



**AGENDA
BILL
Item 7.E**

**Rocky Ridge and Lakewood
Sewer Pump Stations
Improvements Project
Briefing**

DATE SUBMITTED:	June 28, 2022	MEETING DATE:	July 13, 2022
TO: BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	FROM: Bill Hunter, District Engineer / Assistant General Manager		
GENERAL MANAGER APPROVAL			
ATTACHED DOCUMENTS	1. RH2 Engineering – Draft Predesign Report		
TYPE OF ACTION REQUESTED	RESOLUTION <input type="checkbox"/>	FORMAL ACTION/ MOTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATIONAL /OTHER <input type="checkbox"/>

BACKGROUND / EXPLANATION OF IMPACT

As part of Lake Whatcom Water and Sewer District’s long-term capital improvement plan, the Rocky Ridge and Lakewood Sewer Pump Stations, constructed in the late 1970’s, are scheduled for renewal or replacement. Both stations are located on the south shoreline of Lake Whatcom between Sudden Valley and Geneva. Physical access to these stations is very challenging due to steep slopes and no public or private access roads, each station serves a small number of residences, and some sections of gravity sewer mains and manholes are located below the ordinary high-water mark of the lake.

On November 24, 2021 the Board authorized RH2 Engineering to begin Phase 1, Predesign. Phase 1 includes an alternatives analysis intended to take a step back, look at the big picture, and consider a broad range of options to find the best long-term solution that provides the most economical approach in terms of both initial capital cost as well as long term operation and maintenance of wastewater collection infrastructure. Phase 1 also includes an initial topographic survey, gathering of pump and electrical information, predesign report, 30% design plans, and Whatcom County shorelines permitting.

RH2 Engineering and District staff have been coordinating closely collecting data, reviewing historical SCADA information, and meeting with operations and maintenance staff. RH2 Engineering will present the Draft Predesign Report that analyzed four alternatives.

The anticipated schedule is to complete predesign summer 2022; and permitting by end of 2022. Future Phase 2, Design and Bidding, is planned for completion spring 2023. Future Phase 3, Construction, is planned to occur summer 2023.

FISCAL IMPACT

The draft predesign report recommends either of two alternatives, Alternative #1 or Alternative #2. Alternative #1 is a Smith & Loveless dry prime pump station with an

estimated total project cost of \$1.5 million. Alternative #2 is a Gorman Rupp belt driven pump station with an estimated total project cost of \$1.2 million.

The District’s Budget and System Reinvestment Plan includes:

Phase 1 Predesign and Permitting	\$176,085
Phase 2 Design & Bidding	\$92,700
<u>Phase 3 Construction</u>	<u>\$920,000</u>
Total	\$1,188,785

The Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index rose 8.2% from June 2021 to June 2022. In contrast, the District’s Water & Sewer Utility Rate Study completed by FCS Group in February 2022 assumed a 3.00% construction cost inflation based on recent performance at the time of the analysis.

The District’s adopted sewer rates for the next five years assume \$10M in new debt in 2026 specifically to help fund the District’s portion of the Post Point Resource Recovery project. All other sewer projects, including Rocky Ridge and Lakewood Sewer Pump Stations are funded by sewer rates and general facilities charges.

Construction costs at the time of bidding and construction next year (Spring 2023) may be much higher if inflation continues at current levels. The District will need to prioritize projects and delay others to maintain adopted sewer rates through 2026 that have annual adjustments of 3.75%. Staff plans to update capital project estimates and project schedules to fit expenditures within rate study recommended system reinvestment funding as part of the 2023 budget process.

APPLICABLE EFFECTIVE UTILITY MANAGEMENT ATTRIBUTE(S)

Infrastructure Strategy and Performance
Community Sustainability

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION

Provide direction on whether to proceed with the recommended alternative(s) by preparing and submitting permit applications to Whatcom County; or provide additional information or explore additional alternatives.

PROPOSED MOTION

Recommended motion is:

“I move to proceed with the recommended Alternatives #1 and #2 as presented in the Draft Predesign Report, which are both top-mounted pump stations by competing manufacturers.”