



## Stevenson city sewer system

**Mitch Patton** <nwtsrinc@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 30, 2023 at 9:15 AM

To: Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us>

Cc: City of Stevenson <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, Scott Anderson <scott.anderson@ci.stevenson.wa.us>, planningcommissioners <planningcommissioners@co.skamania.wa.us>, "Waters, Rep. Kevin" <kevin.waters@leg.wa.gov>, "Wilson, Sen. Lynda" <Lynda.Wilson@leg.wa.gov>

Leana thanks again for gathering all this information a lot to fully understand . but it seems to me that we could have done some sewer main line improvements to stop groundwater intrusion and found a new plan to get the storm water out of the treatment plant. I feel this could have made a big improvement on how the old sewer treatment plant was working. I am also positive that the breweries caused more damage to the treatment plant than anything has done altogether. So I am hoping the city will be looking into screening the brewery's wastewater closer along with a new stormwater plan. Thanks for your time and please add this to public comment at the next planning commision meeting .

On Tue, Nov 28, 2023 at 4:35 PM Leana Kinley <leana@ci.stevenson.wa.us> wrote:

Mitch,

The response to your questions are below in red and associated documents are attached.

Thanks,

**Leana Kinley, EMPA, CMC**

City Administrator

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On Mon, Nov 20, 2023 at 6:04 PM Mitch Patton <nwtsrinc@gmail.com> wrote:

So I have been thinking about the new sewer plant in stevenson . And here are a few questions I still have for the Stevenson city council members.

#1 Are there any studies on groundwater intrusion into the sewer main line in the last 5 years? The attached Preliminary Design Report from October 2019 talks about how to address infiltration and inflow issues most economically (starts on page 15). The original General Sewer Plan update was approved in 2017 and analyzed this issue, prompting the city to set aside \$80k each year for inspection of the sewer lines and fixing any leaks through slip-lining as recommended. When you are asking for studies, are you asking for a comprehensive look at the system, or the reports from each section and fixes?

#2 Were there any studies done on why the grinders were failing in the last 5 years? Are you asking about the pump stations? The attached General Sewer Plan talks about each station, what improvements are recommended and why. The design phase of the project is within 5-years, but doesn't analyze the failures only what is needed to meet the 2040 flow projections.

#3 Are there any plans on more studies for the failing old sewer lines ? We plan to apply for grant funding to update the General Sewer Plan as we are wrapping up a majority of the projects from the 2017 plan and need to prepare for what else is needed.

#4 Is the storm water tied into the city sewer system ? In some places there are downspouts from buildings connected to the city sewer, although this may be mostly downtown and difficult to identify specifically without smoke testing the sewer lines. In 2018/19 the city did a downspout inspection as part of the \$10 downspout fee to account for these types of connections. There remain some properties that have not been inspected. However, the city stormwater system is not connected to the sewer system, or a combined system as it is in other parts of the country.

#5 At what date did the city know it had a problem with the sewer plant and started looking for grant money and feasibility studies to repair or replace the sewer plant ? I had the same question when I first got here. Attached is what I was able to find on when they knew there was a problem, what they did, and the funding they looked for related to the issue. It appears they knew the plant needed to be expanded back in 2006. They tried multiple ways to address the issue outside of expanding the plant. It came to a head when the city received a Notice of Violation and subsequent Administrative Order requiring the plant to be upgraded in 2017 that the city began to more aggressively look for funding.

The reason I am asking these questions is just before Karl Russell left on short notice we were talking about this same thing so I am just trying to understand the huge expense of a sewer plant if the old lines are still failing today. the other thing i would like to find out is Ben still kicking the can down the road on the old county dump that is running down the ditch line in the city limits of

stevenson and has the city ever followed up with more testing as ecology stated needed to be done for a better understanding of the possibility of leaching toxic waste that could be coming from this old unlined landfill? **No additional testing has been done.** So if you have any documents please send as a PDF and add this to public comment in the next council meeting. Thanks for your time and hope to hear from you soon please hit reply all with any responses.

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[Mltch Patton 360-903-9040](tel:360-903-9040)

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