



LOWER ELWHA KLALLAM TRIBE

ʔəʔtχ^{wə} nəx^wsʔay' əm "Strong People"

2851 Lower Elwha Road
Port Angeles, WA 98363

(360) 452-8471
Fax: (360) 452-3428

March 4, 201

Re: Wastewater Construction and future Services for Elwha Valley residents

Dear Valley Residents,

The Tribe has been involved in several construction projects that are intended to lessen (or mitigate) the impact of the removal of the Elwha Dam and Glines Canyon Dam on residents living in the Elwha Valley and its resources. These projects include the construction of the new fish hatchery, upgrade of the flood control levee, **and the construction of a wastewater collection system.** While the community is quite aware of the first two projects, it may be less aware of the wastewater project. This letter is intended to explain the purpose and plan for the "wastewater project" and how it will affect the tribal and nontribal community on the Elwha Reservation.

After the Elwha Dams are removed, a tremendous amount of sediment will be transported downstream and deposited in the lower river, especially along the floodplain next to the reservation. The river bed is expected to increase 2.5-5 ft., therefore increasing river levels. A report, by Ridolfi Engineering, in February 2002 concluded that changes in ground water levels responded to changes in river levels, confirming that there is a direct correlation between the river levels and ground water levels in the Valley area. The report also stated that the effects of a shallow depth to ground water could result in reducing, if not eliminating, the zone of separation between existing septic systems and the ground water table.

To lessen the impact of the rising groundwater, the National Park Service (NPS) will construct, for the tribe, a wastewater collection system that will collect wastewater from tribal homes and transport it to the City of Port Angeles for treatment. In 2003 the Tribe hosted a series of community meetings in the evenings. The result of the meetings is that the community chose the preferred wastewater alternative which is to transport wastewater to the City of Port Angeles for treatment. This will involve disconnecting all tribal homes within the Elwha Valley from existing on-site systems and connecting them to a network of collection pipes. The sewage will be transported to a pumping station that will be located just north of the Assembly of God Church on Stratton Road and then sent uphill along the new access road and then to the City's wastewater treatment facility at Ennis Creek.

The new wastewater utility will be operated and managed under the existing drinking water utility, but the details have yet to be finalized. The City will charge the Tribe for wastewater treatment services based on a bulk rate. The Tribe will then bill monthly each household in the Elwha Valley that is connected to the wastewater system a monthly fee for wastewater services. We do not as yet have any preliminary estimate of what the monthly cost to customers may be, but the project is not due to be completed until early 2012. This date depends on when the full notice to proceed is given by the NPS to the contractor.

The wastewater contractor has been selected. A notice to proceed is expected to be provided mid-March. The contractor selected to construct the wastewater pump station, lift station, and associated piping is Larkor MZT a Joint Venture, of Homedale, Idaho. The construction manager will be PBS&J an Atkins company. The NPS provided a limited notice to proceed to the contractor. This allows the contractor to do pre-construction activities that include determining locations of existing septic systems throughout the valley as well as identifying utilities (water and electrical) that may be located along the planned alignment of the wastewater pipelines. We wanted you to be aware that tribal staff and contractors may be visiting you in the coming weeks to complete these utility surveys.

If you have any questions about the wastewater project please contact Robert Elofson at 452-8471, ext. 139 or LaTrisha Suggs at ext. 143 for more information. If you have questions about scheduling site visits please contact Ralph Ellsworth at 808-4570.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "LaTrisha Suggs". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Respectfully,".

LaTrisha Suggs
Elwha River Restoration, Assistant Director

Cc: Matt Beirne, Environmental Quality and Water System Manager for LEKT