

# **Summary of Septic System Operation and Maintenance Program for the Henderson Watershed Protection Area**

**Purpose of the program is** to reduce fecal coliform pollution from on-site sewage systems in Henderson Inlet and its tributaries. This will be accomplished by establishing an area of special concern called the Henderson Watershed Protection Area (HWP) and requiring owners to show that septic systems are properly operated and maintained. Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department would manage the HWP program.

## **Program Area (see Map below):**

- < The area includes that portion of Henderson Inlet Shellfish Protection District that is more likely to have an impact on water quality.
- < There shall be an annual review of the map to update the boundary accuracy. The map shall be used to generate the property rolls for program billing, which are included on the property tax statements.

## **Criteria for including properties:**

- < If any portion of the property is within the area, the property is considered to be within the program area.
- < Rates and charges shall apply to those properties with an on-site sewage system where any portion, including a building, and any collection, transport, treatment and disposal components, is within the program area.

**High and Low Risk System Designation:** Criteria have been adopted for ranking on-site sewage systems as posing a high or low risk to public health by contributing to water quality degradation if failing. These criteria are based on soil type, proximity to surface water, and other appropriate criteria.

## **Requirements:**

- < All septic systems within the program area must have renewable operational certificates.
- < All operational certificates must be kept current and renewed on prescribed schedule.
- < Requirements for certificate renewal shall include:
  - Routine maintenance inspections, including dye tests for high-risk systems
  - Submittal of inspection reports to the Department

**Review Period:** Once a year property owners may request a review of whether Henderson Watershed Protection Area requirements apply to their properties. The applicant must show that the request is warranted. The review applications are due by April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year.

**Rates and Charges.** Beginning in January, 2007, the following rates and charges shall be imposed:

Low Risk system     \$ 32

High Risk system     \$ 87

Community system \$160     Each parcel where a septic tank is located that is connected to the community on-site system shall also be charged either the rate for a low risk system or high risk system, as applicable.

For each subsequent year, the charges shall be automatically adjusted each January 1 by the percentage increase, if any, in the July Consumer Price Index for the previous year. The maximum increase shall be 3.5%.

# ***Henderson Watershed Protection Area***

