



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300

February 24, 2011

RECEIVED
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The Honorable Joe Warren, Mayor
Town of Yacolt
P.O. Box 160
Yacolt, WA 98675

Re: Town of Yacolt, Washington, General Sewer Plan, 14 January, 2011 (Charles T. McDonald P.E., Kennedy/Jenks Consultants)

Dear Mayor Warren:

The above-referenced plan is **Approved** as a General Sewer Plan. The plan describes the preferred alternative as a vacuum sewer system, a Biolac treatment system, and discharge to ground in the vicinity of Hoag Street. The plan estimates an effluent nitrate level of 4.5 mg/l will preclude groundwater degradation. Ecology concurs.

In addition to a preferred alternative, the General Sewer Plan suggests that the City should continue investigating alternative collection and disposal systems. While we always appreciate contingency planning, we recommend that the City focus its efforts on the preferred alternative. We suggest the following course of action:

1. First, characterize the Hoag Street site hydrogeology so that you can estimate the drain field area requirements, confirm its viability, and acquire the properties needed for the project.
2. If the Hoag Street site is viable, complete the facility plan and hydrogeologic study, and then proceed to design and construction.
3. If the Hoag Street site is not viable, the City can amend its GSP to identify a different preferred alternative. Similar to the approach for the existing preferred alternative, the City might need to develop the water quality data that confirms that alternative. Once confirmed, the City can proceed to property acquisition, facility planning, and then design and construction.

We also suggest that the City limit the amount of money it spends on a secondary alternative until you know that you need to spend it. Taking the above steps out of sequence, e.g. engaging an engineer to develop plans and specifications for a treatment works prior to obtaining approval of a facility plan, or before you know that the site is viable, could be a costly and non-productive effort.

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We appreciate the City's efforts in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact David J. Knight P.E., Facility Manager, at 360-407-6277, or me at 360-407-6293.

Sincerely,



Steven G. Eberl, P.E.
Acting Southwest Region Manager
Water Quality Program

SG:DK:sb

cc: Mr. Chuck McDonald, P.E.
Mr. Steve Carley, Ecology/HQ/FMS
Mr. Dave Dougherty, Ecology/SWRO/WQ
File: Clark County, Town of Yacolt STP, Engineering