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CLARK COUNTY  
WASHINGTON

## COMMUNITY PLANNING

### STAFF REPORT

TO: Clark County Planning Commission

FROM: Oliver Orjiako, Director

PREPARED BY: Jose Alvarez

DATE: March 26, 2014

SUBJECT: CPZ2014-00004 Clark Regional Wastewater District

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**PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposal is to amend the Comprehensive Plan text to reflect the agreement between the City of Ridgefield and Clark Regional Wastewater District transferring ownership and operation of the City's local wastewater collection system to the District on January 1, 2014.

**BACKGROUND:** As part of a broader effort to regionalize wastewater utility service, the City of Ridgefield (City) and Clark Regional Wastewater District (District) have adopted a separate two-party interlocal agreement that will transfer ownership and operation of the City's local wastewater collection system to the District effective January 1, 2014.

The agreement between the District and the City of Ridgefield is also consistent with County-wide Planning Policies, County 20-Year Plan Policies. See Appendix 1 for the list of proposed text changes to the Comprehensive Plan.

#### **Summary of Comments Received**

To date, no comments from other agencies or the public have been received regarding this proposal.

#### **Clark County Unified Development Code**

##### **40.560.010 (M) Comprehensive Plan Policy or Text Changes**

Action Required. Plan policy or text changes shall be accomplished through the changes initiated and approved by the county. These changes may occur as part of the periodic review update to occur consistent with RCW 36.70A.130 or as part of annual changes to the plan once per calendar year, or as part of emergency amendments which may be brought forward at any time, subject to applicable provision of this chapter.

**Finding:** This request is being processed as part of the annual update to the Comprehensive Plan.

Required Criteria. Plan text or policy changes may be approved only when all of the following are met:

- a. The amendment shall meet all the requirements of and be consistent with the Growth Management Act and other requirements, the countywide planning policies, the community framework plan, the comprehensive plan, local comprehensive plans, applicable capital facilities plans and official population growth forecasts.

Finding: This request is compliant with all relevant plans. The partnership will not decrease the current levels of service below locally established minimums (Goal 12). The partnership will facilitate the extension of sewer service through the City of Ridgefield (Framework Policy 6.2.1).

**RECOMMENDATION SUMMARY**

The following table lists the applicable criteria and summarizes the findings of the staff report for Annual Review Case CPZ2014-00004. The Planning Commission findings will be added to the table after public deliberation at the Planning Commission hearing scheduled for this application.

<b>COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE CRITERIA</b>	
	<b>Criteria Met?</b>
	<b>Staff Report      Planning Commission Findings</b>
<b>Criteria for Text Changes</b>	
A. Consistency with GMA & Countywide Policies	Yes
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

### Proposed Text Changes to Clark County Comprehensive Plan

- Chapter 6. Services Summaries and Projected Future Needs; Table 6.1 Providers of Public Services and Utilities in Clark County; Sanitary Sewer Services – Ridgefield. **Change City to Clark Regional Wastewater District. Pg 6-3**
- Chapter 6. Sanitary Sewer/Treatment Plant. Sanitary sewer services in Clark County are provided by the Cities of Vancouver, Washougal, Camas, Battle Ground, and La Center and Ridgefield, as well as Clark Regional Wastewater District (CRWWD). Pg 6 - 7
- Chapter 6. Sanitary Sewer/Treatment Plant. The Clark Regional Wastewater District encompasses more than 46 square miles and serves approximately 106,000 customers within the unincorporated urban area north and northeast of Vancouver, as well as the City of Ridgefield, portions of the Orchards area and the Hockinson and Meadow Glade satellite systems. Pg 6-8
- Appendix E Capital Facility Plans Review and Analysis; Facilities and Services CFP Review; Sanitary Sewer Systems; In a similar fashion to water, sewer service to the urban areas is generally provided by the jurisdiction associated with each urban area with the exceptions of Vancouver, Battle Ground, Ridgefield, and the Three Creeks Special Planning Area.
- Appendix E Capital Facility Plans Review and Analysis; Facilities and Services CFP Review; Sewer Service Areas; Clark Regional Wastewater District (CRWWD) provides sewer service with treatment at the county's Salmon Creek Sewage Treatment Plant to the Three Creeks Special Planning Area and the northeastern section of the Vancouver Urban Growth Area. The City of Battle Ground conveys all of its wastewater to the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant through an agreement with CRWWD. The City of Ridgefield has transferred the ownership and operation of its collection system to CRWWD effective January 2014.

# DIRECT AND INDIRECT CONCURRENCY SERVICES

Direct concurrency will be applied on a project by project basis for public facilities of streets, water, and sanitary sewer. While the GMA requires direct concurrency only for transportation facilities, this plan extends the concept of direct concurrency to cover other critical public facilities of water and sanitary sewer. Indirect services include schools, fire protection, law enforcement, parks and open space, solid waste, libraries, electricity, gas, and government facilities.

**Table 6.1 Providers of Public Services and Utilities in Clark County**

SERVICE	BATTLE GROUND	CAMAS	LA CENTER	RIDGEFIELD	VANCOUVER	WASHOUGAL	YACOLT	COUNTY
<b>DIRECT</b>								
<b>WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM</b>	City	City	CPU	City	City	City	CPU	CPU, Vancouver
<b>SANITARY SEWER SERVICES</b>	City	City	City	City <u>Clark Regional Wastewater District</u>	City	City	NA	CPU, Clark Regional Wastewater District, Vancouver
<b>SEWAGE TREATMENT FACILITIES</b>	County	City	City	City	City	City	NA	County
<b>INDIRECT</b>								
<b>PUBLIC SCHOOLS</b>	Battle Ground S.D.	Camas S.D.	La Center S. D.	Ridgefield S.D.	Vancouver, Camas, Evergreen S.D.	Washougal, Camas S.D.	Battle Ground S.D.	NA
<b>FIRE PROTECTION</b>	District 11 and City Fire Marshal	City	District 14	District 12 and City Fire Marshal	City	City	F.D. #13	All non-municipal fire districts
<b>LAW ENFORCEMENT</b>	City	City	City	City	City	City	Sheriff's Department	Sheriff's Department
<b>SOLID WASTE</b>	Private Hauler	City	Private Hauler	Private Hauler	Private Hauler	Private Hauler	Private Hauler	Private Hauler
<b>LIBRARIES</b>	FVRLS	City	FVRLS	FVRLS	FVRLS	FVRLS	FVRLS	FVRLS
<b>GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS</b>	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	County
<b>ELECTRICITY</b>	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU
<b>NATURAL GAS</b>	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NA	NW Natural Gas

*FVRLS--Fort Vancouver Regional Library System, NA--Not Applicable, CPU--Clark Public Utilities*

1 **Sanitary Sewer/Treatment Plant**

2 Sanitary sewer services in Clark County are provided by the Cities of Vancouver,  
3 Washougal, Camas, Battle Ground, and La Center and Ridgefield, as well as Clark Regional  
4 Wastewater District (CRWWD). In general, the city sewer districts tend to be slightly larger  
5 than current city boundaries and each has its own sewage treatment facilities. For further  
6 information on sewer provisions for the individual cities, refer to the respective city's  
7 comprehensive plans.

8 Within the county's unincorporated urban area, sanitary sewer service is provided by  
9 the City of Vancouver and the Clark Regional Wastewater District. The Vancouver service area  
10 encompasses over 55 square miles, extending well beyond city limits to Vancouver Lake to the  
11 west, 202<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the east and NE 99th Street to the north. The Vancouver system  
12 includes two treatment plants and an industrial pretreatment lagoon.

13 Clark County no longer provides actual wastewater collection, having transferred  
14 operation of its collection systems to the Clark Regional Wastewater District (formally Hazel  
15 Dell Sewer District) in 1993. The county provides regional transmission of wastewater and  
16 treatment services for two wholesale customers, the Clark Regional Wastewater District and  
17 the City of Battle Ground. The county owns and operates the Salmon Creek Wastewater  
18 Treatment Facility, located near the confluence of Salmon Creek and Lake River.

19 The Clark Regional Wastewater District encompasses more than 46 square miles and  
20 serves approximately 106,000 customers within the unincorporated urban area north and  
21 northeast of Vancouver, as well as the City of Ridgefield, portions of the Orchards area and the  
22 Hockinson and Meadow Glade satellite systems. The district's service area is estimated to be  
23 developed at 80 percent of full coverage, with approximately half of the land area being  
24 physically serviced by sewer. The district contracts with Clark County and the City of  
25 Vancouver to provide treatment services. The county's Salmon Creek Wastewater Facility  
26 provides treatment for over 80 percent of the district's wastewater.

27 Projected needs and funding sources for the Clark Regional Wastewater District are  
28 illustrated in Table 6.4. This information and related details are included in expanded form in  
29 the Clark Regional Wastewater Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) Amendment, June 2006. The CFP  
30 Plan has the necessary contents required by RCW 36.70A.070 (3), including inventories,  
31 forecasts and analyses of future plans and financing mechanisms. Clark Regional Wastewater  
32 District has reviewed the proposed county land use designations and determined that the CFP  
33 Plan is fully consistent with these provisions and the additional service demands which they  
34 entail. Future changes made to the CFP Plan should be reviewed for consistency with county  
35 plans on an annual basis.

1 **Sanitary Sewer Systems**

2  
3 In a similar fashion to water, sewer service to the urban areas is generally provided by  
4 the jurisdiction associated with each urban area with the exceptions of Vancouver, Battle  
5 Ground, **Ridgefield**, and the Three Creeks Special Planning Area. Sewer capital facilities plans  
6 provide for sewage collection and treatment to meet the expected needs of the future  
7 population. The provision of treatment capacity in some areas may represent a constraint in the  
8 timing of urban development, as major expansions to treatment capacity are necessary to  
9 accommodate the growth. Some of these constraints may be relieved through regional  
10 cooperation between sewer system providers.

11  
12 Sewer Service Areas

13  
14 Sewer service is confined to the  
15 urban areas (as shown in Figure 29)  
16 except where sewer was extended to  
17 address declared health emergencies or  
18 regional public facilities. For the most  
19 part, the jurisdictions associated with  
20 particular urban areas are the providers  
21 of sewer service.

22 Clark Regional Wastewater  
23 District (CRWWD) provides sewer  
24 service with treatment at the county's  
25 Salmon Creek Sewage Treatment Plant  
26 to the Three Creeks Special Planning  
27 Area and the northeastern section of  
28 the Vancouver Urban Growth Area.  
29 The City of Battle Ground conveys all of  
30 its wastewater to the Salmon Creek  
31 Wastewater Treatment Plant through an  
32 agreement with CRWWD. **The City of  
33 Ridgefield has transferred the ownership  
34 and operation of its collection system to  
35 CRWWD effective January 2014.**

36 In January 2007, the City of  
37 Vancouver and CRWWD approved an  
38 interlocal agreement between the sewer districts for a Merger Transition Feasibility Study due  
39 for completion at the end of August 2007. This study will evaluate the potential for the  
40 transition of CRWWD's wastewater collection operations and service area boundary within the  
41 Vancouver UGA to the city. The study is funded by both utilities for up to \$110,185 and is  
42 financed through the Vancouver Sewer Fund's 2007-2008 adopted budget and CRWWD's 2007  
43 general operating fund.

