CLARK COUNTY
CLEAN WATER COMMISSION
Meeting Notes

Wednesday, April 4, 2012
6:30 – 8:30 P.M.
Public Service Center, 6th Floor Training Room
1300 Franklin Street, Vancouver

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present
Troy Maxcy, David Morgan, Nancy Olmsted, Brian Peck, Susan Rasmussen, Art Stubbs, Virginia van Breemen

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent
Jim Carlson, Don Moe

Clark County Staff
Cary Armstrong, Travis Goddard, Earl Rowell, Bobbi Trusty, Ron Wierenga

Public
Jay Casciato, Ted Anderson, Terry Collier, David Collier, Edward Grubel, Karen Watkins, Betty English, Eric Lambert

Quorum

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda and material review
1. Agenda
2. March 6, 2012, Meeting Notes
3. Handouts from presentations

Approval
The March 6, 2012, notes were approved as submitted.

Special Presentations - On-site Septic System Overview (Presentations attached)
- Steve Bacon, Clark Regional Wastewater District, On-site System Elimination Program
- Sheryl Hale, City of Vancouver, Sewer Connection Incentive Program
- Aaron Henderson, Clark County Public Health, Management of On-site Septic Systems in unincorporated Clark County

The Clean Water Commissioners (CWC) thought the presentations were very informative and thanked the presenters for coming.

The CWC reviewed how failing septic systems relates to the role of the commission and how it affects Clark County's stormwater system. Concerns were raise over septic system waste contaminating stormwater runoff and surface water. In addition, the CWC discussed Clark Regional Wastewater District and City of Vancouver funding for sewer projects; Clark County Public Health's two-year septic deferral inspection program; septic system inspection; and the community's reliance on homeowners to complete the septic inspections.

Commissioners requested time on the next meeting agenda to discuss potential policy recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners.

Clean Water Commissioners: Communications with the Public

As a new Clean Water Commissioner, Mr. Maxcy introduced himself and offered that he is a conservationist, wants a healthy community, is interested in politics and would like to be more involved in the community. For the last 12 years, he has been involved with youth soccer at the state and local levels, and is familiar with parliamentary procedures. Mr. Maxcy is also a UPS driver.

Public Comments

None

Action Items

Debrief of the Work Session: CWC 2011 Annual Report with the Board of County Commissioners

The take home message was that the Clean Water Commission (CWC) is an advisory board to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC), which requested more frequent feedback and policy recommendations from the CWC. As the CWC elicits comments and concerns from the public, the information received should be relayed to the BOCC, along with the CWC's recommendations.

The CWC also heard the BOCC say that there is not enough signage explaining the purpose of stormwater facilities. Mr. Wierenga acknowledged that the county recently designed a more informative sign using an education grant from the Washington Department of Ecology, and that he will bring a sign to the next CWC meeting.

Clean Water Program Update

None

Public Comments

None

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bobbi Trusty

Action Items

- Prepare recommendations for the Board of County Commissioners regarding the on-site septic systems for discussion at the next meeting.
- Staff will present the new signs for stormwater facilities at the CWC meeting on May 2, 2012.

SEPTIC ELIMINATION PROGRAM

Steve Bacon

April 4, 2012

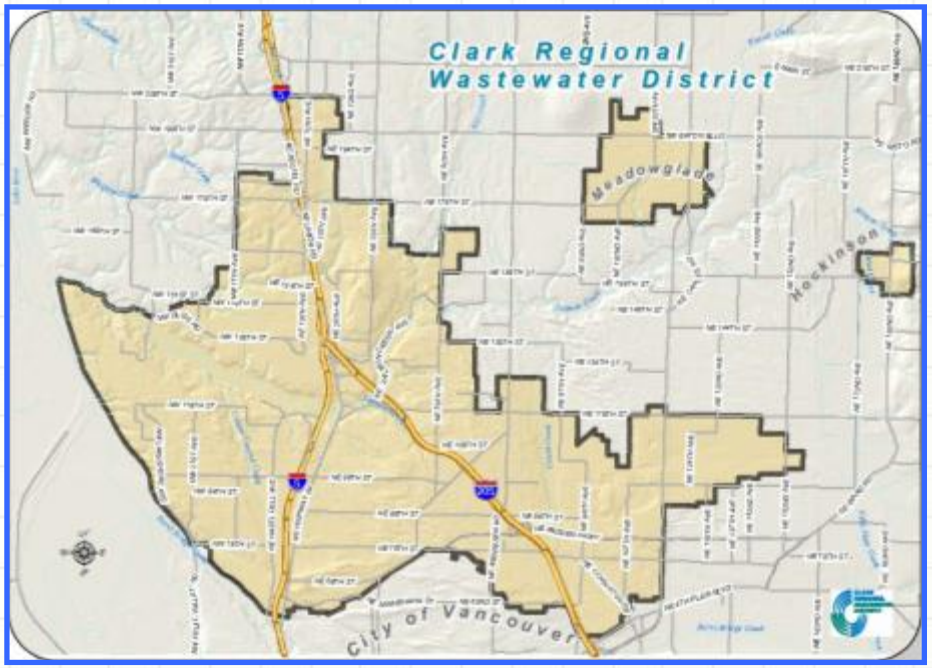
CLARK REGIONAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT

Agenda

- Introduction - Clark Regional Wastewater District
- Septic Elimination Program
  - Need
  - Administering
  - Current Efforts
- Scope/Scale of Septic Elimination
- Q & A

Introduction –CRWWD

- Special Purpose District Established in 1958
- Service: 80,000 customers, 37 square miles, 34,000 ERUs
- 38 Employees: 550 miles of pipe, 50 pump stations, satellite STEP systems
- Service provider to urban unincorporated Clark County



"Provide customer-focused, professional wastewater services in an environmentally and financially responsible manner."

Septic Elimination Program

- Approximately 7,000 Septic Tanks Within District Service Area
- Failures Can Cause Untreated Septic Effluent to:
  - Neighborhood ditches & streams
  - Backyards
  - Groundwater

- Implemented District Code Chapter 5.38 “Septic Elimination Program” in 2008

Septic Elimination Program

- Administering
  - Reviewed Annually
  - Criteria/Rank
  - Funded as part of CIP
  - Agreement with City of Vancouver
- Incentives
  - Cost deferral
  - Low-cost financing

Septic Elimination Program

- Sunnyside - $800 K
  - 96 homes
  - Very High coliform levels in creek
  - 25% connected 1st year
- Diamond Willow - $250K
  - 17 homes
  - R&R program link
  - Many interested
  - Partnership w/Clark County
- LaLonde (in design) - $350 est.
  - 28 homes
  - Septic failures
  - High coliform levels in creek
  - High ground water

Scope/Scale of Septic Elimination

- Lots Within Program: 1,600
- Project Areas: 47
- Average Lot Size: 12,500 s.f.
- Age of Septics:
  - Most homes built 40-55 yrs ago
    - Oldest-1917
    - Newest-1990
- Total Program Cost : $26M

Questions?

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit www.CRWWD.com

Steve Bacon

sbacon@crwwd.com

Direct 360.993.8810

Office 360.750.5876

CLARK REGIONAL WASTEWATER DISTRICT

Sewer **C**onnection **I**ncentive **P**rogram

SCIP Program Presentation

April 4, 2012

Today's Presentation

An overview of the City of Vancouver's Sewer Connection Incentive Program (SCIP), the history and the key accomplishments in providing safe, reliable public sewer for our community.

SCIP Goals & Value

- Protects groundwater, surface water and the public health
- Provides proactive approach to dealing with aging and failing septic systems
- Gives residents the option to connect before costly septic problems arise
- Effective and efficient: Good for homeowners, neighborhoods and community

History of SCIP

- 1970s – Growing concern about water supply amid septic failures. Example: original Ellsworth Springs well field
- 1979 thru 1992 – City imposes Sewer Penalty Charge as an approach to encourage connections
- 1993 – Council adopts SCIP Phase I to better encourage connections where public sewer existed.
- 675 homes connected in SCIP Phase I
- 1998 – Council adopts SCIP Phase II

SCIP Phase II - 1998

Designed to improve upon and address issues associated with Local Improvement Districts (LIDs)

- No Mandatory Connection – unless system is failing or the property is sold
- No payment until connection is made – In comparison, LIDs require payment whether homeowners connect or not.
- Properties with immediate need can connect quickly, others can wait until connection is wanted or required.

SCIP Phase II

City designs and constructs the sewer main and laterals

Property owner connects the house and decommissions the septic system

SCIP Phase II

Costs eligible for financing:

	2012 Costs
• Sewer Main Fee	$8,248
• System Development Charge	$2,740
• Private On-site Costs	$3,000 (typ)
	$13,988

– Financing is available to Single Family Properties eliminating an existing septic system

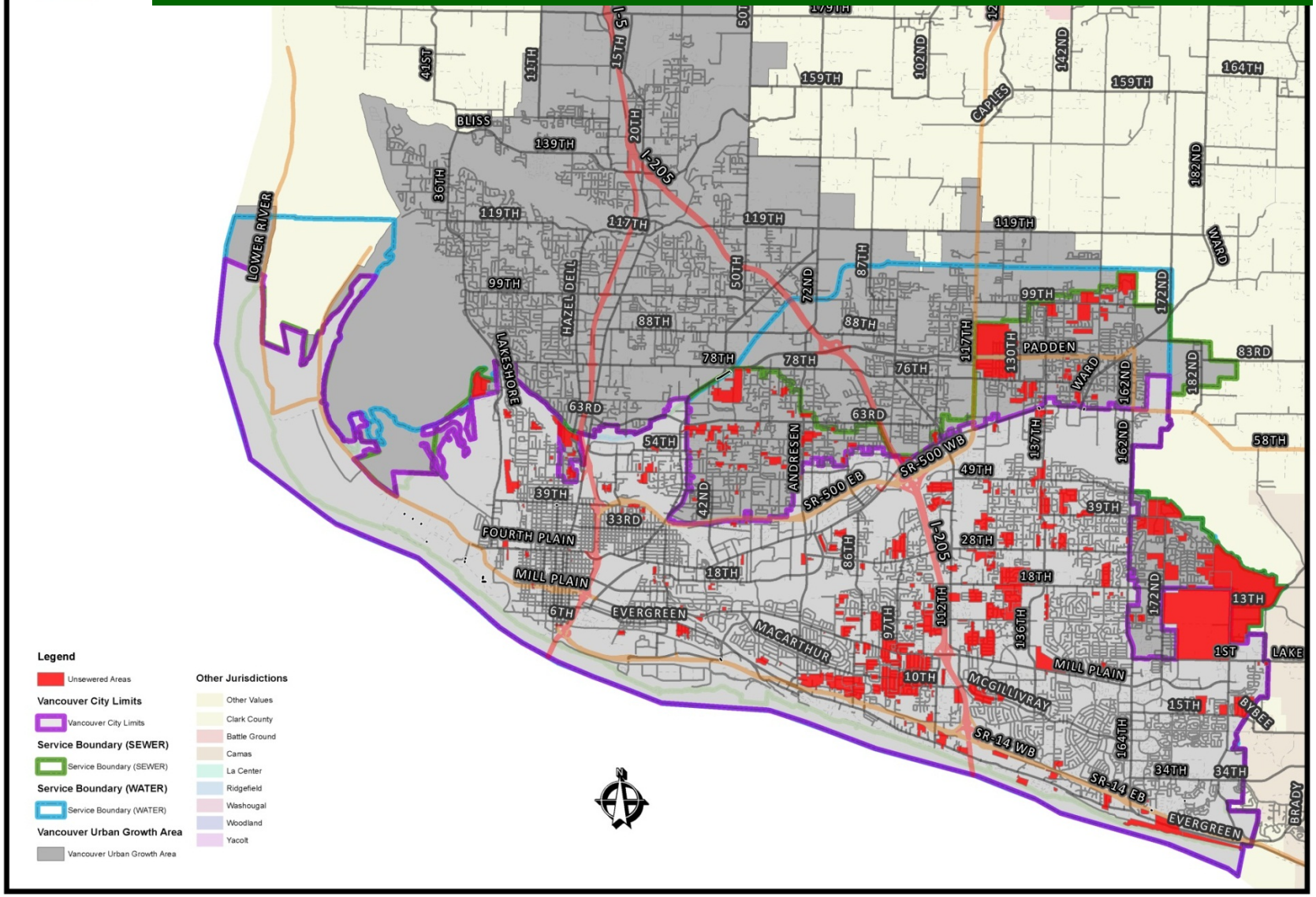
– Recommend extending to small business ≤ 50 EDUs

SCIP Phase II

Easy, economical, long-term financing

- 20-year loan
- No early pay-off penalty
- 1% above Bond Rate
- Provisions for the economically disadvantaged
- Loan paid off with the sale of the home
- Guaranteed Sewer Main Fee is available for 2 years after the sewer is available for connection.
- If actual project cost is lower than guarantee then charged actual cost

Areas Where Public Sewer Was Not Available When SCIP II Was Established -1998



Project Prioritization Factors

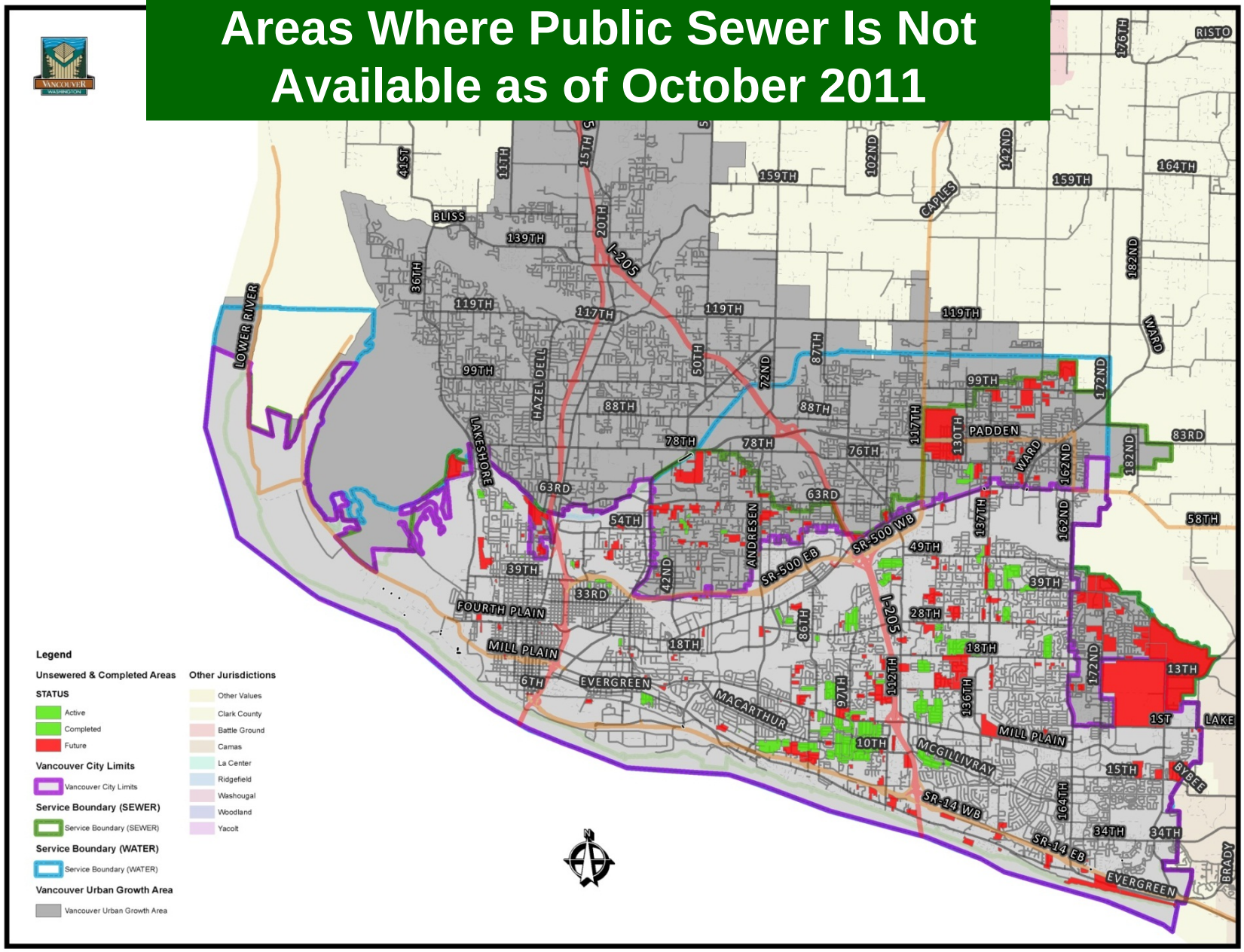
- Health hazards
  - Proximity to drinking and surface waters
  - Failure rates of septic systems in the area
- Lot size/density
- Homeowner and neighborhood support
- Coordination with other City projects/programs as well as Clark County Public Health and other utilities in the area

Program Outreach/Interaction

Includes:

- Inform property owners of proposed project
- Meet with neighbors to answer questions, outline process and provide handouts
- Work with property owners on placement of service laterals
- Provide advance notice of construction
- Notify property owners when sewer line is ready for connection

Areas Where Public Sewer Is Not Available as of October 2011



Connection Rate SCIP II

April 1998 thru October 2011

Number of Projects	62
Number of Parcels	2374
Number of Parcels Connected	1069
Percent Connected	**45%**
Percent Financed	**70%**

Work Remaining

Within City of Vancouver sewer service area: (as of October 2011)

- Approx. 6,100 septic systems in total City sewer service area
- Approx. 2,700 parcels have sewer immediately available
- Approx. 3,400 remaining parcels need sewer extension

SCIP Progress

SCIP Phase I & II			
April 1993 – December 2011	Projects	Parcels	Capital Costs
SCIP Phase I		675	$1,300,000
SCIP Phase II	62	2374	$16,800,000
Total Capital Investment - Projects	62	3049	$18,100,000

Financial Summary

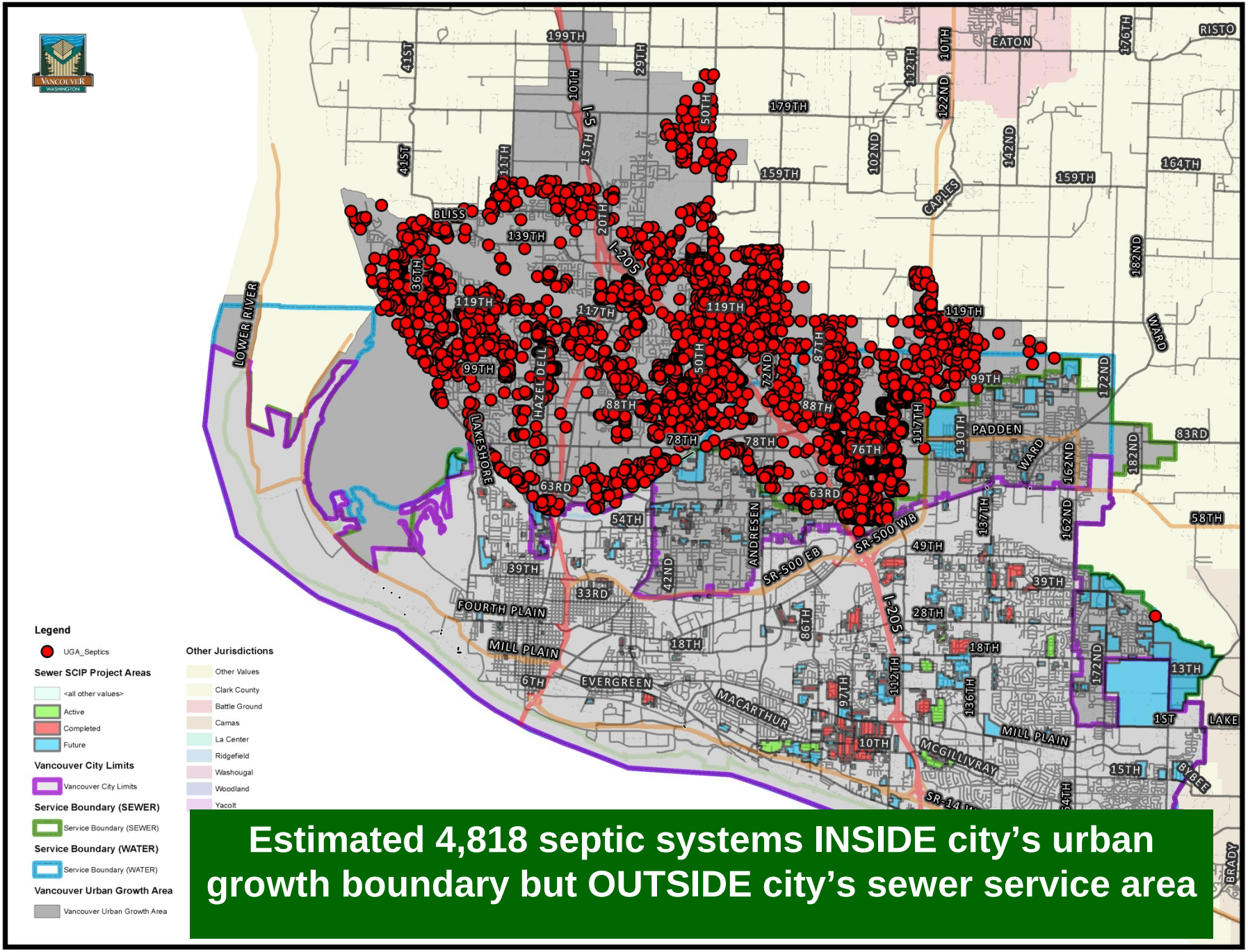
Cost for Sanitary Sewer Extension
(as of October 2011)

Construction cost (Sewer Main Fee)	$ 8,248/lot
On-site Plumbing &Tank Closure (typ.)	$ 3,000
System Development Charge (SDC)	$ 2,740
Total Capital Expense per Connection	$13,988

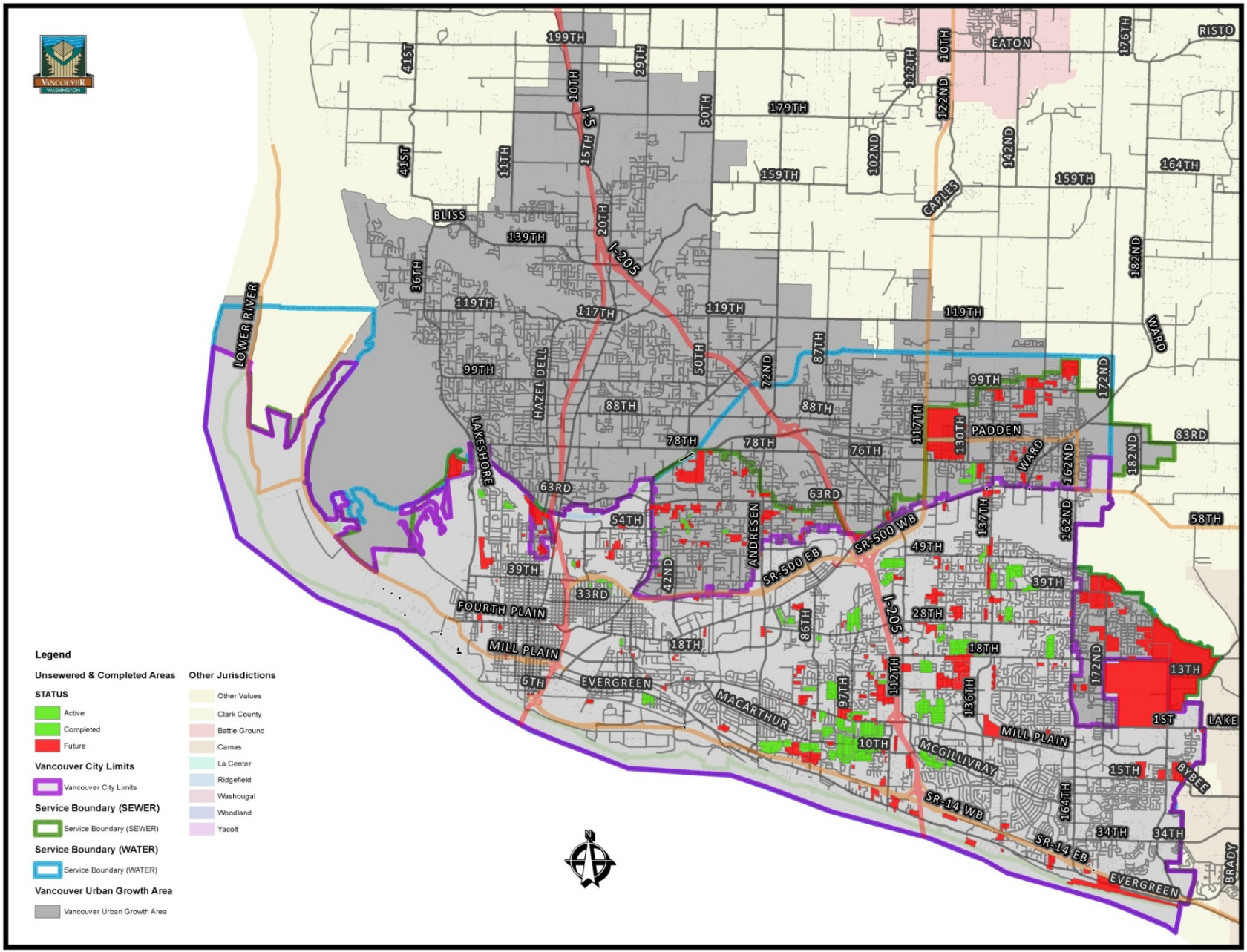
Total Estimated Capital Cost: $50,000,000

City Capital Const. Costs: $28,000,000

Questions?



Estimated 4,818 septic systems INSIDE city's urban growth boundary but OUTSIDE city's sewer service area


Legend
Unsewered & Completed Areas
STATUS
Active
Completed
Future
Vancouver City Limits
Vancouver City Limits
Service Boundary (SEWER)
Service Boundary (SEWER)
Service Boundary (WATER)
Service Boundary (WATER)
Vancouver Urban Growth Area
Vancouver Urban Growth Area
Other Jurisdictions
Other Values
Clark County
Battle Ground
Camas
La Center
Ridgefield
Washougal
Woodland
Yacolt
LOWER RIVER
BLISS
HAZEL DELL
LAKESHORE
FOURTH PLAIN
MILL PLAIN
EVERGREEN
MACARTHUR
ANDRESEN
PADDEN
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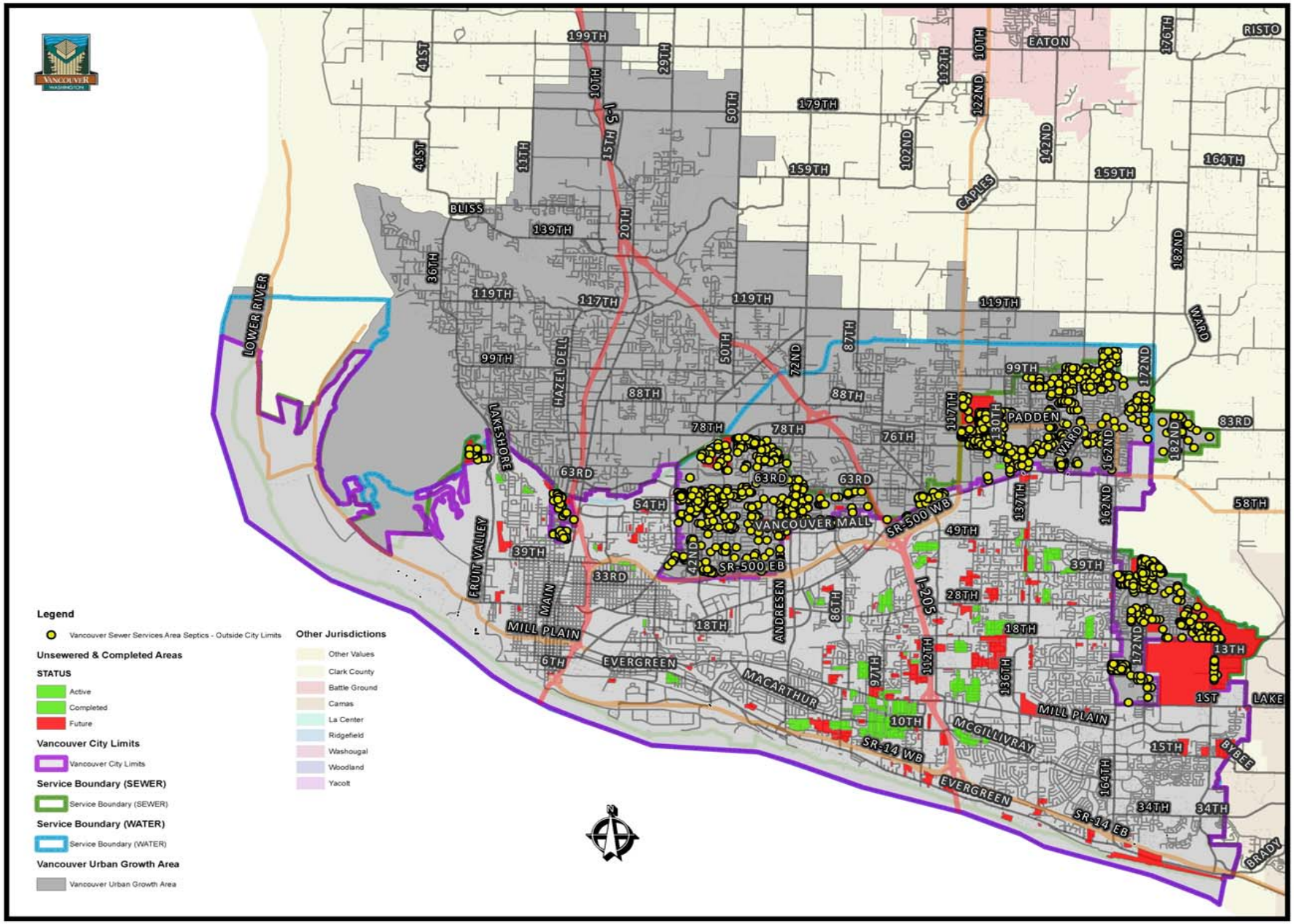
Legend
Vancouver Sewer Services Area Septics - Outside City Limits
Unsewered & Completed Areas
STATUS
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On-Site Septic System Management in Unincorporated Clark County

Clark County Clean Water Commission

April 4, 2012

Aaron J. Henderson
Clark County Public Health

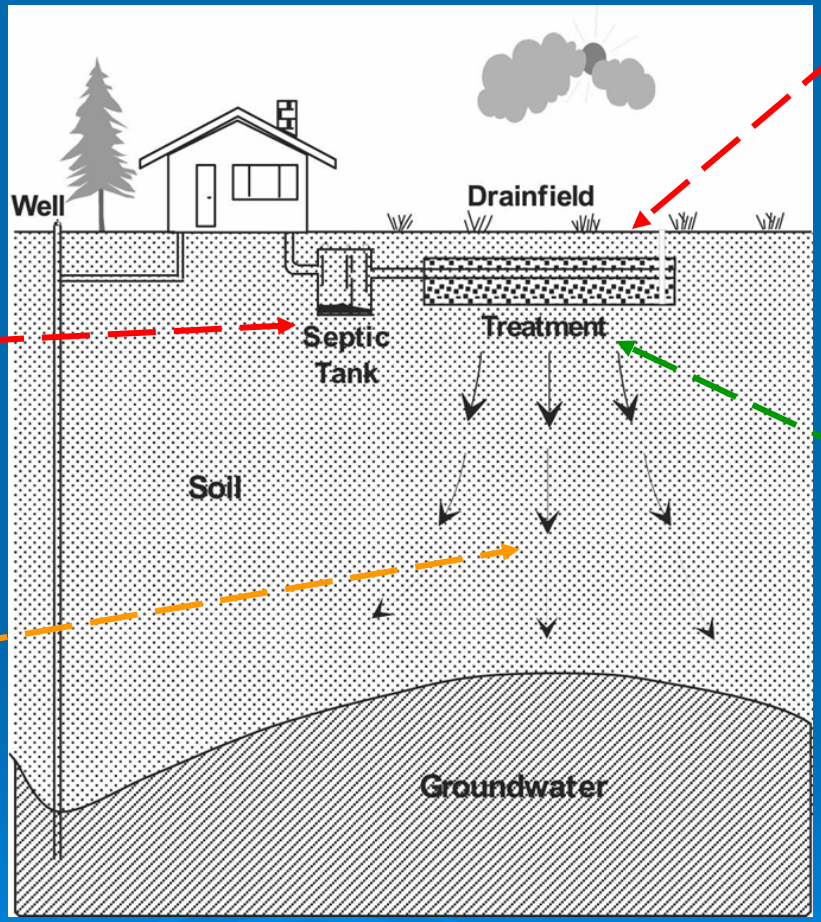
Outline

- How septic systems can impact ground and surface water
- How we manage septic systems
  - Inspection program
  - Repair of failures
- Questions/Discussion

Septic System Impact

Septic tanks play a key role in initial treatment of waste, however leaking tanks can directly pollute groundwater

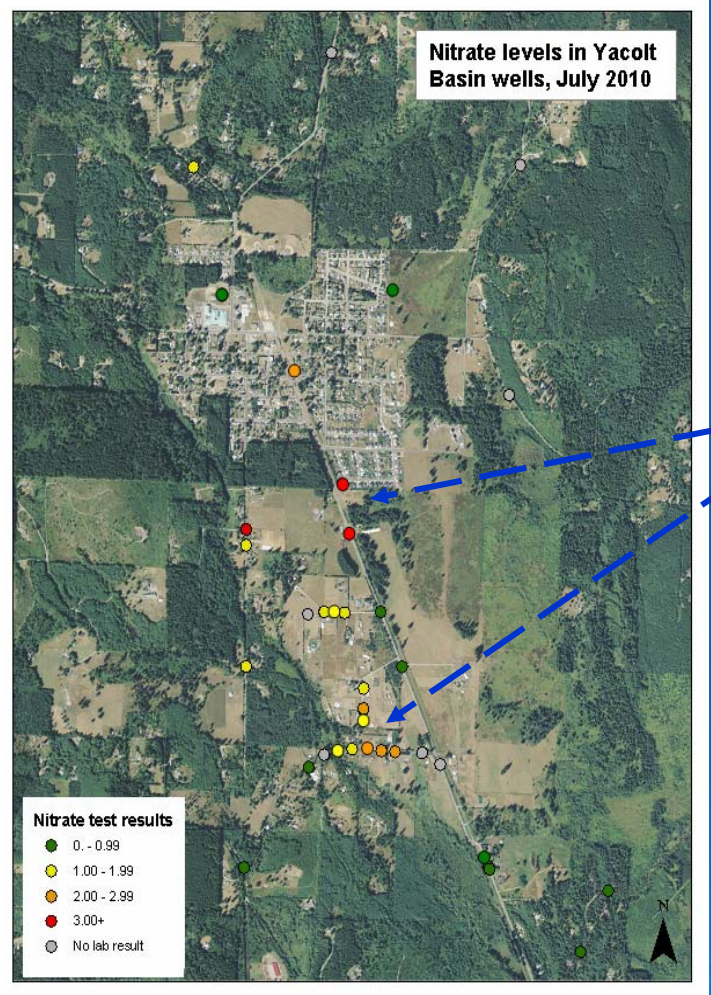
Currently, septic systems are not designed to fully treat things like nitrates, chemicals, and drugs



Septic effluent can surface due to clogged lines, poor soil conditions, or changes in land use

Septic systems effectively treat bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens within the soil profile

Groundwater Impact



- Town of Yacolt is served entirely by septic systems
- Recent data suggest increased levels of nitrates in groundwater
- Partnership between Town, CCPH, and PUD

Nitrates, pharmaceuticals, household chemicals, personal care products…

Surfacing Sewage

- Surfacing sewage can present an immediate public health concern
- Can run into waterways and impact surface water
- Average just over one surfacing sewage system per week

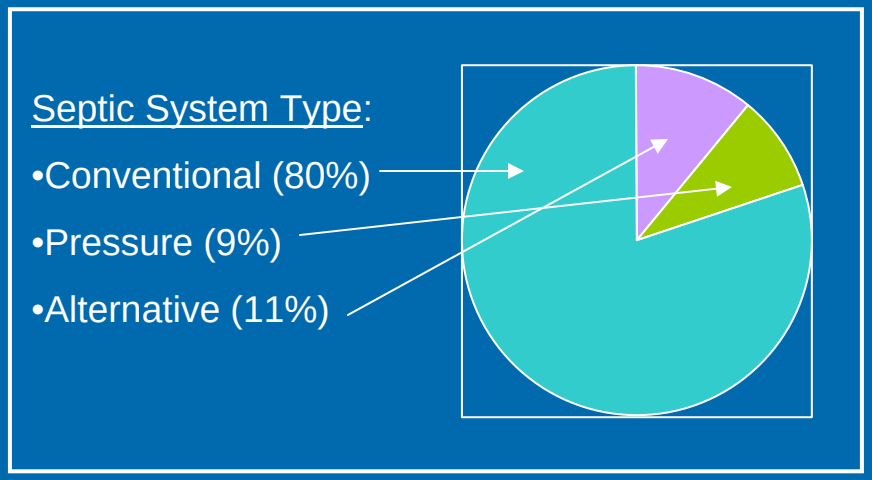
…hepatitis, shigellosis, round & flat worms, dysentery, cholera, typhoid…

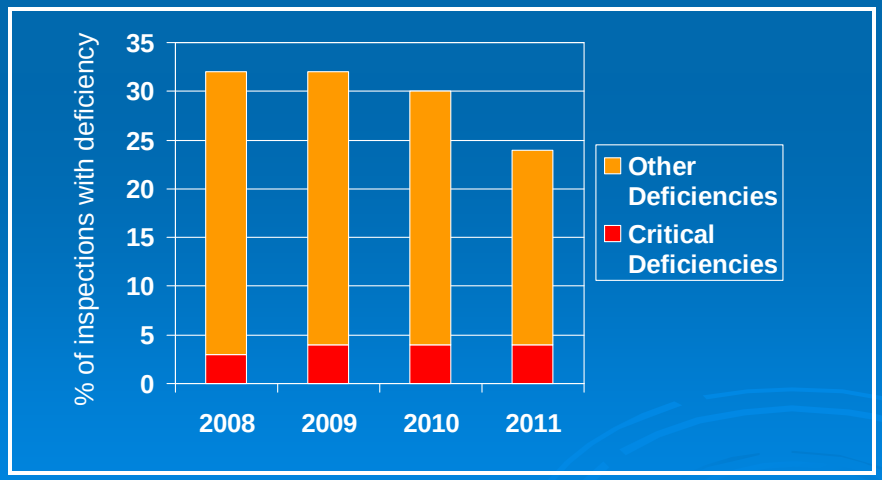
Septic Inspection Program

Protect ground and surface water; prevent direct exposure; protect homeowner investment by:

- Regular inspections based on system type
- Homeowner education
- Complaint/Deficiency investigation and follow-up
- Tracking and maintenance of data
- Certification of professionals

By the Numbers…





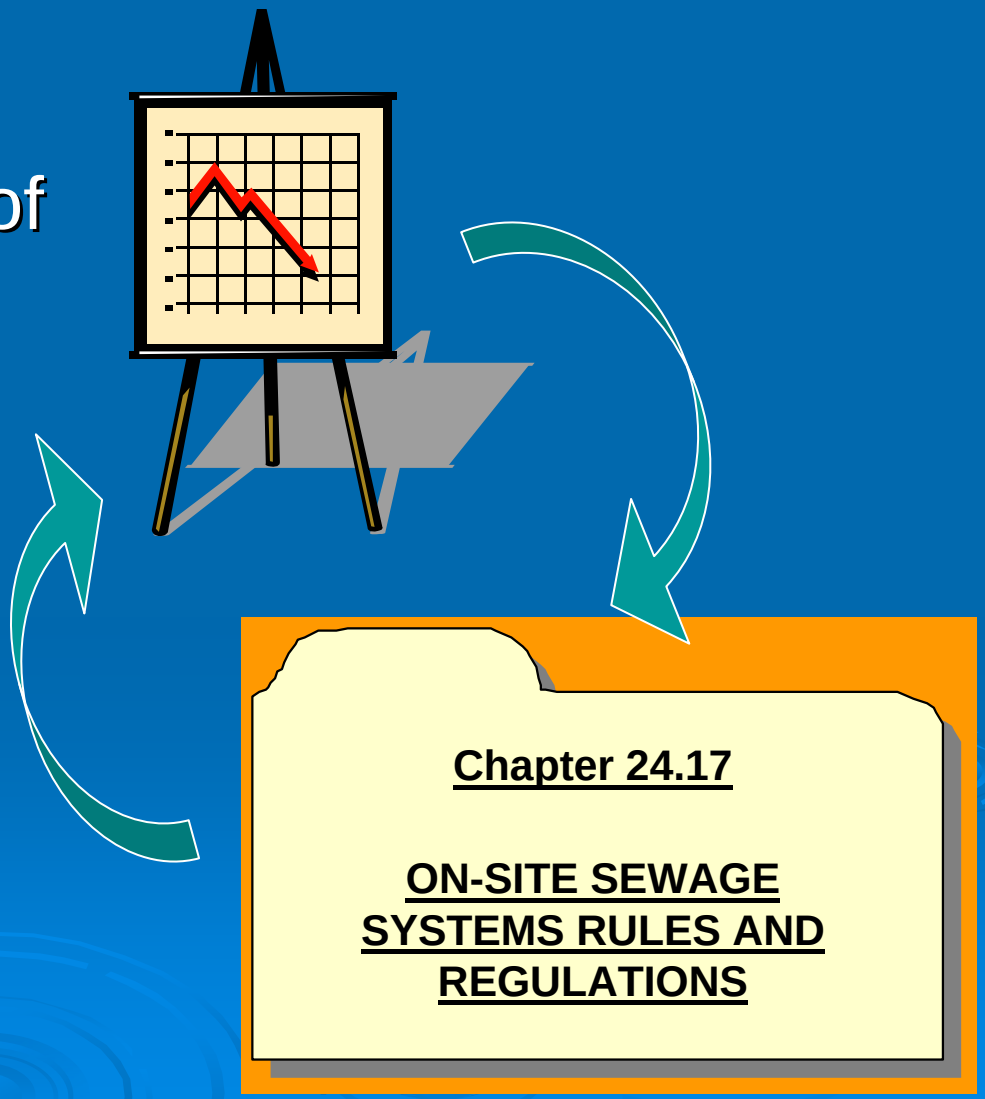
- Nearly 32,000 active septic systems.
- Average 8,071 inspections per year.
- Inspection frequency:
  - Conventional once every three years
  - Pressure once every two years
  - Alternative once every year

Deficiencies, Complaints & Failures

- Deficiencies
  - Follow-up with property owner
  - Track and monitor
- Complaints
  - Contact property owner
  - Site visit/investigation
  - Track and monitor
- Failures
  - Site visit/investigation
  - Appropriate permitting
  - Low interest loan program

Reporting, Trends & Policy

- Annual reports to Clark County Board of Health
- Monitor trends to identify recurring issues
- Identify needs for policy change



Next Steps

- BOH Workshop
- Septic reconciliation project
- Code revisions/policy changes
- Continue to increase public outreach
- Focus on education

Questions/Comments

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