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County moving forward on stormwater drainage projects *Aggressive construction program targets urban flooding in Southwest areas*

Snohomish County Public Works will start construction this year on 44 stormwater drainage improvement projects, 17 of which are funded by Surface Water Management (SWM) fees within the Southwest Urban Growth Area (SWUGA). Four of the largest SWUGA projects are part of a six-project drainage bid package to be constructed this summer and fall.

The SWUGA funding was created in 2003 by a County Council-approved SWM fee increase specifically to resolve drainage problems within the SWUGA. The increase has funded 26 drainage projects to be completed within two years. So far, 12 projects have been completed with SWUGA funds, with an additional 13 scheduled for construction this year.

“We are highly supportive of this drainage work,” says County Councilman Dave Gossett. “By expanding our ability to handle stormwater drainage within the most densely populated areas of our county, we will further enhance both the environment and our quality of life.”

The County began an aggressive program in 2001 to reduce urban stormwater flooding. The first step was completion in 2002 of the Drainage Needs Report (DNR), a comprehensive look at existing and projected flooding conditions, water quality, habitat problems and other drainage issues in the UGAs. The DNR (available online at <http://www.co.snohomish.wa.us/publicwk/swm/index.htm>) produced a comprehensive drainage system inventory in the unincorporated UGAs, along with preliminary design of approximately 220 drainage-related projects (both public and private) to be completed throughout the UGAs. The total estimated construction cost of the projects is \$84.6 million (2002 dollars). The list eventually was expanded to 240 public projects, about 50 of which will be completed by the end of 2004.

All six projects included in the current bid package were developed through the DNR. Interested bidders have until 3 p.m., April 27 to submit their bids. For more information on the bidding process, call (425) 388-6453.

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