



City of Stevenson

Planning Department

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TO: City Council
FROM: Planning Commission
DATE: May 9th, 2017
SUBJECT: Sewer Collection System—Focusing on Kanaka Creek Road

Dear Mayor Cox and City Council Members,

At our meeting yesterday, we reviewed the draft General Sewer Plan as it relates to the collection system improvements for residential growth. The City has a tough road ahead of us as we try to cope with the challenges of the sewer system that are now being presented to us. We can only imagine how much greater those challenges appear to you all as you deal with plant upgrades, rate setting, and the overall funding/financing package we'll need.

At our meeting we decided to explore ways to ensure our land use plans and regulations coordinate with the sewer utility plan you are working on. Over the coming months we will be engaging the Skamania County Environmental Health Department to learn how septic permitting, inspections and monitoring interact with our land use and utility connection laws and whether there are any existing health concerns related to the carrying capacity of areas currently served by septic. Our hope is that these efforts can lead to policies that will ease some of your burden.

At this meeting we also heard from a member of the public that described your upcoming Kanaka Creek Road project and the short section of sewer line that could be extended now, when many of the costs can be shared by the grant-funded road project. We want to encourage you to apply the City's "share-the-ditch" policy to this project and extend sewer the ~100 feet it would take to collect waste from future development on Del Ray Avenue. The benefits of doing so would 1) facilitate future growth and the addition of users to the sewer system, 2) reduce the long-term cost on sewer users, 3) help the City to avoid further disruptions to traffic on Kanaka Creek Road, and 4) avoid unnecessarily destroying any portion of the newly reconstructed roadway.

In general we would prefer to focus on policy measures to facilitate our different plans, and we hesitate to provide a capital improvement request. In this case, however, we were made aware of something that had multiple benefits with very few drawbacks apparent to us, and felt our recommendation could be timely.

Respectfully,



Scott Anderson

Planning Commission Chair