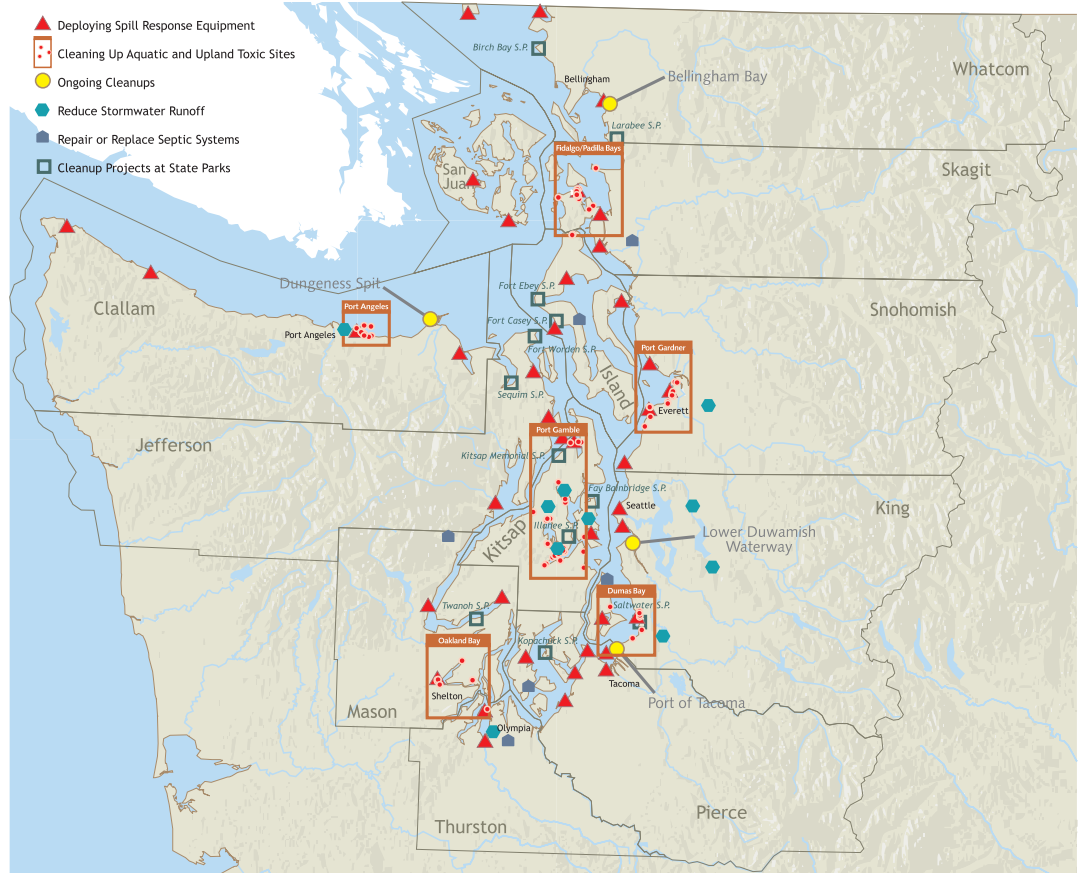
#### Whatcom Waterway

◆ Complex front-end work must be and is being completed, including scientific studies, consideration of construction techniques from dredging to capping, and hearings.

- ◆ Required public hearings are completed.
- ◆ By spring, construction funds will be encumbered and a cleanup action plan will proceed.

#### Port of Tacoma Pier 25

- ◆ Construction, research and design underway and funding will be obligated before July 2007.
- ◆ Contaminated sediment capping is scheduled to begin in July 2007.



Cleaning up Puget Sound.

### Clean Up Aquatic Lands

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$5 million (capital) State Toxics Control Account

- ◆ Dredging has started at Port Gamble to remove about 17,000 cubic yards of wood debris covering about two acres.
- ◆ The Port Gamble project has received statewide media attention and may create momentum to eventually clean up the entire bay in an area drawing commercial interest as a tourist destination, and one of the most productive forage fish spawning areas,

and for restoration of valuable commercial shellfish.

- ◆ Work at Dumas Bay on the King/Pierce County line to relocate a sewage utility outfall into the bay and eventually reopen valuable shellfish beds is in negotiations, and work on the ground to reopen shellfish beds has already started.
- ◆ Talks underway for sediment remediation in Fidalgo-Padilla Bay and Port of Anacortes.

#### Why this matters

When toxic pollutants get into Puget Sound and Hood Canal, they settle to the bottom, then work their way into the food chain and accumulate, ultimately threatening the entire ecosystem. Today, more than 5,700 acres of underwater lands in Puget Sound and Hood Canal exceed toxic levels. In 2005, Puget Sound's orca whales were listed as an endangered species, joining a number of salmon species and 38 other native species in the Puget Sound region that are listed either as threatened or endangered.

## Help Homeowners by Replacing Septic Systems to Protect Puget Sound

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$6 million Water Pollution Control Revolving Account; \$1.5 million Centennial Clean Water Fund

◆ Funding is financing repair or replacement of more than 500 failing on-site septic systems.

◆ By June 30 2007, recipients will include Skagit, Thurston, Island counties, Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, Hood Canal Coordinating Council ( Jefferson, Mason, Kitsap counties and Skokomish, Port Gamble S'Klallam tribes), Public Health - Seattle & King County.

◆ Funding expands highly successful local loan programs managed by Skagit, Island and Thurston Counties for residential on-site septic repair and replacement.

◆ Work is well underway to clean up failing on-site septic systems. For example, Skagit County has successfully administered a local loan program by providing financial assistance to homeowners for more than 400 on-site septic repairs or replacements since the inception of their current local loan program. Skagit County plans to continue its successful loan program

with the use of \$1,979,000 in grant and loan funds.

◆ Jefferson, Kitsap, and Mason Counties partnered with the Port Gamble S'Klallam and Skokomish tribes to reduce Hood Canal septic pollution. Governor's upcoming budget for the 2007-09 biennium proposes \$3 million in grants for the Hood Canal Coordinating Council to match a grant by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to ShoreBank Enterprise Pacific (SEP). The state grant and Gates Foundation funds will be directed to SEP, a private non-profit lender, and used to establish and "capitalize" a low-cost loan program for septic repairs or replacements in Hood Canal.

### Why this matters

There are about 472,000 septic tank systems in the Puget Sound region that are not connected to sewage treatment plants. Many of them are aging and in disrepair, allowing human waste to reach the Sound. This pollution has forced the closure of shellfish beds to protect public health, which also creates economic hardship for shellfish growers - one of Washington's oldest industries. Hood Canal has an expanding dead zone, caused by raw sewage from these septic systems and other pollution.

## Stop Pollution from State Parks Getting Into Puget Sound

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$3.5 million (capital); \$13.8 million State Building Construction Account

◆ Seven projects well underway. Parks, Puget Sound Action Team and Ecology have collaborated to identify and implement needed upgrades at several parks on the shorelines of Puget Sound.

◆ A few examples: *Fort Casey* - new septic system completed; *Birch Bay* - about to turn dirt to replace sewer lift station pumps and improve connections to the municipal sewer; *Ft. Worden* - completion this spring of sewage pump replacements at two lift stations.

### Why this matters

Our state parks should be models of environmentally safe practices, and should lead by example. Stormwater runoff and wastewater are significant sources of pollution in Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Failing wastewater systems at state parks add sewage overload and suffocate marine life.

*Hood Canal near Union. The Canal has a growing dead zone caused by pollution.*

## Reduce Stormwater Runoff Into Puget Sound and Hood Canal

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$2.5 million State Building Construction Account

◆ The pilot program already demonstrates real demand for supported low-impact development. Ecology received 28 grant requests totaling more than \$10 million.

◆ Ten applicants will receive grants of \$2.5 million.

◆ Local governments are so enthusiastic about the program that several of them are providing a substantial local commitment of money to fully fund projects.

◆ For example, Issaquah will use pervious pavement and rain gardens to infiltrate and treat stormwater along 790 feet of downtown Rainier Boulevard North. Snohomish County will use a variety of LID improvements at its Evergreen State Fairground site in Monroe, and showcase them to the public.

### Why this matters

Land is generally paved over during development, and water, no longer able to soak into the ground, runs off roads, parking areas, rooftops and other hard surfaces, creating stormwater. Stormwater running over developed land picks up oil, grease, metals, yard and garden chemicals, dirt, bacteria, nutrients and other pollutants from paved areas, and carries them to streams, rivers, wetlands and Puget Sound. If not properly managed, stormwater can also flood and damage homes and businesses, and damage or destroy fish and wildlife habitat. Because less water soaks into the ground, drinking water supplies are not replenished and streams and wetlands are not recharged.



## Preventing Oil Spills by Making Oil Transfers Safer

2006 Supplemental Budget:  
\$820,000 Oil Spill Prevention  
Account

- ◆ Oil transfer inspectors are making site visits to more than 85 marinas and 35 mobile facilities to conduct inspections and provide technical assistance, educational materials and other information to operators. Several trips also made to larger oil handling facilities.
- ◆ Five new oil-transfer inspectors are working on the ground – two for the Vancouver region, two in the Central Puget Sound region and one in Bellingham.
- ◆ Members of the newly regulated community are well identified (fuel trucks, marinas and refuel facilities), and inspection checklists and focus sheets to help both inspectors and the regulated community are being developed and distributed.
- ◆ Guidance manuals for rule implementation are close to completion. Technical assistance and public outreach information has

been provided to key interest groups.

- ◆ Mobile-facility plan reviewer hired and the work well underway to partner with truckers and other haulers to prevent spills.
- ◆ Technical assistance manual for mobile facilities is written and distributed.
- ◆ All mobile facilities have been contacted regarding due dates for their spill prevention/response plans, and plans are near completion to conduct drills.

### Why this matters

Annually, billions of gallons of oil are transferred in more than 9,600 separate transactions at hundreds of locations across the state. Most of these transfers take place over or near water. Each poses a risk to the environment that can be reduced or eliminated through prevention and response measures. The most important way to achieve the “zero spills” goal is to focus on spill prevention equipment, operating procedures, and personnel training, all of which should be in place before an oil transfer operation begins.

## Improve Hazardous Materials Response-Bellingham

2006 Supplemental Budget:  
\$210,000 State and Local  
Toxics Control Accounts

- ◆ Staffing is completed with two responders responding to spills, and local responders appreciate the help.
- ◆ In just a few months, the staff has responded to and handled 17 spill incidents a month. With the addition of a second staffer, response numbers are expected to increase.
- ◆ The staff is coordinating, planning and training with 18 response partners from governments and tribes to private-sector responders at refineries and elsewhere.

*Local first responders deploy booms and avoid an environmental disaster during the 2005 marina fire in Gig Harbor.*

## Help First Responders Ensure a Timely Response When Spills Happen

2006 Supplemental Budget:  
\$1.45 million Local Toxics  
Control Account

- ◆ The front-end task of meeting and advising local responders is nearly done, and responders want and appreciate the help. Forty-one grants have been approved out of 91 received.
- ◆ Complete sets of equipment have been delivered to about 15 different sites, and when requested, trailers have been provided to house and protect the equipment.
- ◆ Types of equipment being provided are based on the specific needs of the community.
- ◆ Five local response teams have already been trained.

### Why this matters

This funding provides small communities access to spill protection equipment that previously has not been available to them. The equipment can make all the difference during a spill. For example, in August 2005, a marina fire in Gig Harbor destroyed 50 boats containing thousands of gallons of oil and fuel. The harbor was spared an environmental disaster because inexpensive spill response equipment was pre-positioned there. Quick deployment of booms, absorbent materials and other response equipment quickly cleaned up the oil and fuel, saving an estimated \$1 million or more in cleanup costs and harm to marine and shore life.



# Part 2: Cleaning up toxic spills, preventing toxic contamination, protecting people and the environment from toxic exposure

## Clean Up Mountains of Waste Tire Piles

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$4 million (capital) from Waste Tire Removal Account

- ◆ A \$300,000 contract was let and the first 200,000 of about 2.2 million tires at Goldendale are cleaned up.
- ◆ A new \$1.2 million contract is ready to go for the same tire pile. This contract will remove nearly half of all tires on site.
- ◆ A contract is near completion to clean up tire piles in Lewis County.

### Why this matters

Waste tires are more than an ugly, irritating nuisance. Piles of waste tires are a significant fire hazard, and make excellent habitat for rodents and mosquitos, thus increasing public health risks from disease and illnesses such as the West Nile virus.

## Reduce Local Government Diesel Emissions in Washington

2005-07 Budget: \$2 million from Local Toxics Control Account

- ◆ Local governments are quick to take advantage of this service.
- ◆ Current appropriation has been spent to provide competitive grants to 28 local governments.
- ◆ Grant funding finances 900 diesel retrofits, all to be competed by July 2007.
- ◆ End is in sight. Fewer than 4,400 state and local government engines remain to be retrofitted.

## Reduce School Bus Diesel Emissions in Washington

2005-07 Budget: \$14 million from Motor Vehicle Account Transfer

- ◆ The end is in sight. Retrofits are done on about half of the 8,500 eligible school buses. New federal standards are now ushering in clean buses so no additional work is expected to be needed after all 8,500 eligible buses are retrofitted.
- ◆ Retrofits so far mean tens of thousands of Washington school children riding buses are breathing far less dangerous carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and soot, otherwise called "particulate matter," which can lodge in the lungs and cause long-term illnesses.
- ◆ Retrofits have removed 82 tons a year of carbon monoxide, 25 tons of volatile organic compounds, and 10.2 tons of especially dangerous soot from the air, most of it spewed in the vicinity of kids waiting for or riding on the bus.

## Focus on Health Risks To Children in Schools (Clean Up Contaminated Soil at Public Schools and Child-Care Sites)

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$5 million (capital) State Toxics Control Account

- ◆ In Eastern Washington, eight schools have been cleaned up, 130 out of 136 schools have been sampled, and 44 will need cleanups.
- ◆ Health departments have completed evaluation and sampling of public schools, and private schools and child-care will be next.
- ◆ In Western Washington, 258 schools and child-care sites have been sampled. Of those, 52 will need to implement soil safety action plans or have cleanups.

### Why this matters

Lead is a toxic material that can poison the blood. Children who are exposed to lead can suffer learning disabilities and even neurological damage. Arsenic is linked to more than 30 different adverse health effects in humans, including decreased production of red and white blood cells, abnormal heart function, blood vessel, liver and kidney damage, diabetes mellitus, impaired nerve functioning and various forms of cancer.

## Help Local Governments Carry Out Solid Waste Programs

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$8 million Local Toxics Control Account

- ◆ Close to 80 grants have been made to local governments.
- ◆ The funding allowed many communities to continue their solid waste programs including recycling programs in jurisdictions such as Ferry and Stevens counties.

## Reduce Flow of Electronic-Component Waste Into Landfills

2006 Supplemental Budget: \$400,000 in Manufacturers' Fees

- ◆ As of January 17, 2007, 116 manufacturers have paid registration fees; 92% of expected fees have been collected to date. Work is nearing completion on a rule specifying how manufacturers will collect and dispose of waste components brought to them by consumers.

### Contacts:

- ◆ *Patricia McLain*, Chief Financial Officer, (360) 407-7005
- ◆ *Ted Sturdevant*, Director, Office of Governmental Relations (360) 407-7003
- ◆ *Dave Workman* Director, Office of Communications and Education (360) 407-7004

If you need this publication in an alternate format, please call Ecology's Executive Office at (360) 407-7000. Persons with hearing loss can call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341.