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## LFP residents want to stay on well water

### Citizens fight possible connection to Seattle utilities

By Amy Daybert  
Enterprise editor

Lake Forest Park residents are out to protect their well water.

"This issue is vitally important to the constituents of Lake Forest Park," Jean Thomas told the City Council on Sept. 13. She said chemical-free well water is a key reason she remains a Lake Forest Park resident.

Thomas and others addressed the council after learning about discrepancies in a 2003 mitigation agreement by King County and the Lake Forest Park Water District (LFPWD). The agreement outlines a plan to supply water to residents if construction of the county's Brightwater Wastewater Treatment System affects the city's aquifer.

According to the agreement, the county is responsible for "drilling and development of a new deep well water source" and "in the event that this mitigation measure is technically or legally infeasible, creating an intertie for the District to obtain potable water from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU)."

Residents are passionately opposed to receiving water from SPU.

"Does anyone think for a nano-moment that anyone will listen to our water problems?" Jeanette Pickard said. "We have a contract with Brightwater. If Brightwater wants to break that contract, they should not enter one inch of Lake Forest Park--even if it takes a class action suit."

Suzie Grey, a resident for the past 14 years, said she was concerned about potential harmful effects of chlorinated water.

"People come to my house and say, 'This water is so delicious, where do you get it?'" Grey said. "I think we need to give serious consideration to the harm that could come to us if we are connected to a Seattle water system."

Residents want the County to follow through with construction of a new well. The County and LFPWD scheduled mediation for Sept. 26 to discuss mitigation.

"The key thing for us now is to meet in mediation and come to terms with an agreement," said Gunars Sreibers, capital projects managing supervisor for Brightwater.

He said the County realizes there's a clear dispute in how the 2003 agreement is interpreted and that the LFPWD would like a back-up well installed.

District commissioner Bill Currie said that though the district represents only about 20 percent of the residents in Lake Forest Park, it is "carekeeper of an important treasure."

"We do want to carry forth," he said. "Time is of the essence. We can't wait until they drill through our aquifer."

According to Sreibers, 20 well sites have been considered but a location has not been determined. The northern corner of Horizon View Park is one possible site for a new well. Currie told the council there may be less than a 50 percent chance of needing to test drill at another site.

"I understand there is a need and a desire for restrooms at Horizon View Park," he said. "Maybe we can help you if you can help us."

Mayor Dave Hutchinson and council members agreed to send a letter to both parties in support of drilling a test well and requesting that the spirit of the agreement be honored

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HeraldNet County Connection Snohomish County Business Journal Pickle Press	"I think the agreement the County made with the District is very clear," Hutchinson said. "(The County) owes something. Now, whether they have the money to do that is something else."	<b>Out and About</b>
		
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