

CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: November 10, 2009 Time: 10:00 AM

Length: 30 minutes

Presentation Title: Urban Services Policy

Department: Water Environment Services

Presenters: Mike Kuenzi, Chris Storey

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

During the course of the wastewater community partnership discussion, the partners of the original stakeholder group raised concern regarding Clackamas County Service District No. 1's (CCSD#1) current practice of providing new sewer service within the unincorporated areas of the County. Their stated concern was that this practice resulted in challenges for the cities when faced with when trying to annex contiguous areas that are already receiving service and the burden it then places on their own services. The County representatives committed to discuss its current policy.

Former County Administrator Jon Mantay drafted and provided the wastewater stakeholder group with sample policy that would be entertained by the BCC. This document is attached.

Regarding future connections, the Tri-City Service District (TCSD) already requires annexation into one of the three member cities before allowing annexation into the District. The member cities manage the connection of new properties to the sewer system and coordinate with the TCSD as new customers connect. The Board as the governing body of CCSD#1 can establish its own policies and procedures for the extension of service. WES staff has been implementing the BCC's initial direction given this summer to require annexation into a city before providing service, excepting therefrom the North Clackamas Revitalization Area sewerage project already underway in conjunction with the Clackamas County Development Agency.

The question of current connections being asked to join a city for continued service is a more difficult proposition. The Districts have no mechanism to compel annexation into a city, and the normal processes for annexation, including consent and a vote, remain. The only exception is for unsewered properties within 50 feet of a sewer line that experience a septic system failure, in which case the sewer service provider can impose annexation conditions to service and the property is obligated, under state law, to connect.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Continue allowing annexation of new properties to the service districts without requiring annexation to a city.
2. Require new properties to annex to the nearest city to receive service, but do not alter provision of service terms for existing customers. The existing incorporated urban area would continue to be served by the District.
3. Require new properties to annex to the nearest city to receive service and seek to create a policy or mechanism that would bring the unincorporated areas within a city for future service provision.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Staff respectfully recommends that the Board direct staff to require new properties to annex to the nearest city to receive service. Provision of service terms for existing customers would not be altered. The existing incorporated urban area would continue to be served by the District.

QUESTION(S) PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

What policy would the Board like staff to implement with respect to the provision of urban services?

SCHEDULE FOR STUDY SESSION

Division Director/Head Approval _____

Department Director/Head Approval M. Kuenzi/Kf

County Administrator Approval _____