

# Regional Sewer Program Update

Rotary Club of  
Greater Clark County

February 7, 2013



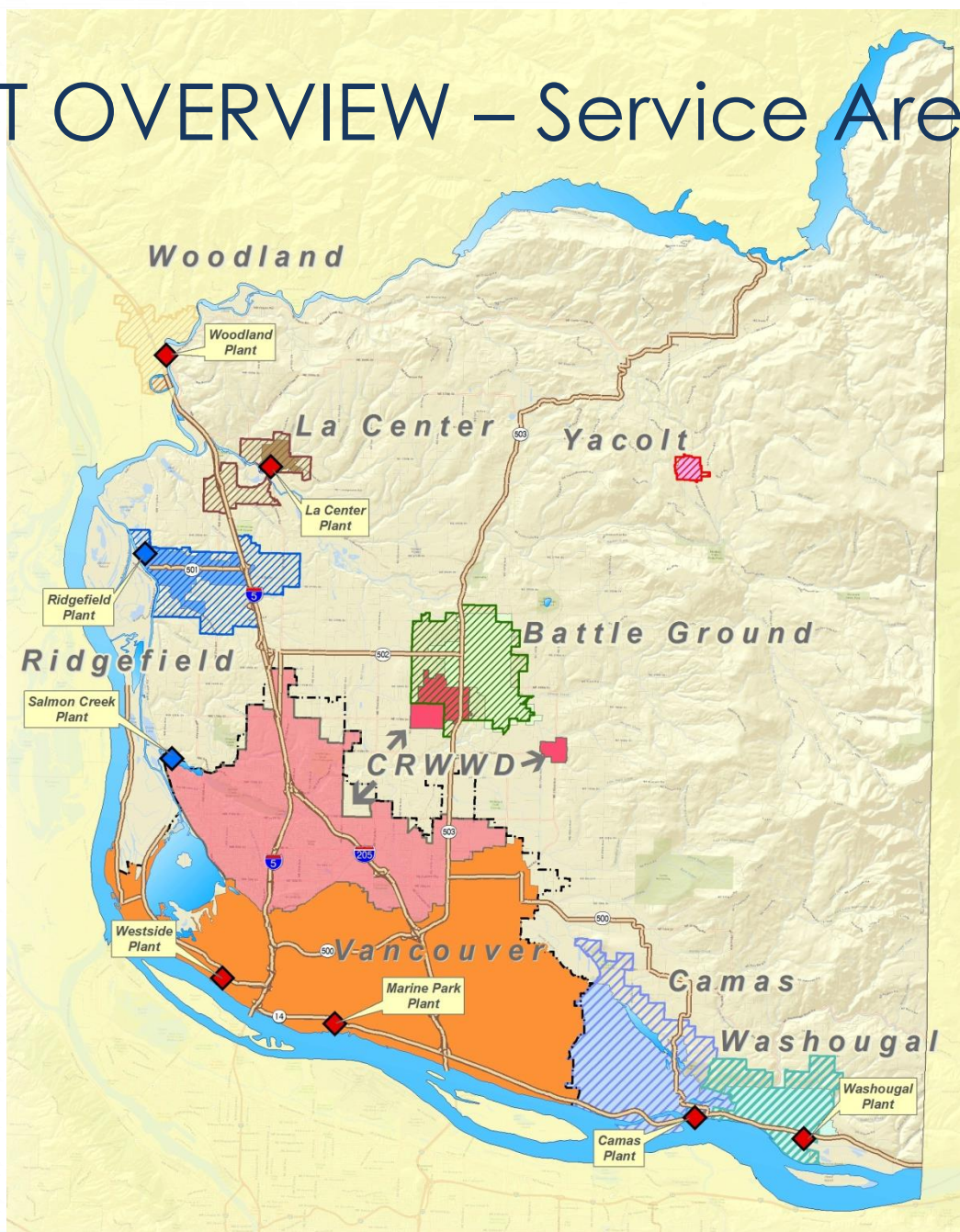
# Presentation Outline

- District Overview
- Regional Package – 3 Core Elements
  - Foundation: Discovery Clean Water Alliance (DCWA)
  - Sewer Partnership: Ridgefield/District
  - Strategic Investment: Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System (DCWTS)
- Bonus: Sewer Rates & Charges
- Additional Information

A blue 3D pipe graphic is positioned in the bottom-left corner of the slide. It consists of a vertical pipe segment that turns 90 degrees to become a horizontal pipe segment extending across the bottom of the slide. The pipe has a metallic, slightly reflective texture and is connected at the corner by a flange-like joint.

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

# DISTRICT OVERVIEW – Service Area



# DISTRICT OVERVIEW

- Water-sewer district (RCW 57)
  - Full-service collection utility, established in 1958
  - \$18.4M annual budget: Rate/connection charge supported
  - 81,000 people served
  - 500 miles of pipe, 50 pump stations
- First (and only) special purpose district to be accredited by APWA
- Excellent financial standing – 30 years of clean audits



# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 1

Foundation:



Discovery Clean  
Water Alliance



# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 1

## Foundation: DCWA – Background

- Regional Sewer Basics
  - Emphasis on treatment
    - Major cost center
    - Specialized expertise
    - Serves multiple UGAs
    - Best managed under regional framework
  - Area served (inset map)
  - Key assets
    - Ridgefield, Salmon Creek treatment plants
    - Major pipelines/pump stations



# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 1

## Foundation: DCWA – What Is It

- Formed under new state legislation
  - Joint Municipal Utility Services Act (JMUSA) allows more efficient, flexible regional governance structure (RCW 39.106)
- Asset-based model – members pay for direct benefit only
- Flexible structure – can add members or other services over time
- DCWA Board Members
  - **Battle Ground:** Mayor Lisa Walters, Chair
  - **Clark County:** Commissioner Tom Mielke
  - **CRWWD:** Commissioner Neil Kimsey, Secretary
  - **Ridgefield:** Mayor Ron Onslow, Vice-Chair



# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 1

## Foundation: DCWA – Why It Matters

- Stable customer rates over time
  - Increasing treatment standards
  - Critical system improvements happen sooner
  - Larger customer base = lower capital costs
  - No need for duplicate facilities
- Environmental assets transcend borders



# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 1

## Foundation: DCWA – Why It Matters

Structured to Address Customer Priorities

### % of respondents indicating high or very high level of importance per value

Ensure reliable, predictable service for all customers	89%
Manage financial resources in a responsible, efficient, equitable manner	86%
Operate utility to protect public and environmental health and safety	82%
Optimize the use of existing facilities	80%
Maintain financial transparency	79%
Use new technology to achieve system efficiency, environmental protection	77%
Provide fair, positive, secure work environment for future utility employees	71%
Ensure capacity to support regional land use, economic development	71%
Invest in capital improvements that create system-wide benefits	67%
Make business management decisions collaboratively with all partners	64%

# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 1

## Foundation: DCWA – For More Info

**For more info, visit:**  
**[www.discoverycwa.org](http://www.discoverycwa.org)**



Discovery Clean  
Water Alliance

A decorative graphic of a blue pipe with a 90-degree elbow, positioned in the bottom-left corner of the slide. The pipe has a metallic texture and a flange at the elbow.

# **REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 2**

Sewer Partnership:  
Ridgefield/ District

# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 2

## Sewer Partnership: Ridgefield/ District

- Key Outcomes of Partnership
  - Ridgefield
    - Transfers collection system to Clark Regional
    - Rate and connection charge stability today
    - Creates new capacity for revenue-generating uses
    - Pathway to stable and lower rates over time
  - Clark Regional
    - Adds value for customers through future growth
      - Treatment capacity investments
      - Fixed costs shared over larger customer base
    - Creates economic investment opportunity
    - Reduces SDCs for local business



# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 2

## Sewer Partnership: Ridgefield/ District

- Both agencies benefit!



- Ridgefield customers pay reasonable surcharge on initial investment to connect to Regional system
- Clark Regional customers do not pay for merger; rates projected to increase at inflationary level with or without partnership
- Clark Regional rates could go down if Ridgefield generates new connections



A decorative graphic of a blue pipe with a 90-degree elbow at the bottom left corner, extending vertically and then horizontally across the bottom of the slide.

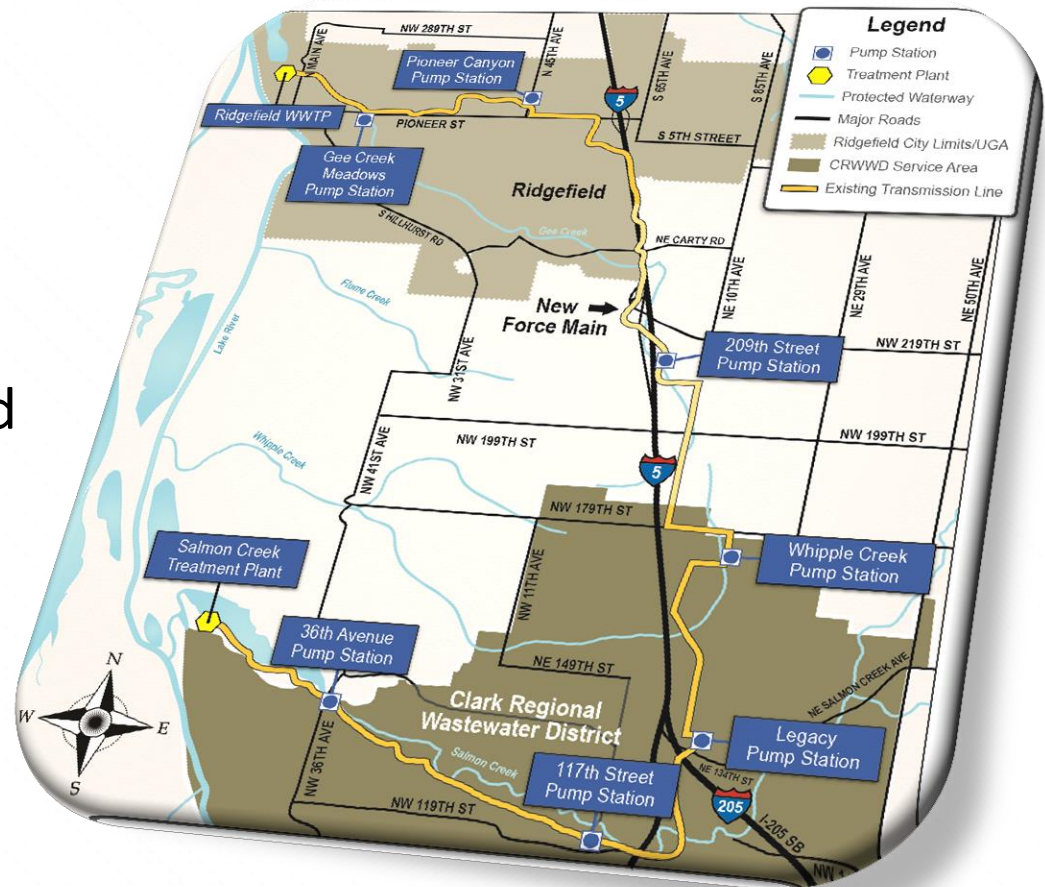
# **REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 3**

Strategic Investment: Discovery  
Corridor Wastewater Transmission  
System (DCWTS)

# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 3

## Strategic Investment: DCWTS

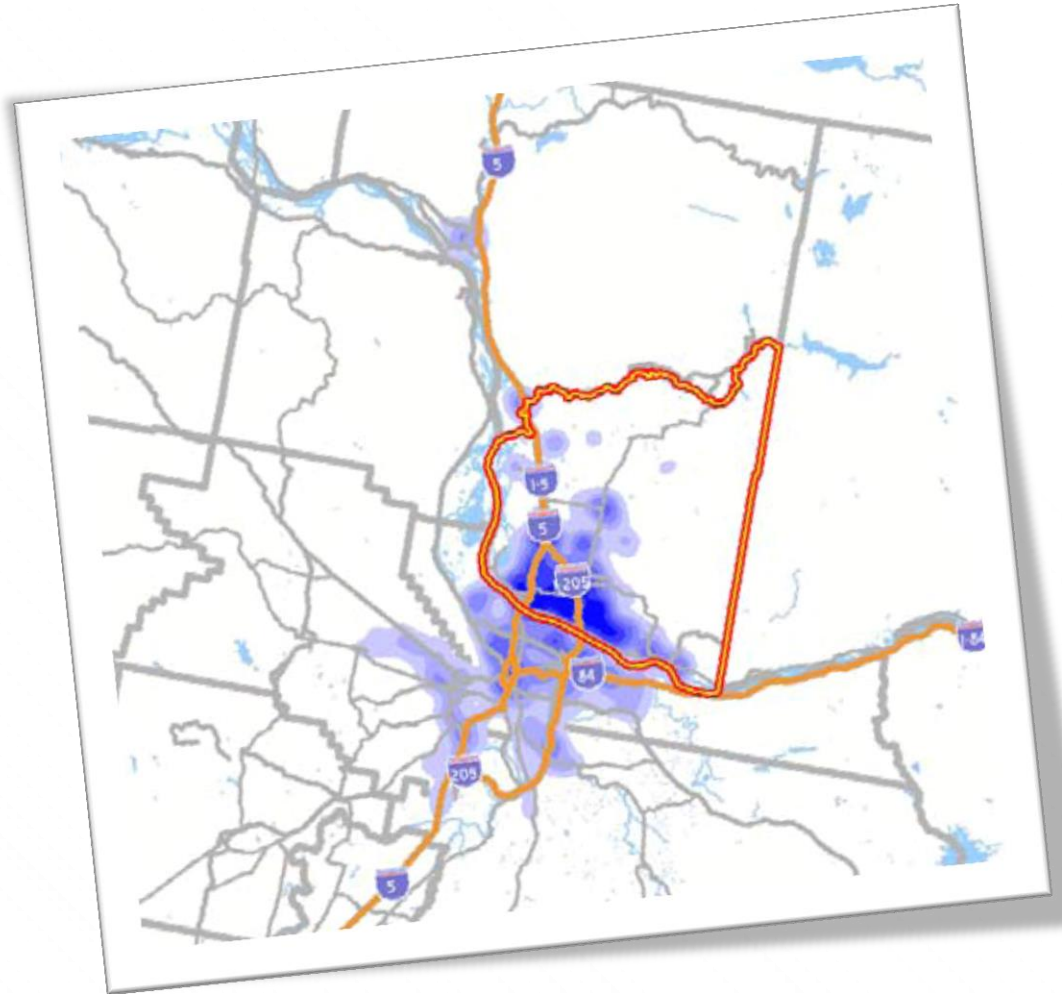
- Great potential and interest along I-5
  - Catalyst projects will generate added benefit for all surrounding communities



# REGIONAL PACKAGE – Element 3

## Strategic Investment: DCWTS

- Unfilled opportunity: Destination employment center
  - Seek large sites on Interstate
  - Generate significant sewer demand
  - Want nearby workforce housing (more sewer)



A decorative graphic of a blue pipe with a 90-degree elbow at the bottom left corner. The pipe is rendered with a slight 3D effect, showing highlights and shadows. The background is white with a faint, light blue grid pattern.

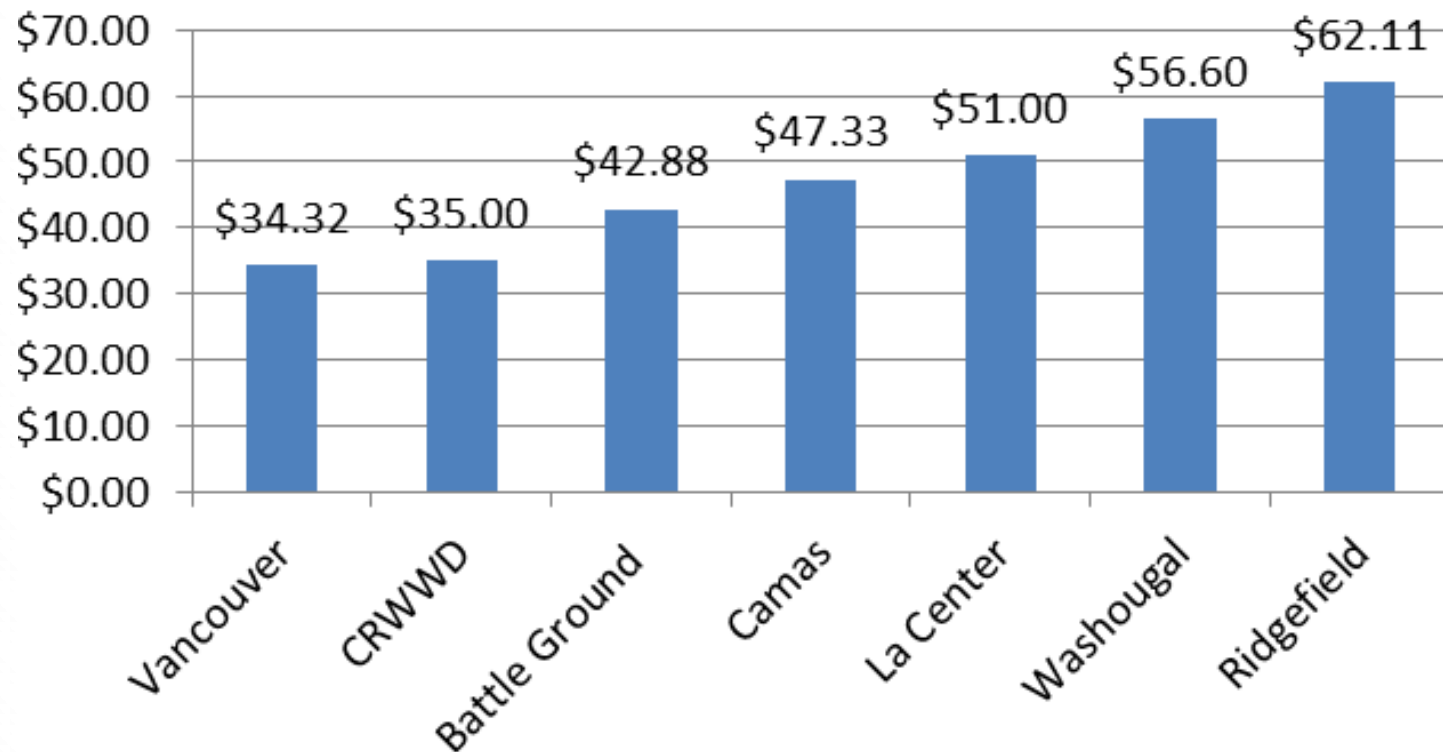
**BONUS:**

Sewer Rates & Charges

# BONUS: Sewer Rates & Charges

- 2013 Sewer Rates for Clark County Providers

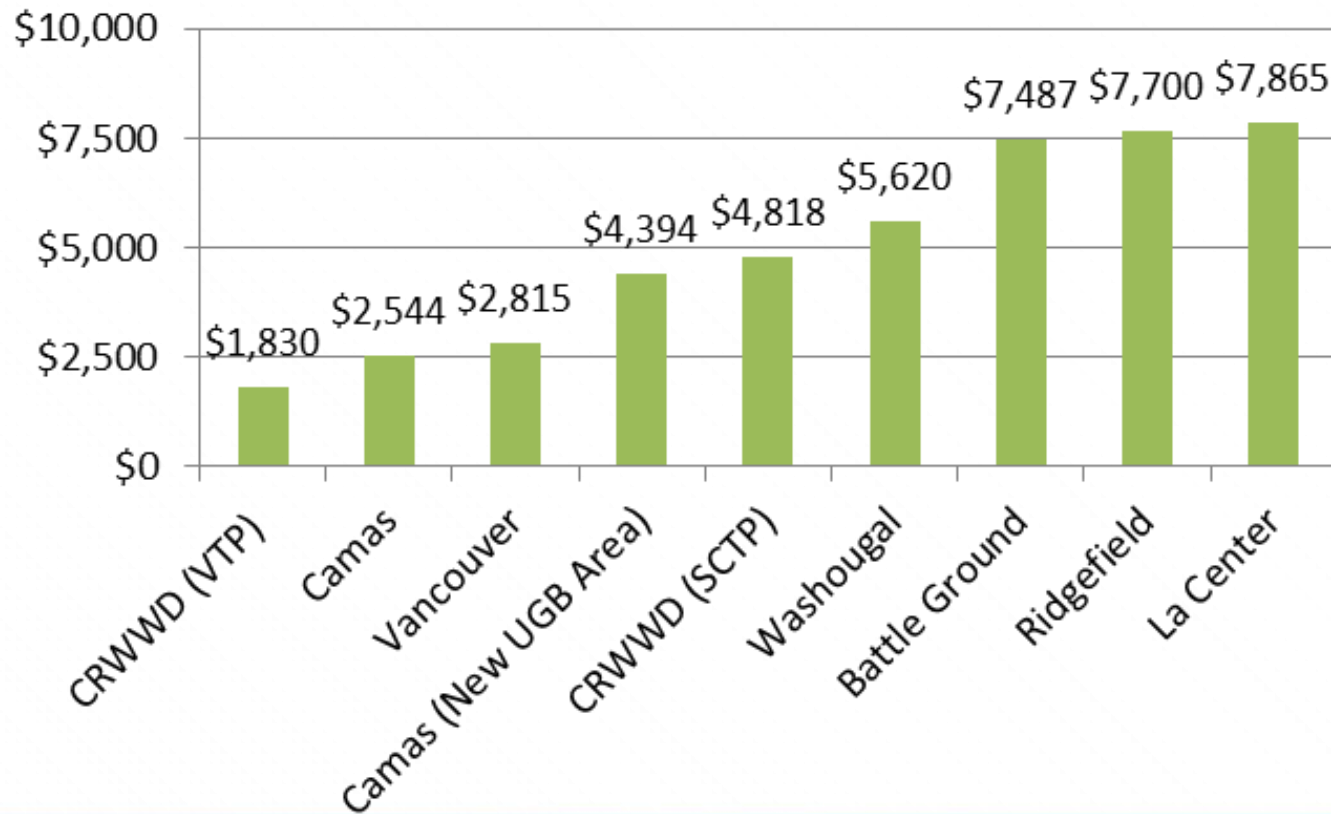
**Single-Family Residence**  
**Typical Monthly Sewer Bill For Typical Family**  
(Includes 8 ccf Sewer Usage & Utility Tax)



# BONUS: Sewer Rates & Charges

- 2013 Connection Charges for Clark County Providers

Single-Family Residence  
Total Connection Costs (With Permit Fees)







## **Additional Information**

**Separate fact sheets available on each topic:**

**Clark Regional Wastewater District  
Discovery Clean Water Alliance  
Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System  
Ridgefield Collection System Transfer**

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