

**CITY OF STEVENSON, WASHINGTON
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-402**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF STEVENSON ADOPTING
A SEPTIC-TO-SEWER PROGRAM ENTITLED HEALING SCARS IN
STEVENSON.**

WHEREAS, the *Stevenson Comprehensive Plan, as amended through May 2022*, seeks to reach a point where “development within the Stevenson Urban Area wisely considers the long-term interests of the community” (Goal 2) and “reliable utilities and convenient services fulfill the needs of the current and future community” (Goal 8). These goals guide decisions and plans for the wastewater collection and treatment system stewarded by the City Council; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, the City Council updated its *General Sewer Plan and Wastewater Facilities Plan*. The update was initiated in response to an Administrative Order from the Washington Department of Ecology. This Order was issued after repeated influent and effluent violations from the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The updated plans identified necessary improvements to the WWTP as well as the system of pipes and pumps collecting waste and conveying it to the WWTP; and

WHEREAS, the adopted 2017 update was the first update since 1991, which itself was the first update since 1977. Projects for construction, expansion and improvement of the WWTP and/or collection were identified in each plan. With each update, the City considered the Comprehensive Plan and planned for the future as it sized projects. Infrastructure improvements of this nature are known as “lumpy” as several years of low-cost maintenance are interspersed with large capital expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 wastewater plans anticipated a capital improvement “lump” of \$16,222,000 over a 6-year period as well as several smaller capital improvements to occur thereafter. Paying for these improvements is anticipated to occur partially via loan, with repayment spread over all users over a long term. All users will benefit as new users connect to the system, thereby reducing the repayment obligations of each individual user; and

WHEREAS, the wastewater collection system covers many—but not all—areas of the City and receives wastewater from many—but not all—properties in those areas. Often, those were left unsewered because they were not yet developed when the majority of the sewer lines were installed in the 1970s. The areas were largely left undeveloped up to the 1970s because of the difficulty realities of developing near the many wetlands and incising streams, and hazards of Stevenson’s hillside location. Often, uncoordinated, small-scale development in those areas over the past 50 years have not generated the return on investment necessary to extend or connect to the public sewer system and the City has allowed installation of septic systems as an alternative to sewer connection. The long-term interest in providing a reliable and convenient wastewater system anticipates connection of these areas and properties over time; and

WHEREAS, objectives 2.7, 2.10, 8.4, 8.8, and 8.9 of the *Stevenson Comprehensive Plan, as amended through May 2022*, recommendations 6, 17, 22, 23, and 24 of the *2005 Watershed*

Management Plan for Wester Water Resource Inventory Area 29 (Western WRIA 29) and actions 5 and 6 of the 2015 WRIA 29A Watershed Planning Detailed Implementation Plan (DIP), support the City’s active role in managing land use, monitoring water quality and improving ground and surface water quality through a septic-to-sewer program., specifically identified in the DIP as Task 6.5;

WHEREAS, objectives **XXXX** of the *Stevenson Comprehensive Plan, as amended through May 2022* provide guideposts to ensure the septic-to-sewer program does not inflate housing costs, **XXXXXX**, or otherwise run contrary to the public health, safety or welfare;

AND WHEREAS, the City Council has **carefully considered** the public purposes served by the establishing a septic-to-sewer program. The financial incentive provided by the Helping Encourage Adjacent Landowners Sewer Connection and Replumbing Stipend is provided pursuant to RCW 35.67.360 therefore not a gift of public funds in violation of the Washington State Constitution Article XIII section 7 and

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Stevenson RESOLVES to adopt the policies, procedures, and related amounts of septic-to-sewer program as contained in Exhibit “A”; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall be effective on **November 1st, 2022**.

Passed by a vote of _____ at the City Council meeting of _____, 2022.

SIGNED:

ATTEST:

Scott Anderson
Mayor of Stevenson

Leana Kinley
Clerk/Treasurer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kenneth B. Woodrich
City Attorney