

Nisqually Water Improvements

This project is a part of the City's ongoing efforts to update and maintain our water system. The existing water mains in this area are made of materials that we stopped installing over 40 years ago. Some of the lines are old and brittle and have developed leaks. The City replaces water mains prior to them experiencing continuous failures.

This project will replace the water mains and services up to your water meter.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. Will anyone be digging in my yard?

Most of the work will be done in the Right-Of-Way (ROW). The ROW is generally 60 feet wide; 30 feet each way from the centerline of the road. This includes the paved street and some of the area that you may consider your yard or parking area. In some cases, the existing water meter is near your house and we will be installing a new water meter near the road and installing a new water pipe up to where the existing meter is now. Whether it is in your yard or the R-O-W, the contractor is responsible to restore the landscaping disturbed by new construction.

2. Will I be able to get in and out of my driveway?

Yes, however, there may be a short period of time that access is limited while the work is being done directly in front of your house. If you see the crew digging up the street to your house and you have concerns about driveway access during a certain time, you can make arrangements with the contractor or the City inspector. They may ask you to park in front of a neighbor's house for the day. In most cases, the contractor will be past your home in less than 8 hours.

3. What hours will the contractor be working?

Typical working hours are 7 am to 5 pm, however, they are allowed to work as late as 9 pm.

4. Will the roads be blocked during construction?

In most cases they can let you drive through on a road or an area that they are digging with only a very minor delay. However, there will be times when they are digging or loading dump trucks that they will need to close the road to traffic for up to 15 minutes at a time. If you want to avoid any delays we suggest using an alternate route. The workers are trained for traffic control to make sure you get through safely.



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5. Will my water be turned off?

We will need to shut the water off in isolated places during the day (typically 8 am – 4 pm), for one day at a time, to make connections from the existing water mains to the new water mains. Prior to shutting the water off, we will give you notice a couple days before it is scheduled. On a large project like this, it will be shut off more than once. The contractor may also knock on your door and notify you that the water may be off for a short time while they hook the new water meter up to your house. It usually is off for about 30 minutes. You may request that they wait for a period of time if you need to finish the wash cycle, a shower or whatever.

6. Will the new pipes change the water supply to my house?

No, the pressure in the new pipes will be the same as the pressure in the old pipes. The pressure in all the pipes, no matter what size the pipes are, is determined by reservoirs and system pumps that hold a consistent pressure in your neighborhood. The Water Meter determines the volume of water that can travel through the meter, and we will re-use the existing meter for your house.

7. What else should I know about the new Water Meter?

The new meter holder contains a check valve. Some of your existing meter holders do not have a check valve. With no check valve, the additional water volume created by your plumbing's thermal expansion at the hot water tank relieves pressure by flowing water back into the City's water supply. The check valve on the new meter setter prevents this water from entering the water system and prevents water system contamination.

If your plumbing has not been brought up to current code with a thermal expansion tank, your home system's thermal expansion may now cause your existing water heating tank, faucets and shower heads to drip. Please note that this does not mean that your existing water heating tank, faucets and shower heads are no longer working properly. The tank's pressure relief valve is doing what it is designed to do. Installing a diaphragm type expansion tank onto your existing water heating tank will resolve thermal expansion created problems.

8. Will any other utilities be turned off?

We do not anticipate turning off any other utilities, but other utilities are buried in the ground, and a utility (phone, power, internet, cable) may be cut or disturbed. If this happens, please report it to the utility and to the City of Lacey Public Works Department.

9. Who is the contractor and how were they selected?

The Contractor is Pape & Sons Construction Inc. from Gig Harbor WA. They were selected using the competitive bid process required by Washington State and they were the lowest price bid.



10. Will there be any hazards that I should be aware of?

There will be large machines designed for digging in the ground and hauling heavy loads. You may notice most of the workers will be wearing hard hats and safety vests within the work area. Please do not enter the work area. If you need to drive or walk near the construction area please wait for the traffic control workers to direct you through the area.

If you have an urgent construction concern or issue, please call the City of Lacey Public Works Department at 360-491-5600.

Please email any additional questions or concerns to AArgeris@ci.lacey.wa.us.