



Staff Report

September 5, 2023 Council Workshop Meeting

Presentation – Clark County Solid Waste System Study

Presenter: Steve Wall, Public Works Director

Time Estimate: 25 minutes

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BACKGROUND: Chapter 70A.205 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) pertaining to Solid Waste Management requires, among other things, that “Each county within the state, in cooperation with the various cities located within such county, prepare a coordinated, comprehensive solid waste management plan.” Cities within the county have three separate options of participating in the Planning requirements, including having their own plan, creating a joint plan with the county, or entering into an interlocal agreement (ILA) with the county to have them complete a plan on the city’s behalf. To date, Camas and the other cities in Clark County have elected to utilize the third option and have an ILA that authorizes the County to complete the associated work on our behalf. The last Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan was completed in 2015 and subsequently adopted by the City Council in accordance with the ILA and State law. For reference, the County is in the process of completing the next update to the Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan and staff will be presenting a revised coordinating ILA in the coming months.

As part of the County’s role in planning and managing solid waste for the cities, the County also manages a contract with a private owner-operated company, Columbia Resource Company (i.e. CRC and/or Waste Connections) to provide transfer and disposal services and recycling processing. This does not include collection of household waste at the curb (currently completed by City staff for Camas), but rather focuses on disposal and processing after the waste stream gets offloaded at the transfer stations.

The County’s agreements with CRC have been extended through time and allow for Clark County and Washougal to purchase the transfer stations at the end of the contract term. For reference, the County is currently negotiating a new extension to the contract with CRC for an additional nine (9) year period that includes similar purchase options. With public ownership in mind and for various other reasons, the County began a process in 2019, referred to as the Regional Solid Waste System Study (RSWSS), to evaluate the condition of the three transfer stations in the service area (West Van, Central and Washougal), potential improvements that are needed at each station, and begin exploring what type of ownership

options should be explored should the decision to purchase the transfer stations be made. The Clark County Council recently directed County staff to do further research and outreach to the cities on joint ownership models, specifically the "Joint Municipality Utility Services" (JMUS) model recommended by the County's consultant JRMA.

SUMMARY: City and County Staff, supported by the County's consultant for the RSWSS, JRMA Architects & Engineers, will provide a presentation to update the City Council on the RSWSS and transfer station ownership options that are being considered and recommended. County staff is asking for input from the Camas Council regarding the ownership governance options and will be available for any questions regarding the County's general role in Solid Waste Management on behalf of the City.

RECOMMENDATION: This item is for Council's information only.