



RIDGEFIELD SEWER CAPACITY FACT SHEET

Background

- City of Ridgefield owns and operates its wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) through permit with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology).
- Ridgefield's current permitted capacity is 0.7 million gallons per day (mgd).
- Ridgefield's WWTP treated effluent is currently discharged to Lake River.
- The maximum recorded average daily flow for a month was recorded in January 2006 at 0.49 mgd.

Ridgefield Growth

- Ridgefield has experienced significant growth over the past 4 years:
 - 2005 population growth rate = 23% (highest in Clark County)
 - 2006 population growth rate = 14% (highest in Clark County)
 - 2007 population growth rate = 9% (highest in Clark County)
 - 2008 population growth rate = 5% (highest in Clark County)
- Ridgefield's 2008 Comprehensive Plan and associated Sewer Capital Facilities Plan projects a 2024 population of 25,000 persons and 13,000 jobs.
- Approximately 2,300 residential lots have approved land use applications and are in some phase of development, with approximately 1,800 lot that have not received occupancy.
- New development does not vest in capacity at the WWTP until time of building permit application.
- Based on current staffing levels, the City can process up to approximately 150 building permits per year.

Plan for Addressing Growth

- The significant growth rate results in substantial impact on the capacity of the City's infrastructure, including treatment capacity at the WWTP.
- Ridgefield has submitted a General Sewer and Wastewater Facility Plan to Ecology that defines future phased expansions of the WWTP over the projected 20-year horizon, which consist of:
 - Expansion to 1.0 mgd in 2009 (design and environmental permitting are complete, construction on hold)
 - Expansion to 1.8 mgd in 2012
 - Expansion to 2.7 mgd in 2015
 - Expansion to 4.4 mgd in 2019
- The City uses a maximum daily flow of 355 gpd/Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) for conservative planning purposes.

Associated Considerations

- The Ridgefield WWTP outfall currently discharges to Lake River which Ecology is currently classifying as a "river", and not an "estuary". Ecology has indicated that for expansion beyond 1.0 mgd, should Lake River remain classified as a river, the outfall must be extended to the Columbia River (larger dilution zone).
- The City is currently evaluating other potential capacity expansion options beyond the 1.0 mgd expansion, including connection to a regional treatment facility. The City is currently partnering with Clark County, Clark Regional Wastewater District and the City of Battle Ground to develop an implementation plan for a new regional wastewater authority.