North Santiam Canyon Wastewater Feasibility Study

Governance & Next Steps

November 9, 2016
Community Information Session

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Recommendation

Establish a North Santiam Canyon Wastewater Facilities Planning Committee

- Intergovernmental Agreement
  - Five cities (Lyons, Mill City, Gates, Detroit, Idanha)
  - Marion & Linn counties.
  - Representatives appointed by Governing Body
North Santiam Canyon
Wastewater Facilities Planning Committee

• **Purpose:**
  
  • Set priorities for Wastewater Improvements.
  
  • Address DEQ’s: **Three-Basin Rule**
  
  • Identify funding strategies & seek $$ for priority projects.
  
  • Based on funding & project timing ---- **select the preferred governance structure for wastewater facilities.**
Benefit:

- Unified vision and commitment to projects.
- Demonstrate to state/federal funding sources that Canyon communities are working together.

(Example: Hwy 22 in 1980’s & 1990’s)

Time frame: 2 to 5-years

Leadership & Staffing: Marion County Board & staff
Long-Term Governance Options for WW systems in all cities

1. Independent City-Owned & Operated Systems
2. ORS 190 Agreement for O & M
3. Create a New Special District
   - ORS 190 Agency
   - Sewer Authority
   - County Special District
Independent City-Owned & Operated Wastewater Facilities in each City

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Detroit - Idanha WWTF</th>
<th>Gates WWTF</th>
<th>Mill City WWTF</th>
<th>Lyons WWTF</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Set up Sewer Utility in each city.</td>
<td>• Set up Sewer Utility when system built.</td>
<td>• Existing WWTF</td>
<td>• Set up Sewer Utility when system built.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• <em>One</em> city owns &amp; operates under a Management Agreement.</td>
<td>• City owns &amp; operates its own system.</td>
<td>• Expand system to accommodate growth.</td>
<td>• City owns &amp; operates its own system.</td>
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<td>• No change.</td>
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ORS 190 Agreement
(Contract w/ 1 Agency)

One Agency operates all WW Facilities
ORS 190 Agency
Sewer Authority or **County Service District**

- City of Idanha
- City of Gates
- City of Mill City
- City of Detroit
- City of Lyons
- Marion County
- Linn County

New District Owns & Operates WW Facilities
Formation & Operating Issues

- **Timing** – WW Facilities will be built over 10-20 years.

- **Administrative Challenges for each city**
  - Wastewater Facilities Master Plan (DEQ required)
  - Securing Financing
  - Rates for O&M, Capital & Debt Service
  - NPDES Permits

- **Public Works Operating Challenges**
  - Level 3 WW Operator required for SBRs
  - Capital Needs: Shop, Vehicles, Equip, Replacement -- costly
  - Regular & consistent O & M
Thoughts from city officials

- **Needs & Benefits must be clearly articulated**
  - Economic Development: Lack of sewer limits growth.
  - Identify any public health issues or septic failures.
  - Citizens with working on-site systems don’t need/want sewers.

- **Rates**
  - Sewer Rates must be reasonable & equitable.
  - Debt: Residents should not assume debt of other cities.
  - Utility funds are now used to support city operations.
Conclusions

• Independently Owned & Operated Facilities
  • WW Treatment -- SBR units.
  • Smallest cities cannot afford to set up a WW Utility and keep rates competitive.
  • Administration, utility billing, O&M for WW treatment & collection and a Level 3 WW Operator may be cost prohibitive.

• ORS 190 Agreement – One City Operates All Facilities
  • May be a cost effective option for O&M
  • Smallest cities will be subject to priorities and commitments of the City/County that runs the system.
  • Relies on mutual understanding & trust between agencies.
ORS 190 Agency, Sewer Authority & County Service District

Advantages

- **Planning:** Facilities planning done for all jurisdictions
- **Admin:** Consistent rules & administrative policies
- **Finance:** Capital Financing, Fiscal Mgt & Utility Billing centralized
- **Rates:** Rate setting principals are consistent
  Rates may vary by City (service area)
- **O&M:** Economy of scale
  Uniform design/construction standards
  O&M policies and procedures standardized
- **Personnel:** Ability to hire qualified and certified operators
ORS 190 Agency, Sewer Authority & County Service District

Obstacles

- **Formation:** All cities & counties must concur with District formation.
- **City Autonomy:** Creates another local agency. Cities must relinquish authority and control.
- **Financial:** Participation by all cities is needed to make a new district financially feasible.
- **Mill City WWTF:** Address Mill City’s WWTF & personnel at formation.
Next Steps

Establish a North Santiam Canyon Wastewater Facilities Planning Committee

- Each City Council Decides if it will participate
  - Appoint 2 Representatives (1 Rep, 1 Alternate)
  - Enter into an 5 year agreement
- Marion County Agrees to Staff & Support Committee