
Fwd: Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Ordinance Revisions

From Jenny Taylor <jenny.taylor@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Date Thu 5/21/2026 1:15 PM
To Daniel Pitariu <daniel@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Pat Rice <pat.rice2056@gmail.com>
Date: May 21, 2026 at 11:16:07 AM PDT
To: City Council <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Jenny Taylor <Jenny.Taylor@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Cc: Robert Muth <RMuth@kilmerlaw.com>
Subject: Comment Regarding Proposed Sewer Ordinance Revisions

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Dear Mayor and Councilmembers,

I appreciate the work that has gone into revising the sewer ordinance and, in particular, the addition of language recognizing existing functioning and approved OSS systems.

After reviewing the proposed revisions, I wanted to raise a couple of clarification issues that may warrant additional attention before adoption.

The revised draft creates an exception for lots with currently working and approved OSS systems, while other portions of the ordinance continue to reference mandatory connection procedures, notices, penalties, incentives, and deferred charges. Although the Council's intent to allow existing functioning OSS systems to remain in service appears clear from the proposed revisions, the ordinance text itself may benefit from additional clarification to ensure that intent is fully reflected and to avoid future interpretation disputes regarding mandatory connection requirements.

I also question whether the proposed deferred wastewater system development charge tied to future sale or transfer of property is necessary if the ordinance is intended to allow functioning OSS systems to remain in service. If connection is not otherwise required at the time of sale or transfer, it may be cleaner and more consistent for sewer-related charges to arise only when connection to the public sewer system is actually required, such as upon OSS failure, expansion, or a public health concern requiring connection.

Thank you for your consideration and continued work on this issue. I know a significant amount of effort has gone into these revisions, and I sincerely appreciate the work the Council has done to address the concerns created by the ordinance as previously written.

If possible, I would appreciate this comment being included as part of the meeting packet materials.

Pat Rice