

**Department of Health On-Site Management Program – Effective July 1, 2008
Quarterly Progress and Status Report for Public Health – Seattle & King County
Contract Number C14961 Performance Period March 31, 2009 to June 30, 2009**

Task 1 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capacity enhancement-

Hardware and software upgrade necessary to support increased program capacity to utilize GIS for tracking Marine Recovery Area (MRA) activities, compliance and to prepare public information in an easily readable format.

Due Date / Time Frame - July 08-June 09

Budget - \$20,000 **Expenditure for Period** - \$

Deliverable / Outcome 1.1 -The program will have the necessary infrastructure to manage basic onsite data in a GIS environment.

Status: Complete-Hardware and software have been installed at the work site and MIS support in place.

Deliverable / Outcome 1.2 -Program will have one staff person trained and able to manage onsite data using GIS.

Status: Complete-One staff person (Jarone Baker) has received basic 3 day GIS training as well as onsite tutorial. Has basic knowledge and skills to manipulate and portray data in a GIS format

Deliverable / Outcome 1.3 -Baseline MRA onsite data will be made available in GIS with web access and data will be updated regularly as new information is available,

Status: Complete - MRA parcel mapping has been prepared with color coding to show development status (vacant / improved) and availability of OSS data for each parcel. A companion data base has been developed to show the detail of OSS data available for each parcel in combination with property owner (taxpayer) name and address for MRA program staff use. Maps have been placed on website for MRA property owner and general public access at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/mra/maps.aspx>

Task 2 – Education/outreach to MRA communities

- Familiarize affected communities with the environmental and public health concerns associated with failing septic, provide information about technical and financial options, gain understanding about community norms and barriers to implementing septic system repairs and work collaboratively towards solutions, and;
- Work with industry, designers, installers and O&M providers, to establish MRA specific policies and standards for evaluating, quantifying, reporting and repairing systems within the MRA.

Due Date / Time Frame - July 08-June 09

Budget - \$53,000 **Expenditure for Period** - \$

Status: Complete – work finished under Memorandum of Agreement between Seattle King County Public Health and King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks / Water and land Resources Division for completion of Task 2.

- **Deliverable / Outcome 2.1** - Strategy defined to lift shellfish restrictions.

Status: Complete - Working with MRA project implementation team and Septic Solutions subcommittee a core strategy to lift shellfish restriction was defined that included:

- Providing notice to MRA property owners and follow-up community meetings for MRA property owners;
- Development of an MRA webpage to provide information including property compliance status via color coded parcel mapping, frequently asked questions concerning benefits and barriers to MRA compliance, OSS inspection requirements and MRA background information.

MRA implementation support efforts were completed including:

- Holding an alternative Septic System vendor fair to familiarize MRA owners with current on-site wastewater treatment alternatives;
- Seeking grant funding to capitalize a MRA OSS loan repair program via Shore Bank;
- Developing a MRA owner survey to reinforce information on options to respond to the MRA designation and compile information on individual MRA compliance preferences; and,
- Providing general MRA outreach information at the Vashon community Low Tide Festival and Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Committee meetings.

The public outreach strategy development and coordination was continued working with the Vashon Septic Solutions subcommittee in three meetings. Topics covered on 4/18/09 included:

- MRA website status;
- Report on application submitted for economic stimulus grant application for OSS repair loan assistance similar to the Hood Canal program offered via Shore Bank;
- Final coordination for Sludge Fest OSS alternative technology vendor fair on 4/18/09;
- Discussed participation in Low Tide Festival with MRA outreach booth on 5/25/09;
- Discussed plans for MRA property owner community meetings;
- Discussed access to Quatermaster harbor Wastewater Treatment Option report; and,
- Discussed plan for KVI AM 510 Septic Solution radio show focused on the sponsored by WOSSA.

Topics covered on 5/13/09 Septic Solutions meeting included:

- Debrief on Sludge Fest OSS alternative technology vendor fair – 200 participants attended and email contact list for Septic Solution subcommittee was doubled;
- Finalized plan for participation in Low Tide Festival with MRA outreach booth on 5/25/09;
- Report on application results for economic stimulus grant application for OSS repair loan assistance similar to the Hood Canal program offered via Shore Bank. Discussed subsequent offer for standard State Revolving Fund loan funding and decision instead to seek future grant or appropriation to capitalize a loan program;
- Update on website status and plan to place Quartermaster Harbor Community Wastewater Treatment Options study on site;
- Report on plan to provide information on OSS type, cost and designer for recent MRA repair or replacement via website as alternate to creation of hypothetical examples of alternative scenarios for OSS;
- Discussed conducting survey of MRA property owners and possible topics for questions to provide information on MRA compliance options and gather information on owner preferences; and,
- Discussed shellfish using inter-tidal shellfish planting program to improve water quality and motivate waterfront property owners to repair failing OSS.

Information for Septic Solutions committee consideration provided for their meeting on 6/09/09 including:

- Reported on schedule for MRA property owner community meetings to be held on 6/6/09, 6/13/09 and 6/17/09 at location where the Sludge Fest was held;
- Reported the Septic Solutions radio show call-in MRA meeting planned for June 14th did not get final approval from PH-SKC and was cancelled. PH-SKC is working with PH and WOSS in an effort to reprogram the funding to do a Septic Solutions radio show focusing on MRA's for the full Puget Sound;
- Provided draft MRA survey for Septic Solutions subcommittee review and comment. The survey is based on the Hood Canal survey prepared by the Hood Canal Coordinating Committee in 2005 with modification to reflect the circumstances for the MRA on VMI. PH-SKC is considering sending the survey to all MRA property owners in an effort to gather information and help owners identify the considerations / options for addressing their wastewater management within the MRA; and,
- Reported multiple parties interested in shellfish propagation in Quartermaster Harbor have been identified, provided contact information and suggested a coordination effort via Septic Solutions subcommittee or the Quartermaster Harbor Nitrogen Loading Study might be a good next step.

MRA implementation activity was reported to the Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Committee on 4/22/09 as follows:

- Public notice of the Marine Recovery Area has been mailed to the 290 owners in the area. The letter advises the MRA designation requires property owners within the MRA to inspect, and repair or replace their On-Site Sewage (OSS) system if needed by July 1, 2012, then annually inspect OSS function after 2012.
 - The MRA letter also provided notice of the April 18, 2009 “Sludge Fest” alternative septic vendor fair.
 - Public meetings will be held in June and a web site will be available to provide information on the MRA including maps showing designated properties and their state of MRA compliance.
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- **Deliverable / Outcome 2.2** – Percentage of systems status known; and, failing systems repaired/replaced.

Status: Complete - Parcel base mapping has been integrated with the OSS inventory records from Environmental Health and property ownership records from the Assessor in map format per Task 1. A companion data base has been developed to show the detail of OSS data available for each parcel in combination with property owner (taxpayer) name and address for MRA program staff use. Maps have been placed on website for MRA property owner and general public access at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/mra/maps.aspx>

- **Deliverable / Outcome 2.3** -. Community contacted and familiarized with concerns associated with failing OSS and repair options (financial/technical).

Status: Complete - Introductory letter to MRA property owners advising of concerns associated with failing septic, obligation to address MRA requirements and resources to assist property owners was provided in letter dated April 13, 2009. A copy of the MRA property owner letter is available at:

<ftp://green.kingcounty.gov/transfer/Marine%20Recovery%20Area/>

The MRA owner support information has been compiled on a MRA webpage including OSS compliance status mapping, and standards for evaluating, reporting and repairing systems at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/mra.aspx>

An OSS vendor fair was held to showcase latest on-site wastewater treatment technology for MRA property owners with constrained sites working with community sponsors. The vendor fair information is temporarily posted to the Vashon-Maury Island Groundwater Protection Committee webpage at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/waterandland/groundwater/management-areas/vashon-maury-island-gwma/committee/2009-septic-system-fair.aspx>

Strategies for property owners to address the MRA requirements were reviewed in presentations made to MRA property owners in meetings on 6/6/09, 6/13/09 and 6/17/09. A copy of the MRA public meeting agenda and presentation is available <ftp://green.kingcounty.gov/transfer/Marine%20Recovery%20Area/>

- **Deliverable / Outcome 2.4** - Barriers to OSS repair identified /documented; preferred solution strategies developed working with community using social marketing strategy developed in Task 3.

Status: Complete – A summary of frequently asked questions responding to identified barriers and benefits to MRA compliance as developed with focus group review via Vashon Septic Solutions subcommittee posted to website at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/mra/faq.aspx>

Preferred solutions were developed working with Vashon Septic Solutions subcommittee and MRA owners in public meetings including:

- Evaluate OSS function for existing systems using professional inspector services;
- Repair or replace failing systems using latest OSS technology and alternatives such as composting or incinerating toilets and water conservation to reduce OSS loading; Evaluate small and large community wastewater treatment system alternatives as an alternative to OSS where necessary and cost effective;
- Develop a follow-up survey to reinforce information on MRA owner options/cost to respond to the MRA designation and collect information on owner preferences. A copy of the draft property MRA property owner survey is available at <ftp://green.kingcounty.gov/transfer/Marine%20Recovery%20Area/>

Deliverable / Outcome 2.5 - Policies and standards for OSS inspection, reporting and repair developed working with designers and installers.

Status: Complete - Policies and standards for OSS inspection, reporting and repair were developed working with designers and installers. The policies were presented to MRA property owners in meetings held on 6/6/09, 6/13/09 and 6/17/09. The MRA OSS inspection form is available on the MRA website at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/ehs/wastewater/mra.aspx>

Task 3 Design and implement “social marketing / behavioral change” strategies directed at both community and regulatory agencies

- Clearly identify social and institutional and legal barriers to septic system repair and replacement, and;
- Design strategies to overcome identified barriers.

Due Date / Time Frame - July 08-June 09

Budget - \$10,000 Expenditure for Period - \$

Deliverable / Outcome 3.1 -“Social marketing and behavioral change tool kit” that will be used in conjunction with the outreach effort.

Status: Draft summary of barriers and benefits to MRA compliance including proposed strategy to overcome identified barriers prepared and distributed for focus group review by Vashon Septic Solutions subcommittee.

Deliverable / Outcome 3.2 - Percentage of property owners in the MRA who voluntarily make necessary upgrades.

Status: