



July 21, 2009

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COMMISSIONERS
Norm Harker
Denny Kiggins
Neil Kimsey

GENERAL MANAGER
John M. Peterson

RE: Partnership Update Between Clark Regional Wastewater District & City of Vancouver

Dear Community Partners:

Clark Regional Wastewater District (District) was formed over 50 years ago to support the needs of a growing community. Sewer service is an important, yet basic, foundation that protects the environment while encouraging economic growth within urban areas. As the District's elected Board of Commissioners looks to the future, we have identified potential challenges in effectively operating the utility if the City of Vancouver annexes into the District's service area. The Board has determined that further defining the District's relationship with the City of Vancouver is essential to delivering our services in a way that is financially and environmentally responsible for our customers over the long term. The District values our community partners and understands that many of you will have questions to be answered. We would like to take this opportunity to invite you to be a part of the discussion.

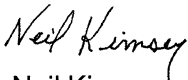
We are, therefore, beginning a public information effort for our customers, stakeholder groups and partner agencies. The attached document titled "*Clark Regional Wastewater District and City of Vancouver Partnership Update*" provides a further explanation of the process and the potential agreements between the two agencies. We are interested in knowing what you think about this issue in general and more specifically, the draft agreements. The District plans to inform our community partners in a variety of means throughout July, August and September. In addition to this letter, please also look for information in the form of billing inserts and website updates at the District website (www.crwwd.com). The District plans to conduct a **public meeting** on this topic on the evening of **Tuesday, October 6, from 6 to 8 PM**, where you can talk directly with District staff and the Board about these matters.

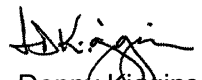
To begin to address the question of why develop a long term plan with the City of Vancouver, please allow us to explain the situation. A full 93% of the District service area exists within the Vancouver Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and a portion of the District's flows are sent to Vancouver for treatment. The City has plans over a 20-year (or more) timeframe to annex the UGB and eventually to transition urban services, such as sewer, to a City function. State law supports that progression, especially as it relates to a special purpose utility such as the District. As a result, we asked that a framework be developed to provide for the best long-term interests of our customers should the annexation and transition of services take place at some point in the future. It is important to understand that this framework does not make the annexation process easier; it simply provides a road map for continued sewer service if annexation does happen someday. Subsequently, the District and City have jointly commissioned a study to explore these issues. The result of which has been the development of a draft agreement framework for an "annexation" and an "operations" agreement.


For more information on this topic, please contact Kim Thur, Executive Assistant, at 360-993-8822 or kthur@crwwd.com, visit our website (www.crwwd.com) and plan on attending the public meeting on October 6, 2009. Thank you for your continued interest in the future of our community.

Sincerely,

Clark Regional Wastewater District Board of Commissioners


Neil Kimsey
President


Denny Kiggins
Vice President


Norm Harker
Secretary

Attachment



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