

**PRESS RELEASE**

**August 19, 2003**

**MASON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR  
411 NORTH 5<sup>th</sup> ST  
SHELTON, WA 98584  
(360) 427-9670 EXT. 263**

**TO:** KMAS, KRXY, SHELTON-MASON COUNTY JOURNAL, THE OLYMPIAN, SHELTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTH MASON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, CITY OF SHELTON, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, THE SUN

**Re:** Mason County Department of Health Services Receives a Grant From the Department of Ecology to do Work in Oakland Bay Watershed

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The Mason County Department of Health Services has received a grant to do work to determine sources of fecal coliform and other water quality pollutants flowing from the land to Oakland Bay. The project will also provide data for Ecology's TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) activities and contains education components for homeowners and landowners engaged in agricultural activities.

The Mason Conservation District will receive funding from this grant in the amount of \$10,000 to provide technical assistance to property owners to improve agricultural land use practices. WSU Co-Operative Extension will receive \$3,000 to develop an educational outreach program including educational workshops; information at the Mason County Fair and Oysterfest; and newspaper and radio spots. The remainder of the funds, \$31,771, will stay with the Department of Health Services for water quality and stream flow monitoring; increased water sampling for temperature, salinity, fecal coliform bacteria and flows where applicable; and onsite septic system evaluations.

Because the funds come from Ecology's Water Quality Coastal Protection Account, it requires no local match. This project continues the cooperative efforts of the Department of Ecology, the Mason County Department of Health Services, the Mason Conservation District, the WRIA 14 Watershed Planning Unit; WSU Co-Operative Extension and the citizens of Mason County to protect and enhance the water quality in Oakland Bay.

For information contact: the Mason County Department of Health Services at 360-427-9670 Ext. 544

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Ron Henrickson, Mason County Administrator