

BREMERTON-KITSAP COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION
WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

1997 TRACYTON SANITARY SURVEY PROJECT

FINAL REPORT

By:

Mike McNickle
Sanitary Survey Program Coordinator
Water Quality Program

and

Leslie Banigan
Environmental Health Technician
Water Quality Program

December 1997

This project made possible by funding from Centennial Clean Water Fund Grant #G9600217

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Water Quality Program of the Bremerton-Kitsap County Health District (Health District) conducted a sanitary survey of the on-site sewage systems (OSS) in the Tracyton area during the spring of 1997. The purpose of this project was to identify and correct sources of nonpoint pollution, especially failing OSS, from the Tracyton area to Dyes Inlet, and to prevent future OSS failures by providing OSS operation and maintenance information to residents and business owners of the area.

Four work elements were completed during the project: marine water quality monitoring, a shoreline survey, a stormwater survey, and a sanitary survey and inspection of OSS. The survey and inspection of OSS was the major work element for this project. All project work followed applicable and accepted protocols.

Sanitary survey results showed that seven percent (7%, 9 of 137) of Tracyton's OSS were found failing during the project. Project area marine waters and stormwaters were found to contain elevated levels of fecal coliform bacteria, which appeared to be at least partially attributable to these local failing OSS. Sanitary survey results and field observations suggest that most, if not all, of the property parcels in the project area are individually repairable, if necessary, according to current OSS regulations and technology. All nine of the OSS failures were repaired by October 1, 1997. Tracyton's seven (7%) percent OSS failure rate falls within the range of OSS failure rates for other Kitsap County areas surveyed by the Health District in the last 10 years (3% to 18%).

The Health District recommends that these seven OSS listed as "suspect" be re-inspected during the 1997-98 wet season to ensure that they, too, are not failing and contributing contamination to area marine waters and stormwaters. The Health District should continue OSS information distribution, and property owners should be cognizant of the location of their OSS, and the proper operation and maintenance guidelines/requirements associated with their OSS. The Health District should track water quality improvements and/or declines in the Tracyton area, and continue to work to correct sources of nonpoint pollution as they are identified through the Kitsap County Surface and Storm Water Management Program.