

## City launches Sewer Lake Line Study

To determine the condition of 13 miles of sewer pipe that runs in and along Lake Washington, the City has launched the Sewer Lake Line Study. Over the next couple of years, Utilities employees and consultants will assess this part of the City's sewer system, which serves lakefront and upland properties in Bellevue, Yarrow Point, Hunts Point, Medina, and Beaux Arts, plus a small portion of unincorporated King County near Renton.

Much of the lake line, built in the 1950s and 1960s, may be nearing the end of its useful life. If and when aging lake line pipes break, residents can lose service, and raw sewage can flow into the lake, possibly damaging shoreline habitat and closing beaches.

Assessment of the lake line will help Utilities produce a "road map" to determine areas of pipe that need rehabilitation or replacement or that have more years of use. One challenge of the project is that development along the lake has made access to and maintenance of a number of pipes difficult. Because the pipes are buried, the City will need permission from residents to access private property and dig up the ground in various places to get a pipe sample. In many locations, crews will also need to access cleanouts and manholes to videotape the pipe.

The completed study will be the basis for on-going operations and maintenance, in addition to being part of a larger Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to design, permit and construct replacements or rehabilitations.

Please note that a separate City project to cover up exposed portions of the lake line at various locations is scheduled to occur in the fall of 2010/winter 2011. Residents may see activity for this work at the same time as the Sewer Lake Line Study (as discussed above). Separate notifications to residents have been and will be made for the work associated with the study.

Utilities will be contacting local property owners to give them more details about the Sewer Lake Line Study. If you have questions, please call Jay Hummel, P.E., Capital Projects Manager, Utilities Engineering, 425-452-4160.

