



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT
1220 LAKEWAY DRIVE
BELLINGHAM, WASHINGTON 98229

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA

February 26, 2014

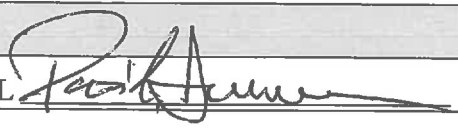
8:00 a.m. – Regular Session

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY
At this time, members of the public may address the Commission. Please state your name prior to making comments.
3. ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA
4. CONSENT AGENDA
5. SPECIFIC ITEMS OF BUSINESS:
 - A. Review Draft Joint Resolutions
 - B. Surplus Standby Generator
 - C. Fire Hydrant Maintenance Contract
 - D. Draft Sewer Comprehensive Plan
 - E. Strawberry Point Sewer Pump Station Engineering Agreement-Cost Revision
6. OTHER BUSINESS
7. MANAGER'S REPORT
8. PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY
9. ADJOURNMENT



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

AGENDA BILL

DATE SUBMITTED:	February 18, 2014		
TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS			
FROM: Patrick Sorensen	MANAGER APPROVAL 		
MEETING AGENDA DATE:	February 26, 2014		
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:	5.A.		
SUBJECT:	Review Draft Joint Councils Resolution		
LIST DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ⇒ NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING AGENDA BILL: _____	1. Draft Joint Councils/Commissioners Resolution for March 26, 2014 Meeting (Resolution #1)		
	2. Draft Joint Councils/Commissioners Resolution for March 26, 2014 Meeting (Resolution #2)		
	3.		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL/ OTHER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

Resolution #1

The Lake Whatcom Policy Group is proposing to introduce two (2) Resolutions for adoption at the March 26, 2014 Joint Councils/Commissioners Meeting. As proposed Resolution #1 addresses a reaffirmation on the part of the City Council, County Council and Board of Commissioners regarding their commitment towards the health of Lake Whatcom, specifically the continued reduction of phosphorus loading. The draft Resolution acknowledges that additional financial investments will be needed over a long period of time in order to clean up the Lake. The Resolution also addresses the need for the next Five Year Plan in 2014 to be developed and that milestones need to be established.

Resolution #2

Recognizes the Sudden Valley Community Association's role in the previously described effort, and formally recognizes their role in the Policy Group.

The attached Resolutions are draft documents. They are provided for your discussion. A final cleaned-up version would be prepared for the March 25, 2014 meeting. It is proposed that each body individually adopt both Resolutions at that meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

Presently there are no numbers available from the policy group regarding future costs or financial commitments.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Review and discussion at this time.

PROPOSED MOTION

No formal action is required at this time.

DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. 1

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL, AND LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS REAFFIRMING OUR SHARED COMMITMENT TO THE HEALTH OF LAKE WHATCOM, SETTING MILESTONES FOR 2014 THROUGH 2016 TO IMPROVE ITS WATER QUALITY, AND SETTING GOALS FOR THE WORK PLAN OF THE LAKE WHATCOM POLICY GROUP.

WHEREAS, Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for approximately 100,000 Whatcom County residents; and

WHEREAS, the lake's water quality has been generally declining since at least 1988; and

WHEREAS, in 1992 and again in 1998 the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County and the precursor to the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District jointly formed the Lake Whatcom Management Program and thereby declared their intention to work together to protect and manage Lake Whatcom; and

WHEREAS, Lake Whatcom was first listed on the 303(d) list of impaired water bodies under the federal Clean Water Act for excessive levels of phosphorus and fecal coliform in 1998; and

WHEREAS, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report of Findings for total phosphorus and fecal coliform in the Lake Whatcom Watershed was issued in 2008 by the Washington State Department of Ecology (DoE) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which, when finalized as an Implementation Plan, will require dramatic reductions in phosphorus loading to the Lake; and

WHEREAS, excessive phosphorus levels in Lake Whatcom have required substantial investments from the City of Bellingham, Whatcom County and the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer district to ensure long-term access to sufficient amounts of high quality drinking water.; and

WHEREAS, the City, County and District strive to ensure that their investments result in effective, sustained annual reductions of phosphorus loading to the lake; and

WHEREAS, sustained reductions in phosphorus loading to the Lake will reduce the long-term costs to the City, its water customers, and the customers of the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District; and

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360.778.8270

WHEREAS, substantial additional investments over a number of years will be needed to clean up the Lake; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Whatcom Management Program's series of 5 Year Plans have established and implemented actions in major Program Areas needed to improve water quality in the Lake,

WHEREAS, in 2014 development of the next 5 Year Plan will identify and schedule implementation of actions for the five year period, 2015 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, completion of a TMDL Implementation Plan will require melding of the load reduction actions contained in the 5 Year Plans with identification of long-term costs needed to achieve reduction targets identified in the 2008 TMDL Report, identification of funding sources, and establishment of a timeline for achieving those reduction targets; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Whatcom Policy Group is well positioned to work with staff and the Administrations to identify and facilitate the work needed to complete the TMDL Implementation Plan.;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, THE WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL, AND THE LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS:

In cooperation with their respective administrations the councils/commissions of the Lake Whatcom Management Program establish the following milestones for actions necessary to complete and implement a TMDL Implementation Plan and direct the Lake Whatcom Joint Policy Group to initiate and oversee the accomplishment of these milestones.

1. **2014.** Establish policy principles for all areas of investment, and identify expenditures needed to achieve load reduction goals in each area.
2. **2015.** Analyze expenditure levels, identify funding sources and set specific timetables for each area of investment.
3. **2016.** Complete an Implementation Plan for phosphorus reduction and control of fecal coliform that will meet the requirements of the TMDL, protect our drinking water, and restore lake and tributary water quality.

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2014.

Council President

APPROVED by me this ____ day of _____, 2014.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of the City Attorney

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

DRAFT RESOLUTION NO. 2

A JOINT RESOLUTION OF BELLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL, AND LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS INVITING THE SUDDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION TO SEND A REPRESENTATIVE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LAKE WHATCOM POLICY GROUP

WHEREAS, Lake Whatcom is the drinking water source for approximately 100,000 Whatcom County residents, including the residents of Sudden Valley; and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County, the City of Bellingham and the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District have all established policy declaring their commitment to jointly protect and manage Lake Whatcom; and

WHEREAS, in 2010 in order to improve communication between the governing bodies and administrative staff those same entities formed the Lake Whatcom Policy Group, comprised of 2 members each from the City and County Councils and 1 member from the LWWSD Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Sudden Valley Community Association plays an integral part in achieving needed reductions in pollution, is currently participating in staff team work sessions, and has been a long-term participant in activities needed to protect the Lake; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELLINGHAM, THE WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL, AND THE LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT THAT:

- 1) The Sudden Valley Community Association Board of Directors (SVCA) be invited to participate as a member of the Lake Whatcom Policy Group.
- 2) SVCA may select 1 representative to participate in Lake Whatcom Policy Group activities.

PASSED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2014.

Council President

City of Bellingham
City Attorney
210 Lottie Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225
360-778-8270

APPROVED by me this _____ day of _____, 2014.

Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Finance Director

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Office of the City Attorney



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

AGENDA BILL

DATE SUBMITTED:	February 18, 2014		
TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS			
FROM: Patrick Sorensen	MANAGER APPROVAL <i>Patrick Sorensen</i>		
MEETING AGENDA DATE:	February 26, 2014		
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:	5.B.		
SUBJECT:	Surplus Standby Generator		
LIST DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ⇒ NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING AGENDA BILL: _____	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL/ OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

Staff would like to dispose of the District's 1978 Waukesha Portable Generator (Generator #19) as it is beyond its useful life and no longer used for emergency power issues.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

To declare the 1978 Waukesha Portable Generator as surplus and authorize staff to dispose of it.

PROPOSED MOTION

To declare the 1978 Waukesha Portable Generator as surplus and authorize staff to dispose of it in a manner consistent with state law.

February 17, 2014 Surplus List			
Quantity	Item		Notes
1	Generator #19		Portable generator is old and no longer useable.
	ID	SVWTP	
	Motor Manufacturer	Waukesha	
	Motor Model	VRD232U	
	Generator Manufacturer	Kato	
	KW Rating	30	

STATE OF WASHINGTON
MOTOR VEHICLE
CERTIFICATE OF TITLE

THIS TITLE IS EVIDENCE OF LEGAL OWNERSHIP

LICENSE NO. **8 770447** POW. **EX** USE CLASS **78** MOD. YR. **KENEO** MAKE **PYSEMENT** SERIES & BODY STYLE

VEHICLE NO. **147634100** SCALE WT. **D376D** PURCHASE COST **7830605261** YR. TAX CODE

CO. NO. **31** SEM. NO. **304** DATE OF APPLICATION **10 30 78** CODE **NEW** TITLE NO. **7830605261**
FLEET/EQUIP. NO. LICENSE EXPIRES **MO. DAY YR. OLD**

SAME AS LEGAL OWNER BELOW
REGISTERED OWNER
LEGAL OWNER

WHATCOM WATER DIST 10
1507 CABLE ST
BELLINGHAM WA 98220

SIGNATURE(S) RELEASES INTEREST IN VEHICLE **DATE**
SIGNATURE(S) RELEASES INTEREST IN VEHICLE **DATE**
I CERTIFY THAT THE RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING SHOW PERSONS NAMED HEREON AS REGISTERED AND LEGAL OWNERS OF THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED.

SIGNATURE(S) RELEASES INTEREST IN VEHICLE **DATE**
SIGNATURE(S) RELEASES INTEREST IN VEHICLE **DATE**
I CERTIFY THAT THE RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING SHOW PERSONS NAMED HEREON AS REGISTERED AND LEGAL OWNERS OF THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED.

SIGNATURE(S) RELEASES INTEREST IN VEHICLE **DATE**
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I CERTIFY THAT THE RECORDS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING SHOW PERSONS NAMED HEREON AS REGISTERED AND LEGAL OWNERS OF THE VEHICLE DESCRIBED.

(DO NOT USE)

AGENT'S LISTING NO. **21** LICENSE EXPIRES LAST DAY **OF MO. YR.** VALIDATION TAB NO. **22** LICENSE PLATE NO. **35** FILING FEE **EXCISE TAX**
TRANS. CODE **24** W/L **24** ORIG **24** TRAN. **24** RE- **24** ISSUE **24** OTHER **24** REPL. **24** CORR. **24** SPEC. **24** INSP. **24** CHG. **24** CLASS **24** TITLE **24** NO. **24** MOD. **24** REG. **24** FLEET/EQUIP. NO. **27** PREVIOUS PLATE NO. **28**

NEW REGISTERED OWNER (LAST NAME-FIRST) AND CURRENT ADDRESS **36** BASIC FEE **37** APPLICATION FEE **38** INSP. FEE **39** OTHER FEE **40** USE TAX **41** PENALTY FEE **42** TOTAL FEES AND TAX **43** AUDITOR'S STAMP **44**

NEW LEGAL OWNER **45** ZIP CODE **46** ZIP CODE **47** DEALER'S REPORT OF SALE: I (WE) CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREON IS CORRECT. THE VEHICLE IS CLEAR OF ENCUMBRANCES EXCEPT AS SHOWN. ANY REQUIRED SALES TAX HAS BEEN COLLECTED. **48** DEALER NAME **49** WASH. DEALER NO. **50** DESCRIBED VEHICLE **51** DATE OF SALE **52** SUB-AGENTS FEE **53** NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN TOTAL FEES **54** SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS **55** DAY OF **56** NOTARY PUBLIC OR LICENSE AGENT NO. **57**

DEALER'S REPORT OF SALE: I (WE) CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREON IS CORRECT. THE VEHICLE IS CLEAR OF ENCUMBRANCES EXCEPT AS SHOWN. ANY REQUIRED SALES TAX HAS BEEN COLLECTED. **58** DEALER NAME **59** WASH. DEALER NO. **60** DESCRIBED VEHICLE **61** DATE OF SALE **62** SUB-AGENTS FEE **63** NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN TOTAL FEES **64** SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS **65** DAY OF **66** NOTARY PUBLIC OR LICENSE AGENT NO. **67**

I CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREON IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE. **68** (GIVE TITLE WHEN SIGNING FOR COMPANY) **69** SECURED PARTY SIGNATURE AND TITLE **70**

REFER TO REVERSE SIDE FOR SAFEKEEPING INSTRUCTIONS



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

AGENDA BILL

DATE SUBMITTED:	February 21, 2014		
TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS			
FROM: Patrick Sorensen	MANAGER APPROVAL <i>Patrick Sorensen</i>		
MEETING AGENDA DATE:	February 26, 2014		
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:	5.C.		
SUBJECT:	Fire Hydrant Maintenance Contract		
LIST DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ⇒ NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING AGENDA BILL: _____	1. Contract Amendment		
	2. Letter dated September 24, 2012 from South Whatcom Fire Authority		
	3.		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL/ OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

The District is currently in agreement with South Whatcom Fire Authority to share the cost of the brushing, cleaning and painting of fire hydrants within the district. This agreement shares the cost of one person's two month salary and any incidental supplies, paint, gas, etc.

Dave Ralston, Fire Chief of South Whatcom Fire Authority has requested that the compensation amount be adjusted upward to not to exceed actual costs of \$4,000.00 per year from the current \$2,000.00 which has been in effect since 2007.

FISCAL IMPACT

The 2014 budget would indicate the increase in the contract amount.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Approve the amended contract.

PROPOSED MOTION

To approve the amended contract with South Whatcom Fire Authority in the amount not to exceed actual costs of \$4,000.00 for routine fire hydrant maintenance, including brush and vegetation clearing, painting and inventorying.



September 24, 2012

Patrick Sorensen, General Manager
Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
1220 Lakeway Dr.
Bellingham, WA 98229

Dear Mr. Sorensen:

Currently the Fire Hydrant Maintenance Contract Amendment between Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District (the Water District) and Whatcom County Fire Protection District No. 2 (the Fire District) allows for annual compensation from the Water District to the Fire District of \$2,000 for hydrant maintenance. The total average cost over the past six years (including wages, benefits, and supplies) is approximately \$5,385.96 per year for hydrant maintenance. Half of that is \$2,692.98 which is significantly lower than the \$2,000 we are currently reimbursed from the Water District. We would like to respectfully request that the Water District consider increasing the minimum reimbursement amount for future years.

Whatcom County Fire District 2 became part of the South Whatcom Fire Authority on January 1, 2009 and if any changes are considered please change the Fire District to the South Whatcom Fire Authority in any documentation.

Please feel free to contact me at 360-676-8080.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David M. Ralston". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David M. Ralston
Fire Chief



FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE CONTRACT AMENDMENT

THIS AMENDMENT is entered into between Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District (the Water District) and South Whatcom Fire Authority (the Fire Authority). The amendment relates to that certain Fire Hydrant Maintenance Contract between the parties dated May 11, 1990, recorded with the Whatcom County Auditor on May 15, 1990, under Auditor File No. 9000515098. This amendment is made with reference to the following facts:

A. The Water District and the Fire Authority have operated under the preexisting agreement since 1990 and, during that time, the costs of fire hydrant maintenance have increased. Additionally, the population served by both the Water District and Fire Authority has increased, increasing the number of fire hydrants.

B. In view of the mutual benefits to each entity from continued cooperation concerning the maintenance of the Water District's fire hydrants located within the Fire Authority's service area, the parties make and enter into the following amendment.

AMENDMENT

Paragraph II, Compensation to Fire Authority, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"The Fire Authority shall be paid annual compensation not to exceed actual costs of \$4,000.00, payable on or before November 1 of each calendar year, for performance of the services and provision of paint and materials as specified in Article 1 above. The parties may renegotiate the compensation to the Fire Authority when hydrants are added or on the anniversary date of this agreement. However, neither party shall be bound by this provision to agree to any change in compensation. The Fire Authority shall submit an invoice for payment on or before October 1 of each calendar year for consideration and approval at the regular monthly meeting of the Water District Board of Commissioners. Payment to the Fire Authority shall be made by check from Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District in accordance with the normal accounts payable process.

There are no other amendments to the above-referenced agreement, and all remaining terms shall remain in full force and effect.

LAKE WHATCOM WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Leslie Mc Roberts President, Board of Commissioners

Dated: _____

SOUTH WHATCOM FIRE AUTHORITY

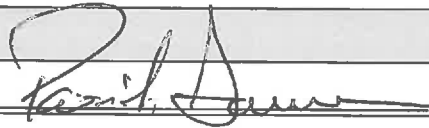
President, Board of Commissioners

Dated: _____



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

AGENDA BILL

DATE SUBMITTED:	February 18, 2014		
TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS			
FROM: Patrick Sorensen	MANAGER APPROVAL 		
MEETING AGENDA DATE:	February 26, 2014		
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:	5.D.		
SUBJECT:	Draft Sewer Comprehensive Plan		
LIST DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ⇒ NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING AGENDA BILL: _____	1. Environmental Checklist – Replacement Version		
	2.		
	3.		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL/ OTHER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

At the January 8, 2014 meeting, the Board requested that this item be included on the agendas for the next several meetings until they have had the opportunity to review, discuss and consider the many details included in the District's Sewer Comprehensive Plan.

The next section to be discussed is the Environmental Checklist, a replacement version of the checklist is attached.

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable at this time.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Review, discuss, consider the Sewer Comprehensive Plan.

PROPOSED MOTION

Not applicable at this time.

WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Comprehensive Sewer System Plan Update

2. Name of applicant: *Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District*

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

*Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District
1220 Lakeway Drive
Bellingham, WA 98229
Patrick Sorensen, General Manager
Tel. 360-734-9224*

4. Date checklist prepared: *2/03/2014*

5. Agency requesting checklist: *Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District*

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Exact construction timing of the various improvement projects included in the Comprehensive Sewer Plan is unknown. The Plan identifies the anticipated schedule for projects and alternatives proposed for the next 6 years. Project funding will impact construction phasing.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

This Comprehensive Sewer Plan covers planned sewer system improvements within the District for the next 20 years, with anticipated updates of the plan every six years.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

The District authorized an FEIS for provision of sewage disposal services to serve anticipated population along the South Shore of Lake Whatcom (Sudden Valley and Geneva areas). That 1997 FEIS investigated the direct and indirect impacts of anticipated ultimate populations in the Sudden Valley and Geneva areas of the District. An SEIS regarding potential changes to the operation of the Nooksack Diversion Dam was prepared in 2000-2001 for the District. An EIS was prepared for the proposed North Shore Estates (formerly Winchester Estates) subdivision, including sewer collection facilities, in the District's North Shore area. A non-project environmental checklist was prepared for the District's 2010 Water System Plan Update, which is the companion of this Plan Update.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

The District has no pending applications for governmental approval for sewer system improvements.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

It is anticipated that the following governmental approvals or permits will be required for the construction of sewer system improvements:

Washington Department of Ecology

- NPDES Construction Activities stormwater management permit for construction projects disturbing areas greater than one acre.

Whatcom County (various departments)

- Approval of construction plans and specifications for all improvements constructed in Whatcom County road rights-of-way, and for any structures requiring occupancy permits.
- Conditional use permit for new above-ground structures.
- Shoreline substantial development permit if new facilities are within 200 feet of Lake Whatcom, Lake Louise, and lower portions of Austin Creek. The County's shoreline jurisdiction with respect to creeks is subject to modification.
- Right-of-way encroachment permits
- Land disturbance permit
- Approval of the Comprehensive Sewer Plan by County Engineer, County Health Officer, and County Council.
- Critical Areas Ordinance review in the context of other permit applications, i.e. conditional use, shoreline, building permits, etc.

Department of Fish & Wildlife

- Hydraulic Project Approval for any construction below the ordinary high water mark of Lake Whatcom or its associated wetlands and tributary streams (none known at this time)

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

This proposal is a Comprehensive Sewer Plan which is a non-project action. The Comprehensive Sewer Plan addresses future growth planning in addition to the needs of maintaining an existing sewer system so the District can continue to operate a safe, reliable, and cost effective sewer system. The purpose of the Comprehensive Sewer Plan is to identify those projects the District will need to construct in order to continue to meet standards for capacity, I&I reduction and system replacement. District efforts will be focused on maintaining its existing pumping stations and sewer mains and reducing inflow and infiltration.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

The proposal includes the area within the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District boundary, in Whatcom County, Washington (see attached map)

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other

The "site" for this purpose is defined as the area within the District boundary. All types of terrain are included in the service area, but predominantly it is rolling and hilly, with some very steep areas.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

There are cliffs within the service area (100% slopes). Steep slope areas would be avoided in the selection of construction locations for sewer system improvements.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

There is no known prime agricultural farm land in the District boundary. The soils include classifications of Squalicum, Chuckanut, Nati, Kickerville-Barneston-Everett, and Sumas Outwash. (Source: Soil Survey of Whatcom County Washington. USDA Soil Conservation Service 1983)

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Yes. Within the District boundaries, unstable slopes are evidenced by surface indications along Lake Whatcom Boulevard, west of Strawberry Point, and possibly along Agate Heights Road on the North Shore. There may be other areas as well. The District will engage site-specific geotechnical and structural expertise prior to the design and construction of its new reservoir facilities.

Indirect: Although the Soil Survey may indicate moderate to severe restrictions to buildings based on slopes and wetness, in fact these obstacles have been overcome by site-specific structural designs to allow house construction. The District is unaware of any significant quantity of soil so unstable as to render platted properties un-buildable. It is anticipated that County environmental review of new or pending plat applications will address these issues on a site-specific basis for presently unplatted properties.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed.
Indicate source of fill.

Direct: In general, sewer main trench spoil is properly disposed of off site, and replaced with imported granular backfill material whenever the line is in a roadway or road shoulder. The quantity of imported backfill is approximately 30 cubic yards per 100 feet of pipe. For reservoir construction, excess excavation spoil is also removed and properly disposed of offsite. The quantity will be dependent upon the slope of the site and the degree to which the reservoir is partially buried or not. The project site's surface is always restored.

Indirect: Filling and grading associated with individual home construction cannot be projected, but would be subject to County review and regulation through the building permit process. Filling and grading associated with new subdivisions would be subject to environmental review and regulation via either the short or long plat subdivision process.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Direct: The highest probability of erosion would occur during construction. Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as silt fences, silt check dams, cobbled construction entrances and directed site drainage are required and enforced by the District for its construction projects. The Department of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for the Puget Sound and Whatcom County's regulations govern the BMP's.

Indirect: With respect to individual home sites and construction of new subdivisions, erosion and sedimentation is most likely to occur during construction and prior to establishment of vegetative cover. Approved erosion and sedimentation control techniques such as silt fences and silt check dams must be implemented and maintained for even the smallest project. These requirements are addressed on a site-specific basis by Whatcom County building permit and subdivision processes, and include the Land Disturbance Permit and required Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plans.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Direct:

The surface over sewer mains would generally be restored to its condition prior to construction, i.e. mains in streets would have paved surfaces, mains in easements would have turf surfaces. Whatcom County overlay zoning regulations stipulate the allowable level of impervious cover on a site. These rules will not affect sewer main construction or repair.

Indirect:

South Shore area: The District's 1997 FEIS for South Shore Sewage Disposal Alternatives thoroughly identified the level of impervious surfaces which may occur as a result of homebuilding. The County's overlay zoning has been passed since that time, further reducing the level of anticipated impervious surface.

North Shore area: North Shore development will generally be less dense with less impervious cover based on lower-density zoning and Whatcom County's overlay zoning. Many external factors govern development there, some of which are ultimately based on availability of water, but beyond the District's control.

- h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Direct: *Implement County-approved temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures during construction, and re-vegetate immediately upon completion of construction. The District supervises contractor-implemented erosion control procedures for any District-funded construction projects.*

Indirect: *The Sudden Valley Community Association, through its 1982 Storm Drainage Plan, supervises homebuilder-implemented temporary erosion and sedimentation control measures during construction, and establishes and supervises erosion control standards for the permanent residence. These are in addition to those imposed by Whatcom County through the above-mentioned Land Disturbance Permit and Erosion and Sedimentation Control regulations.*

In the Geneva and North Shore areas, Whatcom County supervises contractor compliance with erosion control requirements during homebuilding.

2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Direct – temporary impacts: *During construction, any construction project would result in dust and exhaust from heavy equipment such as backhoes, graders, dump trucks, and tractor/trailer trucks delivering heavy construction equipment. Construction workers' personal vehicles would also create dust and exhaust.*

Direct – permanent impacts: *District staff would visit some of the facilities (e.g. pump stations, generators) for operational purposes, and their vehicles would create exhaust and possibly dust.*

Indirect – temporary impacts: *There will be increased vehicle emissions associated with home construction traffic. Onsite burning of trees removed for house construction will occur if not specifically prohibited via burn bans as regulated by Whatcom County.*

Indirect – permanent impacts: *Automobile and bus vehicle emissions associated with residential subdivisions and public transportation to serve same.*

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

No.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Direct – temporary impacts: Appropriate dust control measures will be implemented on District-managed construction projects.

Direct – permanent impacts: District staff will endeavor to reduce the potential vehicle emissions from its trucks by managing operating procedures and service routes so as to minimize driving miles and properly maintaining vehicles.

Indirect – temporary impacts: Appropriate dust control measures during home construction are enforced through Whatcom County Erosion Control regulations.

Indirect – permanent impacts: A significant reduction in vehicle emissions over the total potential level can best be achieved through individual, personal decisions to choose alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle. Public transportation, bike trails connected to work centers, carpooling, and reducing unnecessary travel are all important measures which could be supported by individuals and by the community as a whole.

3. Water

a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

The majority of Lake Whatcom is located inside the District boundaries. Several streams are also contained within the District's boundaries, including:

- *On the South Shore - Beaver Creek, which is tributary to Austin Creek, which is tributary to Lake Whatcom.*
- *On the North Shore - Smith Creek, Olsen Creek, and Carpenter Creek, which are tributaries to Lake Whatcom.*
- *South End – Anderson Creek, which is tributary to Lake Whatcom. Anderson Creek is also a component of the City of Bellingham's Middle Fork Nooksack River Diversion System.*

- 2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

It is possible that projects will be constructed within 200 feet of the waters listed. Plans will be developed prior to construction and the District will apply at that time for Shoreline Exemption permits for the work as it is normal maintenance and repair of existing facilities.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Direct: No net removal of dredge or placement of fill in surface waters or wetlands is anticipated. However, fill and dredge is typically project-specific and will be addressed by the project environmental checklist.

Indirect: Fill and dredge material placed or removed from surface waters in the future due to homebuilding is anticipated to be minimal, as most waterfront property has already been developed. There may be some areas of wetlands which individual home sites or future subdivisions could impact. Whatcom County requires environmental review of any subdivision proposal impacting wetlands. It is unlikely that dredge or fill of surface waters or wetlands would occur on any significant number of existing platted lots. In either circumstance, Whatcom County has regulatory powers to require wetlands and surface water protection.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This proposal for the Comprehensive Sewer Plan does not require additional surface water withdrawals or diversions. Provision of drinking water by the District currently requires direct surface water withdrawal for Sudden Valley and Geneva, and indirect surface water withdrawal for part of North Shore (City of Bellingham intertie). Lake Whatcom is the source of the surface water withdrawals. . Projected quantities are included in the District's Water Use Efficiency Plan.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

No. The City of Bellingham operates the Whatcom Falls dam and the Nooksack Diversion to attempt target water surface elevations of 314 feet above mean sea level during May through September, and 311.5 feet during November through March. April and October are transition months. There is not an identified 100-year floodplain associated with the Lake.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

The Plan does not include any project that would intentionally discharge waste materials to surface waters.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

This proposal for the Comprehensive Sewer Plan does not require additional ground water withdrawals nor will water be discharged to ground water. The District uses direct ground water withdrawals to supply part of North Shore. Water will not be discharged to ground water. Projected quantities are included in the District's Water Use Efficiency Plan.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals. . . ; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Direct: *No waste material from the proposed facilities will be purposely discharged into the ground.*

Indirect: *Prior to the completion of the Lake Louise Road Interceptor which now provides sufficient sewage transmission capacity on the South Shore, the number of onsite sewage systems increased, leading to discharge of effluent to the groundwater. Septic systems installed in areas served by public sewer will be required to connect to the public sewer within five years of sewer availability. In areas not served by public sewer, onsite sewage systems are allowed and approved by the Whatcom County Health Department.*

c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Direct: *Sewer system projects will not create any new significant storm water runoff. Area storm water runoff flows to Lake Whatcom and its tributary streams.*

Indirect: *The impacts of runoff from new home construction on the South Shore were identified by the District's 1997 FEIS. Impacts of runoff for proposed North Shore Estates (formerly Winchester Estates) were identified in*

that development's EIS.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Direct: *The sewer system facilities will not discharge waste materials to the ground or surface waters.*

Indirect: *See 1997 FEIS. With regard to general residential population increase in the watershed, waste materials may enter the ground or surface waters only if spilled on the ground and subsequently carried off by storm runoff. Typical residential waste materials might include automotive fluids, insecticides, fertilizers, paints, cleaning products, etc.*

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

Public education is necessary to inform homeowners of the potentially serious impacts of some typical "home and garden" activities, such as cleaning paint brushes, changing motor oil, using lawn and garden fertilizers and pesticides.

The Lake Whatcom Management Plan includes a substantial educational component to provide this information.

4. Plants

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

☒ *deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other*
☒ *evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other*
☒ *shrubs*
☒ *grass*
☐ *pasture*
☐ *crop or grain*
☒ *wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other*
☐ *water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other*
☒ *other types of vegetation*

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Direct: *Sewer system maintenance and repair projects will generally be confined to traveled right-of-ways or previously disturbed areas.*

Indirect: *See 1997 FEIS. Housing construction will result in trees being removed to make room for buildings and driveways. Sudden Valley Community Association has very stringent requirements that limit tree removal.*

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

*The 1997 FEIS identified a state threatened plant species, water lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*) and a state sensitive species, southern mudwort (*Limosella acaulis*) as being recorded in historic records for the study area. No impacts to these species or their habitats are expected from sewer system projects.*

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

The surface over the water mains would generally be restored to its condition prior to construction (paved or unpaved). Landscaping at the perimeter any sites will be accomplished in accordance with Whatcom County requirements established by the permits issued.

5. Animals

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, ducks, sea gulls, swans
 mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, cougar other:
 fish: bass, Kokanee salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

See 1997 FEIS, page 3-52. The sewer system projects are not expected to harm endangered, threatened or sensitive species or their habitats, as the projects generally take place in traveled right-of-ways and previously disturbed areas.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

See 1997 FEIS, page 3-52. The sewer system projects are not expected to harm endangered, threatened or sensitive species or their habitats, as the projects generally take place in traveled right-of-ways and previously disturbed areas.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The District's projects will be designed to minimize disruption of wildlife habitat by occupying traveled right-of-ways and previously disturbed areas to the largest extent possible.

6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Direct: *Some sewer facilities are powered by electricity. Emergency backup power is supplied by propane or diesel generators.*

Indirect: *The homes which will be served by the District's sewer facilities will have electricity, natural gas, propane, solar energy, and/or wood energy available.*

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Direct: *No.*

- b. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Direct: *Electric motors for the sewer facilities will have high energy efficiency requirements.*

7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Direct: *None anticipated*

Indirect: *Increasing urbanization of the Lake Whatcom watershed is viewed by some as a potential environmental health hazard which could affect the suitability of the Lake as the area's major drinking water source. These issues have been addressed in detail in the 1997 FEIS for South Shore Sewage Disposal Alternatives. All legal challenges as to the adequacy of the FEIS under SEPA have been resolved in favor of the District.*

Risks from accidental spill of toxic chemicals or fuel into the water supply already exist due to residential traffic, residential activities, and boating recreation. These risks may increase with an increase in population performing these same activities in the watershed.

1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Direct: *No special emergency services are required.*

Indirect: *The District, City of Bellingham, and Whatcom County have prepared an emergency response plan for the watershed. The District has also completed an update to its own Emergency Plan.*

2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Direct: *NA*

Indirect: *Although not specifically included as part of this proposal, community efforts which can be continued within the watershed include constructing and retrofitting runoff quality enhancement techniques such as sedimentation ponds and biofiltration swales; continued public education as to impacts of residential chemical use in the watershed; and transportation demand management promoting less vehicular travel.*

b. Noise

1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Direct – Temporary and Permanent: *No existing noises would affect the construction and operation of sewer facilities.*

Indirect– Temporary: *No existing noises would adversely impact the construction of additional homes in the District.*

Indirect– Permanent: *Traffic noise on Lake Whatcom Blvd. and Lake Louise Road will increase with increasing population, and the change would most greatly impact those houses located on these streets.*

2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Direct – Temporary: *Heavy construction equipment noise will occur during the daylight hours on weekdays during construction of sewer facilities.*

Direct – Permanent: *Auxiliary generators used in the event of power outages are somewhat noisy, even if housed and equipped with mufflers. The noise impact would occur during power outages and during regular weekly generator exercise periods. Generator installations in residential areas already exist at several sewage pump stations.*

Indirect– Temporary: *Construction noise from homebuilding would occur during similar hours and will occur throughout the service areas.*

Indirect– Permanent: *Traffic noise, and the noises of living in proximity to one another (e.g. lawnmowers, dogs, children) are to be expected with population increase in an area zoned urban residential.*

3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Not anticipated.

8. Land and shoreline use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Residential development at varying densities with some commercial, resort, and public use. There are some public and private forestry tracts located within areas zoned for residential development. There is also forestry zoned property adjacent to the residential zones.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

No agriculture known except limited forestry. See 8.a above.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

There are approximately 3,700 equivalent residential connections in Sudden Valley, Geneva and North Shore, comprised primarily of single family residences, but also including two schools, two fire stations, condominiums, residential treatment center, neighborhood commercial center, camps, recreation center, and golf club.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

None anticipated.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Refer to official Whatcom County Zoning Map for Sudden Valley, Geneva, North Shore and South Lake areas. Zoning designations include UR12, UR3, RR2, R2A and R5A, RF and CF.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The site is in the Lake Whatcom Subarea of the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan. The District's intended water service areas were designated in the approved 2001 Water System Comprehensive Plan. Most, but not all, of the Geneva study area is included within the City of Bellingham's Urban Growth Area boundary. Sudden Valley is identified in the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan as a resort/recreational subdivision. North Shore is not within an Urban Growth Area, but may see limited residential development resulting from vested plat applications and low-density rural residential development. The South Lake area primarily rural and is included within the District Boundary but the District currently has no existing public water or sewer facilities in the area.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Lake Whatcom is a shoreline of statewide significance. The Lake Whatcom shorelands within the District include urban, rural, and conservancy shoreline designations, and the waters of Lake Louise and Lake Whatcom have aquatic designations. Austin Creek has a conservancy shoreline designation under Whatcom County's Shoreline management Program.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

The Critical Areas Ordinance of Whatcom County classifies some areas as environmentally sensitive for wetlands and steep slopes.

Lake Whatcom, Austin Creek, Beaver Creek, Whatcom Creek and other unnamed creeks tributary to Lake Whatcom would be classified as Critical Areas.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Direct: *No persons would reside at the proposed sewer facilities.*

Indirect: *Development is predominantly residential. Approximately 50-100 people may work at the neighborhood commercial center and the Sudden Valley Community Association recreational facilities (golf course, clubhouse, marina, pool, etc.).*

- i. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

None anticipated.

- k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Not applicable.

- l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

The proposal is to provide public sewer service in accordance with existing zoned land uses and urban growth area boundaries.

9. Housing

- a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Direct: *No housing units will be provided by the District.*

Indirect: *The Comprehensive Sewer Plan will support existing customers and anticipated growth in the District in accordance with Whatcom County zoning and regulations.*

- b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Direct: *No existing houses are anticipated to be eliminated by the proposed projects.*

Indirect: *Generally, no existing houses would be eliminated by new home construction. A conceivable exception would be the removal of an old house for replacement with a newer structure.*

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

Direct: *Does not apply.*

Indirect: *No measures proposed.*

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Direct: *The tallest proposed sewer system structure would be a new or replacement generator building for a*

sewer pump station. It would be the height of a single story building.

Indirect: *County building regulations and the architectural controls of the Sudden Valley Community Association will determine maximum allowable building heights and building materials.*

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Direct: *None anticipated*

Indirect: *Additional homes have the potential to obscure or block some views.*

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Direct: *The District will work with adjacent property owners to reasonably mitigate aesthetic impacts. However, an above-ground sewer system component cannot usually be totally buffered from sight. The costs of mitigating aesthetic impacts will be weighed against the benefits to the community.*

Indirect: *In Sudden Valley, aesthetic impacts of housing are addressed by the SVCA Architectural Control Committee. Other property owner associations in the District may exist or may be formed in the future to provide a similar function.*

11. Light and glare

- a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Direct: *Exterior security lighting at sewer system facilities can be directed so as not to disturb neighbors. Site perimeter vegetation buffers may also help mitigate for glare onto adjacent properties. Lighting would only occur at night.*

Indirect: *There will be additional light and glare produced by additional homes. It will be up to individual adjacent property owners to identify and resolve site-specific issues of light and glare, although Whatcom County Building and Codes and the SVCA Architectural Control Committee may take part in these matters.*

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Direct: *No. If a District-owned security light was determined to present a view impediment, it would be adjusted.*

Indirect: *It is conceivable that outdoor lights or glare from windows of individual houses could pose a traffic safety hazard, or could interfere with the views of adjacent houses.*

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Direct: *None will affect the provision of sewer service.*

Indirect: *Glare from Lake Whatcom may affect some individual homes.*

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

See 11.a above.

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Lake Whatcom provides public recreational opportunities including swimming, fishing, boating and water skiing. Private recreational opportunities include swimming, indoor ice-skating, golfing, parks, recreation center in Sudden Valley, and private campgrounds and church camps near Sudden Valley.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Direct: *No displacement of existing recreational use is anticipated.*

Indirect: *No known formal recreational uses would be displaced by house construction in the District. Nearby residents may be currently using vacant properties for informal recreation (sanctioned or not). These uses will be generally lost with increased home construction on currently vacant lots and properties.*

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Direct: *No measures proposed.*

Indirect: *Sudden Valley has already provided numerous recreational opportunities for its residents. The expansion of these facilities, if necessary to accommodate increased population, will be the duty of the Sudden Valley Community Association. The recreational impacts and mitigating measures for any new subdivisions in the Geneva and North Shore areas will be regulated by Whatcom County through the individual subdivision SEPA processes.*

13. Historic and cultural preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Direct: *See 1997 FEIS, pages 4 - 58-59. the known petroglyph site will not be impacted by any sewer system construction. Utility lines are usually constructed within existing right-of-way corridors, so there is virtually no potential conflict with historic sites.*

Indirect: *The 1997 FEIS identified the possibility that archaeological resources may be discovered in the process of future homebuilding around Lake Whatcom.*

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

See 1997 FEIS, pages 4 – 58-59.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

If potentially important archaeological material is uncovered during any sewer system construction project, the excavation will be stopped for contact of the Washington State Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

14. Transportation

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Existing arterial access to Geneva and Sudden Valley is via Lakeway/Cable Street/ Lake Whatcom Blvd. and Lake Louise Road from Bellingham. Access to Sudden Valley from Interstate 5 to the south is via Highway 9 and Lake Whatcom Blvd. Access to North Shore is via North Shore Road, or via Britton Road from Hwy 542 (Mt. Baker Highway). There are numerous public streets in the Geneva and North Shore areas, and numerous private

streets created by the plats of Sudden Valley.

Whatcom County and the City of Bellingham have previously examined construction of another arterial from Sudden Valley to the City of Bellingham, informally known as the Whatcom Connector. The County and City can provide the most current information as to the status of this road in their respective six year capital improvement plans.

Traffic studies authorized by the two local governments indicate that such an arterial is required to serve the land uses anticipated in Geneva and Sudden Valley. (Lake Whatcom Transportation Study, Bellingham to Sudden Valley, Reid Middleton, 1991)

The District has no legislative authority to create and maintain roads, so has no role in transportation issues.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Geneva and Sudden Valley are currently served by public transportation provided by Whatcom Transit Authority. Stops exist along Lake Whatcom Blvd and Cable Street. The North Shore is not served by regular public transportation.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Direct: Sewer facilities need only the temporary parking necessary for operator and service trucks, one – two spaces at most.

Indirect: Each residential unit must provide sufficient on-lot parking in accordance with Whatcom County zoning and building regulations.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Direct: No new streets are anticipated for access to the proposed sewer facilities.

Indirect: Traffic studies authorized by the County and the City indicate that another major arterial is required to serve the land uses anticipated in Geneva and Sudden Valley.

Within Geneva and North Shore, there may be additional street construction by others in the future.

- e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

The District service areas are not in the immediate vicinity of public water, rail or air transportation.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Direct: The number of vehicular trips generated by any new sewer system facilities would be less than one per day per facility. Upcoming projects are primarily replacement and maintenance of existing sewer facilities, and would generate no additional vehicular trips.

Indirect: Whatcom County subdivision procedures typically require traffic from newly created subdivisions to be addressed in the subdivision application. The Lake Whatcom Transportation Study, Bellingham to Sudden Valley (Reid Middleton, 1991) reported then existing ADT volumes of 18,000 trips on Lakeway Drive east of Yew Street, attributed to 3,450 households in the study corridor, or 5.2 trips per household. The report's ADT volumes for

the year 2010 on Lakeway Drive and a future Whatcom Connector east of Yew Street are approximately 35,000 trips. According to the study, a 6-8 percent reduction in vehicle trips in the Lakeway Corridor may be achievable through aggressive transportation demand management. See the 1997 FEIS (pages 4-31 - 4-40) for discussion of indirect traffic impacts from population growth on the South Shore.

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Direct: *The District has no authority to reduce or control transportation impacts from any activity other than its own operations.*

Indirect: *The City and County will need to jointly construct an additional arterial to accommodate the anticipated traffic increase. The Whatcom Transit Authority would also need to consider increasing bus routes, service volumes, and park-and-ride lots.*

15. Public services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Direct: *The sewer service facilities would not directly require new public services, other than power to run pump stations and controls.*

Indirect: *The District provides some water for fire protection. The population increase made possible by current land use designations will require police and fire protection, schools, and health care facilities to be augmented.*

It is not known whether the development of these areas in accordance with plats and zoning has already been considered in the planning and financing of these public services.

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Direct: *Does not apply.*

Indirect: *The proposed measures of other governmental agencies to reduce and control impacts on fire and police protection, schools, and health facilities are not known. When new subdivisions are created, these agencies have an opportunity to review the proposals and request impact fees. However, 96% of the anticipated future sewer demand is to serve for existing platted lots, so other agencies must base their long-term planning on available census data, projections, and other financial planning mechanisms.*

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Direct: *The proposed sewer facilities would possibly utilize electricity, and natural gas (or delivered propane or diesel) for emergency generators.*

Indirect: *The District proposes to provide sewer service to serve properties that can be legally developed in accordance with existing plats, zoning and building regulations. General construction activities required to provide such services would include: excavation for utility lines and underground structures such as valve vaults; installation of emergency backup generators for major pumping stations; construction of driveways and access roads, surface grading, drainage, restoration and landscaping.*

TO BE COMPLETED BY APPLICANT

EVALUATION FOR
AGENCY USE ONLY

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: _____

*Melanie Mankamy, P.E.
Wilson Engineering, L.L.C., 805 Dupont St., Suite 7, Bellingham, WA 98225
Consulting Engineers for Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District*

Date Submitted: _____

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(do not use this sheet for project actions)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

Direct Impacts: Construction of additional sewer mains will have negligible impacts on discharge to water, emissions to air, release of toxic substances, or production of noise.

Indirect Impacts: If population continues to increase in conformance with existing plats, zoning, and development regulations, the quantity of direct storm water runoff to surface water will probably be increased due to an increase in impervious surfaces in the District. The entire street system has already been constructed in Sudden Valley, so the major increase there will be from additional houses and driveways. In Geneva, there may be some additional impervious street area with the extension of streets within old plats, but the possibility of new subdivisions has been greatly reduced. The City of Bellingham purchased the largest parcels that had vested subdivision applications and are restricted them from development. In the North Shore area, there are approximately 325 existing residences on the public sewer system (fewer are on public water). This population would not increase runoff. The remaining area on North Shore is currently very sparsely populated, zoning was primarily RR2 and R5A, and was not subdivided in the 1900's as was Geneva. Current overlay zoning limits new subdivisions to 5-acre minimum lot size and several large parcels have been purchased by the City of Bellingham and restricted from development. The degree of future impervious surface created per parcel is now governed by the Lake Whatcom overlay zoning adopted by Whatcom County.

The water quality of the runoff, if untreated, could be worse, as it could contain oily residue from more cars and lawn care chemicals from more houses than the present condition. Continued public education, and detention and enhancement of storm water runoff can potentially mitigate erosion, sedimentation and water quality problems if properly managed.

Increased traffic will produce more emissions to air and more noise than the present condition. Public acceptance of alternatives to the single occupancy vehicle can potentially reduce traffic impacts.

No storage, production, or transportation of hazardous materials is anticipated for the service area, other than expansion of activities already taking place, such as transportation of chlorine gas, sodium hypochlorite, and sodium sulfite for water treatment purposes, and transportation of gasoline by others to the privately-owned service station in Sudden Valley.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

See the Water Source Protection Plan for the Lake Whatcom Watershed, prepared by the Lake Whatcom Management Team (Whatcom County, Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District and the City of Bellingham).

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Direct: The District's sewer system construction projects will have minimal impact on plants and animals, negligible impacts on fish, and none on marine life, as most proposed facilities will be located within existing right-of-ways, or previously disturbed areas.

Indirect: People already inhabit the majority of the sewer system service areas, and most additional population growth would represent infilling. There will be some reduction of animal habitat as a result of infilling on platted lots and development of residential-zoned properties. Most of Geneva is designated as part of the City of Bellingham's Urban

Growth Area and Sudden Valley is designated as resort recreational with urban-type services available. North Shore is a mix of developed water frontage, Eagle Ridge and Agate Heights Estates residential subdivisions, and sparsely populated areas uphill from the lakeshore. South Lake includes developed water frontage, rural residential areas, and recreational uses.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Continued implementation and enforcement by Whatcom County of best management practices for stormwater runoff, including enforcement and maintenance beyond the temporary construction impacts.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Construction of sewer system facilities will use some energy and some water. The activities will not deplete energy or natural resources.

Construction of new homes will require additional energy, and will utilize natural resources for building materials. These impacts are the result of increasing population in our geographic area, and will occur regardless of the location of the new homes. Private utilities, such as gas and electric, have performed their own long range planning to accommodate the land uses designated by Whatcom County, and indicate a willingness to provide service. Energy and natural resources will not be "depleted" by this proposal.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

The District will specify high efficiency motors for its facilities in order to conserve energy. The District will continue to promote water conservation through tracking and reducing unaccounted-for water, residential water audits, new construction requirements for water-saving fixtures, and public education. The ongoing Water Use Efficiency Program is currently in the implementation stages. The Lake Whatcom Management Plan contains conservation and education components. The District will also support other utility companies' energy-saving home construction packages and public education programs regarding energy conservation.

3. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

This proposal does not impact significant wilderness areas or prime farmlands because the majority of land within the Geneva and Sudden Valley areas is already platted, the North Shore area is zoned R5A, and all areas are inhabited to varying degrees. The area is not in a floodplain. The majority of frontage of Lake Whatcom is already occupied by homes, so the public access to the lake for recreational opportunities will not be impacted by construction of additional homes.

Lake Whatcom is the primary source for treated drinking water for the District and City of Bellingham. Protection of this resource is the most serious responsibility, and one which the District takes very seriously. The District's 1997 FEIS studied all of the environmental impacts of providing services, which may allow population to increase in accordance with platting, zoning and development regulations. The adequacy of the 1997 FEIS has been confirmed through the courts. The lead agency is relying upon the information in this expanded checklist and the 1997 FEIS to make its determination.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

To the largest extent possible, District projects will be confined to traveled right-of-ways, or previously disturbed areas, to avoid directly impacting wildlife habitat.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The Comprehensive Sewer Plan seeks to provide adequate sewer service to serve existing land use plans, and would, by definition, be compatible.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

To the largest extent possible, District sewer system projects will be confined to traveled right-of-ways, or previously disturbed areas, and will mitigate permanent shoreline impacts when replacement or maintenance projects are located near the shoreline.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Population increases in accordance with zoning and building regulations will increase demands on the roads and other public services. These impacts must be planned for and addressed by the responsible agencies (such as the fire districts, school districts, gas and electric companies, and Whatcom County), just as the District has done for sewer and water services.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

The District is the water and sewer service provider for the area, and therefore does not have the authority to undertake reducing such demands unilaterally. However, the District is participating with Whatcom County and the Sudden Valley Community Association in a density reduction program in Sudden Valley that promotes activities such as lot consolidation and conservancy designations.

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The Comprehensive Sewer Plan Update is itself a requirement of WAC 246-290 and the Washington Department of Health. The District is authorized to purvey water by Title 57 RCW, and the improvements (including alternatives) identified in the Plan Update represent the District's efforts to provide safe drinking water to the public in accordance with all local, state and federal laws.

DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Description of proposal: Comprehensive Comprehensive Sewer Plan 2013 update

Proponent: Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District

Location of proposal, including street address, if any:

All areas contained within the Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District boundary, Whatcom County, Washington.

Lead agency: Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c). This decision was made after review of a completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

- ☐ There is no comment period for this DNS.
- ☐ This DNS is issued after using the optional DNS process in WAC 197-11-355. There is no further comment period on the DNS.
- ☐ This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from the date below. Comments must be submitted by

Responsible official _____

Position/title _____	Phone. _____
----------------------	--------------

Address _____

Date. _____ Signature _____

(OPTIONAL)

- ☐ You may appeal this determination to (name) _____
at (location) _____
no later than (date) _____
by (method) _____

You should be prepared to make specific factual objections.

Contact sepa@sepa.wa.gov to read or ask about the procedures for SEPA appeals.

- ☐ There is no agency appeal.



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

AGENDA BILL

DATE SUBMITTED:	February 19, 2014		
TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS			
FROM: Bill Hunter	MANAGER APPROVAL <i>Bill Hunter</i>		
MEETING AGENDA DATE:	February 26, 2014		
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:	5.E.		
SUBJECT:	Strawberry Point Sewer Pump Station Engineering Agreement-Cost Revision		
LIST DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ⇒ NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING AGENDA BILL: _____	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL/ OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

At the last meeting on February 12, 2014 the Board authorized a scope of work and not-to-exceed fee for Strawberry Point Sewer Pump Station Phase 1 Pre-Design & Shoreline Permitting work. The not-to-exceed amount authorized was \$101,453.

Several days before the meeting, but after packets were printed and distributed, RH2 Engineers sent an updated fee estimate which included a few minor updates related to IRS mileage rates and hourly rates for 2014. The change in the total not-to-exceed price was not caught before the Board meeting. The new not-to-exceed fee estimate is \$103,411.

Staff recommends revising the authorized not-to exceed amount from \$101,453 to 103,411.

FISCAL IMPACT

The District's 2014 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) specifically includes a budget amount of \$100,000 for this work. A revision from \$101,453 to \$103,411 can be absorbed into the overall 2014 CIP budget.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

See proposed motion.

PROPOSED MOTION

Revise the authorized not-to-exceed amount for Strawberry Point Sewer Pump Station Phase 1 Pre-Design & Shoreline Permitting work from \$101,453 to \$103,411.



LAKE WHATCOM WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

AGENDA BILL

DATE SUBMITTED:	February 18, 2014		
TO BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS			
FROM: Patrick Sorensen	MANAGER APPROVAL <i>Patrick Sorensen</i>		
MEETING AGENDA DATE:	February 26, 2014		
AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:	7		
SUBJECT:	Manager's Report		
LIST DOCUMENTS PROVIDED ⇒ NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING AGENDA BILL: _____	1. Manager's Report		
	2.		
	3.		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL/ OTHER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

Updated information from the General Manager in advance of the Board meeting.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

None required.

PROPOSED MOTION

None

General Manager Comments

February 26, 2014

Board Meeting

Important Upcoming Dates:

- **Meetings Associated with the Lake Whatcom Management Program:**
 - **Policy Group Meeting:** The next meeting will be held **March 3, 2014 at 1:30 p.m.** in the Garden Room at the County's Civic Center (Public Works) Building. An agenda for this meeting has not been developed yet. Remember, all Policy Group Meetings are publicly noticed by the District.
 - **Management Meeting:** The next meeting with the Mayor and County Executive is scheduled for **March 12, 2014.**
- **Next Regular Board Meeting:** The next regular meeting is scheduled for **March 12, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.**
- **Next Employee Staff Meeting:** Scheduled for **Thursday, March 13, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.** in the Board Room. Commissioner Mc Roberts is scheduled to attend this coming meeting. Scheduling is rotated by alphabetical order each month.
- **Washington Association of Sewer & Water Districts (WASWD) Section III Meeting:** The next Section III meeting will be held at Bob's Burger & Brew in Tulalip at **6:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2014.** All WASWD Section III Meetings are publicly noticed by the District.
- **Whatcom Water District's Caucus Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday, February 24, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.** in the District's Board Room.
- **WRIA 1 Planning Unit Meeting:** The next meeting is set for **February 26, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.** in the County's Garden Room. This meeting is publicly noticed in the event that a quorum of the Board is present.

Other:

- **Committee Meeting Reports as Needed:** This is a place holder for Board and staff members to report on recent committee meeting reports since the last Board Meeting.
- **2014 WASWD Spring Conference:** FYI. The spring meetings will be held this year in Yakima April 10 - 11.



LAKE WHATCOM WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

1220 Lakeway Drive
Bellingham, WA, 98229

(360) 734-9224
Fax 738-8250

February 14, 2014

COPY

Senator Kevin Ranker
40th Legislative District
215 John A. Cherberg Building
PO Box 40440
Olympia, WA 98504-0440

Subject: Support of SSB 6008 - Assumption Legislation

Dear Senator Ranker:

On behalf of the Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District and its Board of Commissioners, I would like to encourage your support of SSB 6008, the water and sewer district assumption legislation. As I am sure you are aware, this important proposal was recently passed out of the Senate rules committee and is now headed to the floor of the Senate for consideration.

The District asks for your support of this important legislation. In summary, when city sponsored assumptions are being considered, the ratepayers of the impacted areas in question should be given an opportunity to express their wishes through a public vote as provided for within SSB 6008. As proposed the legislation provides for an objective analysis of any such proposal and an opportunity for the ratepayers to weigh the pros and cons and vote what they feel is best for the utility that they have built and own. It just seems like the right thing to do in letting the public decide what is best for them when such important issues are being contemplated.

We hope you take this perspective into consideration when this debate begins. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,


Patrick Sorensen
General Manager

cc: Board of Commissioners, Lake Whatcom Water & Sewer District
Blair B. Burroughs, Executive Director of WASWD