

Re: Fwd: Sewer Ordinance Update and Alignment with Council Direction

On Wed, Jul 15, 2026 at 8:07 AM, Jenny Taylor <jenny.taylor@ci.stevenson.wa.us> wrote:
Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Wertheimer, Robert H CIV USARMY CENWP (USA)" <Robert.H.Wertheimer@usace.army.mil>
Date: July 15, 2026 at 10:42:08 AM EDT
To: jenny.taylor@ci.stevenson, City Council <citycouncil@ci.stevenson.wa.us>
Cc: Bob and Rosie Wertheimer <bobandrosie@cablespeed.com>
Subject: Sewer Ordinance Update and Alignment with Council Direction

Some people who received this message don't often get email from robert.h.wertheimer@usace.army.mil. [Learn why this is important](#)

Stevenson City Council
Stevenson, WA
Subject: Sewer Ordinance Update and Alignment with Council Direction

Dear Mayor Taylor and City Council Members,

Thank you for your continued work to thoughtfully update the proposed sewer ordinance. It is clear from recent meetings that the Council has made a strong effort to listen to community input and address key concerns, particularly regarding fairness, public health, and financial impact to residents and local businesses.

Rosie and I are writing to respectfully ask that the guidance provided by Council during your recorded meetings is fully carried through into the final ordinance language prepared by Council. In particular, during recent discussions it was clearly established that septic pumping companies serve as mandatory reporters and that determinations regarding whether an On-Site Septic System (OSS) is functioning properly should rest with the County Health Department, as the recognized authority with the appropriate expertise. Ensuring this framework is accurately reflected in the ordinance is essential to maintaining public trust and sound policy.

After reviewing the most recent draft, there appear to be inconsistencies with that direction. For example, Section 13.08.070-1 (Existing Developments) seems to broadly restrict "replacement, expansion, extension, resizing, or relocation" of OSS systems. This appears to conflict with the Council's prior agreement that repairs or modifications approved by the County Health Department, such as drain field extensions, should be allowed to ensure continued safe operation. Similarly, Section 13.08.070(C) regarding OSS failure may unintentionally limit practical repair options beyond temporary measures, even in cases where the Health Department would otherwise approve a long-term solution.

Clarifying these sections to align with Council's stated intent would help avoid unnecessary confusion and ensure that functioning systems are managed appropriately. It would also reinforce the important principle that the County Health Department should remain the primary authority in determining what is in the public's best interest with respect to public sewer and septic system performance and safety.

A balanced ordinance that reflects these facts will better serve both public health and community equity. We appreciate the Council's commitment to a fair and transparent process and respectfully encourage continued alignment between Council direction and the final ordinance language prepared by Council. Ensuring that prior commitments especially regarding reliance on County Health Department expertise are honored will result in a more effective and broadly supported policy.

Thank you again for your time, consideration, and service to the Stevenson community.

Respectfully,

Bob and Rosie Wertheimer