



# North Santiam Canyon Wastewater Feasibility Study

## Governance & Next Steps

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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.**

# North Santiam Canyon Wastewater Facilities Planning Committee

- **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

## Detroit - Idanha WWTF

- Set up Sewer Utility in each city.
- One city owns & operates under a Management Agreement.

## Gates WWTF

- Set up Sewer Utility when system built.
- City owns & operates its own system.

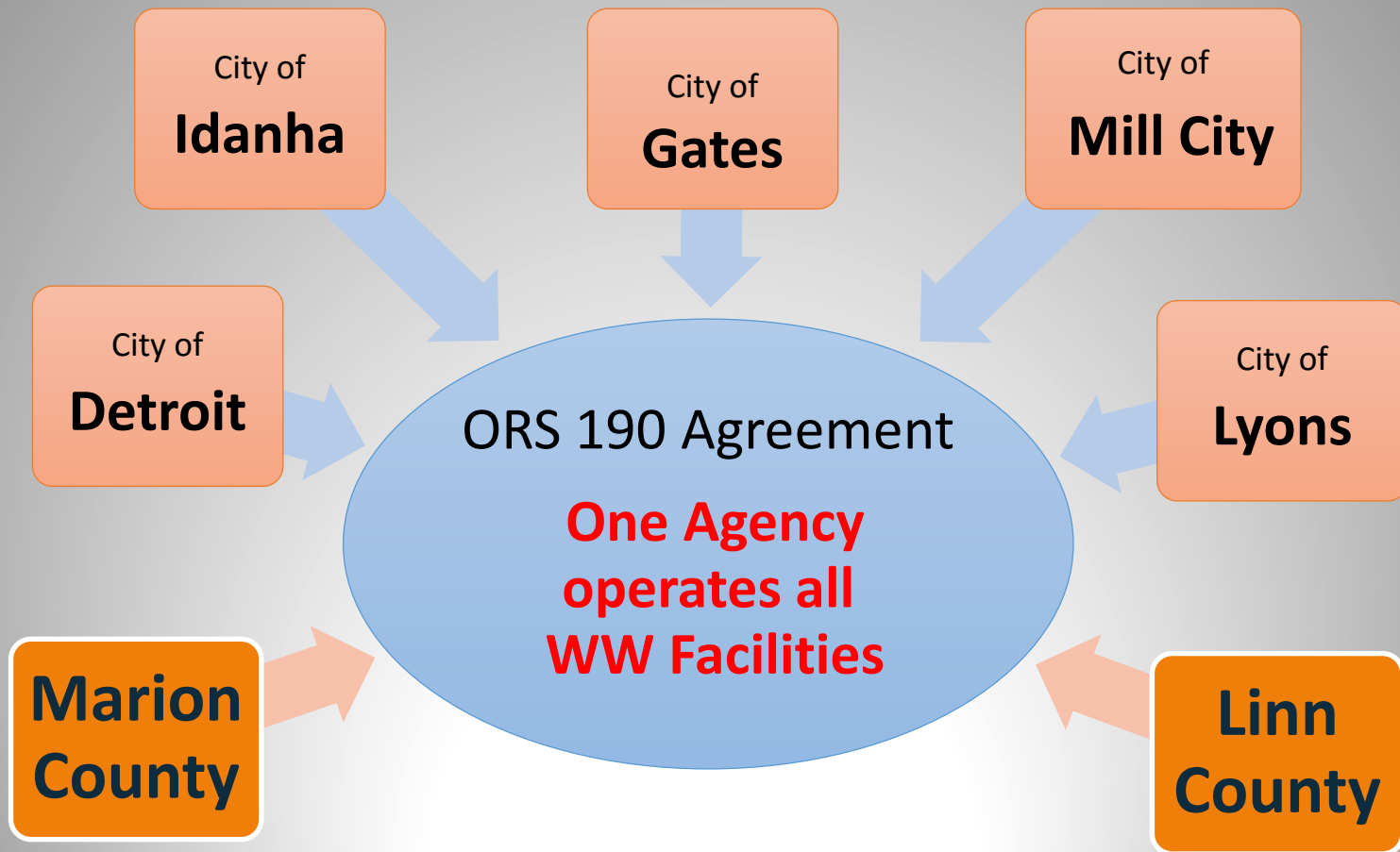
## Mill City WWTF

- Existing WWTF
- Expand system to accommodate growth.
- No change.

## Lyons WWTF

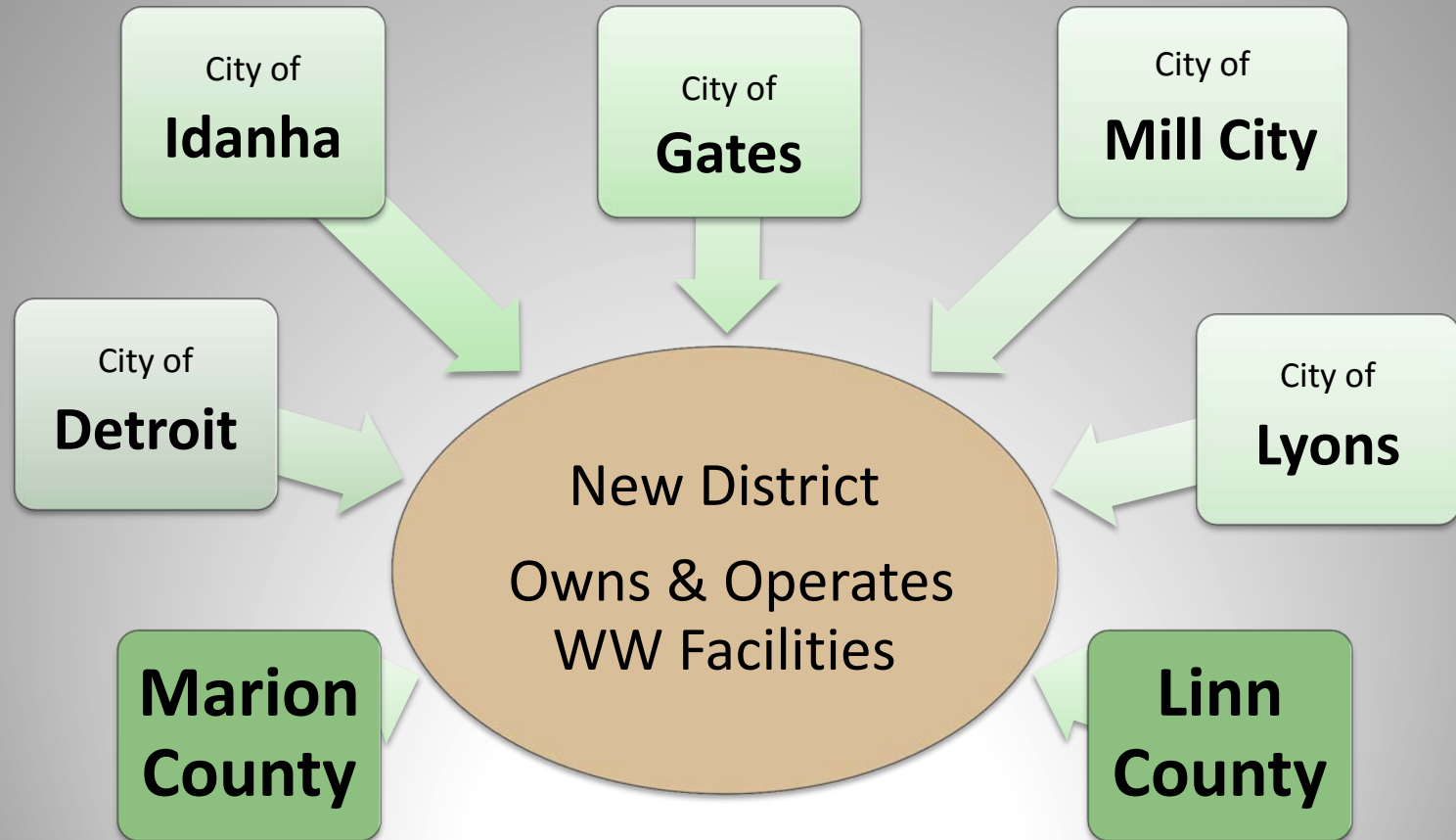
- Set up Sewer Utility when system built.
- City owns & operates its own system.

# ORS 190 Agreement (Contract w/ 1 Agency)



# ORS 190 Agency

## Sewer Authority or County Service District





# 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**