



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEWS RELEASE

City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

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Mayor breaks ground for new fire station in High Point

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels today celebrated the beginning of construction of the new Fire Station 37 in West Seattle/High Point Neighborhood.

The project is part of the Fire Levy program, the biggest undertaking in the last 40 years to upgrade, replace and modernize fire stations.

“Across the city, from the University District to Rainier Valley to the new large fire boat in Elliott Bay, Seattle residents can see their tax dollars at work as we implement Fire Levy projects and make Seattle safer and better prepared,” said Nickels.

Built in 1925, Fire Station 37 is one of the oldest operating stations in the city. The new, larger station will meet current seismic code — and provide the space necessary for modern equipment and operational requirements. The replacement station is designed to withstand an earthquake and allow firefighters to provide critical services to the community.

“Our firefighters and medics can’t respond effectively to today’s threats with yesterday’s facilities and equipment,” said Nickels. “The Fire Levy provides a unique opportunity to modernize fire stations and emergency response.”

Fire Station 37, located at 7300 35th Ave. S.W., houses Engine 37. In 2008, Engine 37 went on more than 2,200 alarms.

The new station, located two blocks south of the current station, will more than twice the size, expanding from 4,184 square feet to 9,200 square feet. The \$6.6 million project was designed by Miller Hayashi architects.

The project design reflects the city’s commitment to sustainability and is on target to achieve a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver rating. The new building will achieve energy savings of approximately 15 percent beyond code. The project includes a green screen, a vertical planting on a trellis, for greenhouse gas mitigation. A rain garden will clean and slow down water before it enters the storm water system.

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As part of the 1% for Art Program, artist Pete Beeman is fabricating a kinetic sculpture designed specifically for the site. The work symbolizes Seattle Fire Department values of strength and protection.

In 2003, Seattle voters approved the Fire Facilities and Emergency Response Levy, which was designed with lessons learned from the Nisqually earthquake, the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and the 1995 Kobe earthquake, among others.

The \$167 million levy is helping Seattle make significant progress on getting prepared, including:

- Rebuilding or upgrading 32 neighborhood fire stations to better withstand earthquakes and ensure that the city's emergency responders are available to help when they are needed most.
- Re-opening the seismically upgraded/improved Fire Station 31 in Northgate in April 2009.
- Opening the city's new state-of-the-art Fire Station 10, Fire Alarm Center, and Emergency Operations Center, located in a 60,333 square foot complex, in 2008.
- Adding two new fireboats, the flagship Leschi, delivered last year, and the smaller fire and rescue boat, Engine 1, which went into service in 2006. The Chief Seattle Fireboat is being renovated.
- Creating a new Joint Training Facility for firefighters that opened in 2007.
- Providing an emergency water supply for fighting fires. Hardened hydrants at city reservoirs allow firefighters to draw water directly from reservoirs in an emergency.
- Placing emergency supply caches at four locations around Seattle.
- Installing emergency generators at six community centers.

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