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**Clark Regional
Wastewater District**

Press Release

Vancouver, WA—Clark Regional Wastewater District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Clark Regional Wastewater District Awarded State Funding for Key Ridgefield Infrastructure Project

Clark Regional Wastewater District (District) has been awarded \$4.3M in funding from the Washington State Public Works Assistance Account, administered by the Public Works Board, for Phase 1 of the Ridgefield Sewer Redirection Project. This critical project is part of the District's ongoing investments to support economic development and protect public health and the environment in the City of Ridgefield. This project will help redirect wastewater away from the aging and capacity-restricted Ridgefield Treatment Plant which supports the City and Port of Ridgefield's waterfront redevelopment vision.

Phase 1 of the Ridgefield Sewer Redirection Project is estimated to cost \$16 million and is scheduled to be completed in 2028. Additional funding for the project will come from the District's Capital Improvement Program, which is funded by revenues from new development. Project improvements include rebuilding the existing Gee Creek Meadows Pump Station and construction of a new Gee Creek Plateau Pump Station. These critical infrastructure improvements will serve the community for decades to come.

The project connects to the Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System which was completed by the District in 2016 to direct wastewater from the City of Ridgefield to the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant where it can be treated in a more economical and environmentally friendly manner. Currently, over 2/3 of the wastewater from the City of Ridgefield is treated at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. The remainder continues to be treated at the Ridgefield Treatment Plant, which discharges to the water-quality impaired Lake River, a side channel of the Columbia River. Upon completion of the project, over 80% of the wastewater in the City of Ridgefield will be treated at the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. Future phases of the project will divert all remaining flows and eventually abandon the Ridgefield Treatment plant, which is currently scheduled for 2034, pending funding.

"This project is a key component of a larger community vision to consolidate flows regionally and support the City and Port of Ridgefield's waterfront redevelopment," said District General Manager John Peterson.

Norm Harker, President of the Clark Regional Wastewater District Board of Commissioners, stated, "This funding is an important milestone in a long-term strategy to modernize our

infrastructure and support Ridgefield's growing community. We appreciate the strong partnership with the State and the Public Works Board in helping us deliver sustainable, cost-effective solutions that benefit our ratepayers and protect our natural resources."

The funding received from the Public Works Board is in the form of a low-interest loan that is estimated to save District ratepayers \$0.5M over conventional funding. The District also intends to apply to the state in 2026 for additional project funding. The Public Works Board helps local communities make critical infrastructure investments that promote public health and safety, protect the environment, and promote community and economic development. For more information about the Public Works Board and its infrastructure loan programs, visit <https://www.commerce.wa.gov/pwb>. For more information on the project visit <https://www.crwwd.com/projects/ridgefield-sewer/>.

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