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City of Ridgefield Transferring Sewer System to Clark Regional Wastewater District
Move will maintain stable rates for sewer customers, expand economic opportunity

Ridgefield, WA – The Ridgefield City Council and Clark Regional Wastewater District Board of Commissioners have officially approved an agreement that will transfer ownership and operation of the City of Ridgefield’s sewer collection system to the District effective January 1, 2014.

The City Council voted unanimously to transfer its sewer system to the District to help ensure stable long-term rate stability for Ridgefield customers. The cost of completing required extensions to the sewer collection system and upgrades to the Ridgefield Wastewater Treatment Plant would have resulted in significant rate increases in sewer rates and charges for the City’s existing 1,800 customers. By transferring the sewer system to the District, City customers will benefit from the buying power of the larger 26,000-customer District sewer utility.

District rate payers will also benefit from the transfer. Ridgefield is one of Clark County’s fastest growing communities. In addition to continued residential growth, the Ridgefield Interstate-5 junction area is zoned to accommodate new industrial and commercial investment. Regional employment and future revenue streams are expected to increase as sewer infrastructure is extended and those properties develop. Over time, this expanded base of ratepayers will assume a proportionate share of maintenance and infrastructure costs resulting in more stable rates for all District customers.

The Ridgefield sewer system will be connected to the District system and Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant via a new pressure pipeline known as the [Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System](#) (DCWTS). The new transmission line is expected to be operational by 2016. Initial funding for the \$25 million project has been provided through two separate \$10 million low-interest Washington State Public Works Trust Fund loans to the City of Ridgefield and the District. The balance of funding will be provided through local capital program funds.

The transfer agreement also includes a commitment by the District to provide additional funding for Interstate-5 junction area sewer extensions to help jump start Ridgefield employment development.

The Ridgefield-District sewer system transfer agreement has been in the works for more than two years, an offshoot of a larger regional sewer discussion. The **Discovery Clean Water Alliance** (DCWA) formed last year regionalized certain sewer infrastructure and allows the sharing of certain costs between Clark County, the Clark Regional Wastewater District and the cities of Battle Ground and Ridgefield.

The Discovery Clean Water Alliance was recently recognized for its regional approach to governance and service delivery with a **Governor's Smart Communities Award**. The awards program honors local leaders who embrace smart growth through projects that contribute to an enhanced quality of life.

Additional information regarding the Ridgefield-District sewer system transfer and associated regional sewer efforts can be found at the following websites:

Ridgefield Collection System Transfer:

www.crwwd.com/ridgefield

Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System (DCWTS):

www.crwwd.com/projects/dcwts/index.html

Discovery Clean Water Alliance (DCWA):

www.discoverycwa.org

Governor's Smart Communities Award:

www.commerce.wa.gov/Services/localgovernment/GrowthManagement/Growth-Management-Planning-Topics/Smart-Growth/Pages/Success-Stories.aspx

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