

# 6 Capital Facilities and Utilities Element

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## Introduction

Capital facilities and utilities are the basic services which the public sector provides to support land use developments, both as they currently exist and as they are anticipated to develop over the course of the 20-year growth management planning horizon. The Capital Facilities and Utilities Element provides a general summary of how and when these basic services will be provided to support future growth as envisioned by the 20-Year Plan and proposed funding.

The Growth Management Act (GMA) establishes many of the requirements for the Capital Facilities and Utilities Element. The GMA establishes an overall goal to "ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards" (RCW 36.70A.020). The GMA requires that the capital facilities element include an inventory of existing publicly owned capital facilities, a forecast for the future needs for new or expanded facilities and a six-year financial plan. The GMA defines public facilities to include water, sewer, stormwater, schools, parks and recreational facilities, law enforcement and fire protection. The Capital Facilities and Utilities Element is intended to provide a general assessment of major public services which impact land use issues, rather than a detailed analysis of every service provided by government.

The Capital Facilities and Utilities Element must be consistent with the other elements of the 20-Year Plan, particularly the Land Use Element. Future development should be encouraged to occur in generally more compact patterns where public facilities already exist, because it can be served more efficiently and inexpensively than dispersed or sprawling land use patterns. The GMA dictates that "urban growth should be located first in areas already characterized by urban growth that have existing public facility and service capabilities to serve such development and second in areas already characterized by urban growth that will be served by a combination of both existing public facilities and any additional needed public facilities and services that are provided by public or private sources" (RCW 36.70A.110).

Providing new capital facilities in previously undeveloped and unserved areas may in turn lead to new development in dispersed patterns and should also be avoided. The GMA states that "Further, it is appropriate that urban government services be provided by cities and urban government services should not be provided in the rural area."

The GMA also emphasizes the concept of concurrency, which requires that needed public facilities and services be in place, or officially planned and scheduled to be put into place, concurrent with new development. This concept requires cities and counties to establish explicit levels of service, or minimum threshold measures, to determine if particular service is adequately provided.

New development applications which cause the minimum levels of service to be exceeded will not be approved unless improvements are made to correct the deficiency or unless corrective measures are scheduled and funded to occur within a locally established time frame, up to a maximum of six years. The GMA requires that at a minimum level-of-service standards be adopted for transportation. Other services should be reviewed for adequacy, but specific threshold standards are not required to be universally applied.

This element is organized into two sections:

- inventory and review of existing facilities and services, along with 6-year future plans for water, sewer, storm drainage, schools, law enforcement, fire, solid waste, libraries, general government buildings, electricity, telecommunications and natural gas services. The Inventory and Capital Facilities Plan for Schools, Transportation and Parks can be found in their respective elements; and,
- policies regarding the provision of these services. The policies provide direction in three areas:
  - ensuring the overall provision of needed facilities and services by public or private agencies;
  - providing direction for the establishment of minimum levels of service and concurrency obligations for new developments to assist in the provision of these services; and,
  - ensuring that the provision of services is fully consistent with overall growth management objectives, which is ultimately linked to the ability to efficiently provide the services in the first place.

Emphasis throughout this document is placed on those services provided by Clark County government and, in particular, on transportation, sewage treatment and storm drainage services which are mandated by the GMA for direct concurrency requirements. Capital facilities plans for all services provided within individual cities of the county are included within the individual comprehensive plans of Battle Ground, Camas, La Center, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal and Yacolt, although available information is included in this document for context. The 6-year capital facility and financing summaries are an estimate of future needs and are not official policy or budget documents of the service providers except where indicated.

### **Services Summaries and Projected Future Needs**

- Table 6.1 summarizes who the providers of services are for the various jurisdictions within Clark County. Additional information regarding city services can be found in each jurisdiction's Capital Facilities Element.
- Table 6.2 attempts to isolate the direct capital costs attributable to Clark County over the next six years. In cases where services are provided by outside agencies, Table 6.2 estimates the direct costs of providing service to county residents only. Table 6.2 also attempts to exclude services constructed by developers as part of the development process, such as road, sewer, water, or storm drainage extensions or improvements.

### **Direct and Indirect Concurrency Services**

Direct concurrency will be applied on a project by project basis for public facilities of streets, water and sanitary sewer. While the GMA requires direct concurrency only for transportation facilities, this plan extends the concept of direct concurrency to cover other critical public facilities of water and sanitary sewer. Indirect services include schools, fire protection, law enforcement, parks and open space, solid waste, libraries, electricity, gas and government facilities.

**Table 6.1 | Direct and Indirect Concurrency Services in Clark County**

Service	Battle Ground	Camas	La Center	Ridgefield	Vancouver	Washougal	Yacolt	County
<b>DIRECT</b>								
<b>Transportation</b>	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	County
<b>Water Supply System</b>	City	City	CPU	City	City	City	CPU	CPU, Vancouver
<b>Sanitary Sewer Collections Services</b>	City	City	City	City Clark Regional Wastewater District	City	City	NA	CPU, Clark Regional Wastewater District, Vancouver
<b>Sewage Treatment Facilities</b>	County Discovery Cleanwater Alliance	City	City	City Discovery Cleanwater Alliance	City	City	NA	County Discovery Cleanwater Alliance, Vancouver
<b>INDIRECT</b>								
<b>Public Schools</b>	Battle Ground S.D.	Camas S.D.	La Center S. D.	Ridgefield S.D.	Vancouver, Camas, Evergreen S.D.	Washougal, Camas S.D.	Battle Ground S.D.	NA
<b>Fire Protection</b>	District 11 and City Fire Marshal City provides facilities F.D. #3 provides personnel	CityCamas/Washougal Fire Department	District 14Clark County Fire and Rescue	District 12 and City Fire Marshal Clark County Fire and Rescue	City	CityCamas/Washougal Fire Department	F.D. #13	All non-municipal fire districts
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	City	City	City	City	City	City	Sheriff's Department	Sheriff's Department
<b>Solid Waste</b>	Private Hauler	City	Private Hauler	Private Hauler	Private Hauler	Private Hauler	Private Hauler	Private Hauler
<b>Libraries</b>	FVRLS	City	FVRLS	FVRLS	FVRLS	FVRLS	FVRLS	FVRLS
<b>Government Buildings</b>	City	City	City	City	City	City	City	County
<b>Electricity</b>	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU	CPU
<b>Natural Gas</b>	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NW Natural Gas	NA	NW Natural Gas

FVRLS--Fort Vancouver Regional Library System, NA--Not Applicable, CPU--Clark Public Utilities

**Table 6.2 | Summary of Estimated 6-Year Capital Facilities Expenditures in Clark County**

Service or Utility	Major Capital Projects	Estimated Cost	Funding Sources
<b>Transportation</b>	2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program	\$163,818,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County Road Fund</li> <li>Traffic Impact Fees</li> <li>Federal and State Grants</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	Well Source, storage and distribution	50,090,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Systems charges</li> <li>Contributed capital</li> </ul>
<b>Sewer Collection and Treatment</b>	Treatment plant and interceptor system expansions	59,987,700	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rates and charges</li> <li>Revenue bond sale</li> </ul>
<b>Stormwater Drainage</b>	Develop regional drainage facilities, complete drainage basin studies, Stormwater treatment retrofit and repair	9,603,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future Drainage Utility (or similar mechanism) and systems development charges</li> <li>Existing drainage fund</li> </ul>
<b>Schools</b>	New Facilities and expansions of existing facilities	585,479,377	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>
<b>Fire Protection</b>	Land acquisition, construction, remodel of stations and purchase of vehicles	37,420,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonds</li> <li>Dedicated tax revenue</li> </ul>
<b>Law Enforcement/ Corrections</b>	Expansion of detention facilities, construction of new administrative bldg.	98,200,000 to 108,200,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Obligation Bonds</li> <li>REET</li> <li>Grants</li> </ul>
<b>Solid Waste and Recycling</b>	Land acquisition and construction of new compost facility Central, Transfer Station Site Improvements	4,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>User fees</li> <li>State grants</li> </ul>
<b>Libraries</b>	Two new libraries in Washougal and Ridgefield	9,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital reserves</li> <li>Capital bonds</li> <li>Private donations</li> </ul>
<b>Parks and Recreational Facilities</b>	Acquisitions, park development, improvements and repairs	110,639,231	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County General Fund</li> <li>Impacts Fees</li> <li>REET</li> <li>Bonds</li> </ul>
<b>Government Buildings</b>	Completed administrative space and expanded facilities including 78 <sup>th</sup> Street/WSU Extension Service property	167,000,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bonds financed through REET</li> </ul>

Note 1: Schools, Fire Protection and Libraries costs pertain to the entire county, incorporated and unincorporated areas. Other services pertain only to the unincorporated areas.

Note 2: Electricity and natural gas are not included in the table as users are assessed direct fees for service.

### Transportation

The capital facilities plan for transportation, including a projection of six-year needs and policies regarding concurrency requirements for the county are included in Chapter 5, Transportation. Transportation services include provisions for roads and associated improvements, transit and pedestrian and bicycle systems.

### Water

Water service is an essential element of all types of land uses. Water supply development must consider the needs of threatened and endangered species. The majority of water users in the county are served by public water suppliers. The county does not own or operate public water systems. In the urban areas of Clark County, public water is provided by the cities of Battle Ground, Camas, Ridgefield, Vancouver, Washougal and Clark Public Utilities (CPU), a publicly

owned utility which serves unincorporated areas of the county and the City of La Center's and Town of Yacolt water systems.

Extensive water service in the central portion of the county, including both the rural area and urban lands in the unincorporated Vancouver Urban Growth Area, is provided by CPU. In some of the more remote rural areas of the county where water service is not readily available, CPU manages "satellite water systems" which serve small developments and clusters of homes. The Clark County Coordinated Water System Plan was last updated in 2011 and defined service boundaries and established policies for the provision of water service in the county. For further information on water provisions for the individual water purveyors, refer to their respective Water System Plan.

The water providers' systems consist of three basic components: source, storage and distribution/transmission. The source for virtually all water in Clark County, public or private, is from groundwater aquifers. Although adequate water supplies for individual domestic or small consumption commercial wells can be found in most parts of the county, aquifers capable of yielding large amounts of water for extended periods of time, without environmental impacts, are less common. Identifying and developing adequate water supply to meet future demand is essential in order to ensure the continued growth and economic viability of Clark County. The Salmon-Washougal & Lewis Watershed Management Plan Water Resource Inventory Areas (WRIAs) 27-28, was adopted in July 21, 2006. The plan recognized and recommended that new groundwater supplies should be developed in the tidally influenced areas of the Columbia River, where the tidally influenced rivers and groundwater discharging to the Columbia River have a negligible effect on upper basin river and stream flows. This was a compromise within the watershed management plan that addressed environmental and growth management issues. Individual water providers are required under the federal Safe Drinking Water Act to monitor the water quality of their production wells, subject to the review of the State Department of Health.

Although the physical water carrying capacity is determined by the capital facilities constructed for each water system, the source of supply of individual purveyors is determined by the allocation of water rights issued by the Washington State Department of Ecology. A groundwater permit exemption allows groundwater withdrawal for a single home or group of homes, such as a small subdivision, limited to 5,000 gallons per day and watering a lawn or garden up to ½ acre in size. Water rights are prioritized by seniority, which includes exempt wells for the amount of water that is beneficially used. The Department of Ecology must find that no previously established water rights will be impaired by a junior withdrawal.

Clark Public Utilities, the principal purveyor within the unincorporated area, obtains water from 66 production wells throughout the county, including satellite water systems, with a pumping capacity of approximately 20,800 gallons per minute. To ensure readily available water supplies, CPU also maintains 37 reservoirs comprising a total storage capacity of 20.4 million gallons. CPU currently has 8 emergency interconnections or interties; 3 with the City of Battle Ground, 3 with the City of Ridgefield and 2 with the City of Vancouver. Clark Public Utilities projected future needs and funding sources are summarized in Table 6.3.

**Table 6.3 | Summary of Clark Public Utilities**

PROJECTS	ESTIMATED COST	REASON FOR NEED	FUNDING SOURCE
<b>Project Type : 21 - General Plan</b>	\$670,000	Concurrency items; needed to maintain adequate water service	System charges, rates and bonds
<b>Project Type : 53 - Reservoirs &amp; Boosters</b>	7,970,000	Concurrency items; needed to maintain adequate water service	System charges, rates and bonds
<b>Project Type : 54 - Main /Upgrades</b>	29,500,000	Concurrency items; needed to maintain adequate water service	System charges, rates and bonds
<b>Project Type : 56 - Source of Supply</b>	9,200,000	Concurrency items; needed to maintain adequate water service	System charges, rates and bonds
<b>Project Type : : 58 – Meters/Meter Installation</b>	2,750,000	Concurrency items; needed to maintain adequate water service	System charges, rates and bonds
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$50,090,000</b>		

Source: Clark Public Utilities Capital Facilities Plan (2016-2021)

Clark Public Utilities is funded by user fees and system development charges. CPU uses bonds, rates and system development charges to fund their capital facilities plan. Contributed capital consists of developer driven improvements that connect to the water system. Total costs through 2021 are estimated at \$50,090,000. The CPU Plan contains the necessary requirements of RCW 36.70A.070 (3), including inventories, forecasts and analyses of future plans and financing mechanisms. Clark County incorporates the CPU Water System Plan into the County’s Capital Facilities Plan. Future changes made to the CPU Plan should be reviewed for consistency with county plans on an annual basis.

Clark Public Utilities has reviewed the adopted county land use designations and the adopted countywide population target of 577,431 and has determined that the CPU Water System Plan is fully consistent with the land use provisions and the additional service demands which they entail, subject to the timely issuance of approvals and permits by Clark County.

Water is also supplied to individual homes through the use of private wells. The number of private wells in the county has been estimated at 17,000 to 25,000. Use of private wells is subject to the review and approval of Clark County Public Health. Private wells continue to be a major water source in the rural area, but should be aggressively phased out within the urban area as public water becomes fully available. (Readers interested in water service provisions for individual cities within Clark County should refer to each water provider’s Water System Plans and each city’s 20-Year Capital Facility Plans.)

The collective water provisions of the individual city and outside agency capital facilities plans are consistent with the Land Use Element of the 20-Year Plan. Outside of urban growth areas, there is limited public water provision and future expansions are generally discouraged by policies of the Land Use and Capital Facilities Elements of the 20-Year Plan. Rural water provision is provided by Clark Public Utilities, or by individual or group private wells, subject to the review of Clark County Public Health.

Within unincorporated Urban Growth Areas other than Vancouver UGA, the 20-Year Plan Map has designated very little land for short term urban density development which would require public water service. These UGA lands are affixed with an "Urban Holding" overlay designation, which explicitly precludes urbanization until a site-specific demonstration of service ability is made. Provision for lands within corporate limits is addressed in the city comprehensive plans.

Within the Vancouver UGA there is a substantial amount of land under county jurisdiction which is designated for near term urban development without the Urban Holding Overlay. Clark Public Utilities is the water purveyor for a large portion of the Vancouver UGA north of the Burlington Northern Rail Road tracks. See the water service area map in the 2011 Clark County Coordinated Water System Plan Update for specific service areas. The City of Vancouver formally adopted a Capital Facilities Plan in 2014 specifying how their water service area would be served. The City Department of Public Works reviewed the proposed county land use designations and the 2035 countywide population projection of 577,431 and concluded that projected population in the Vancouver service area can be served by the central facilities listed within the city's adopted Capital Facilities Plan. Additional line extensions needed to serve the higher population would be financed by development proposals.

### **Sanitary Sewer/Treatment Plant**

Clark County no longer provides wastewater collection, having transferred operation of its collection system to the Clark Regional Wastewater District (formally Hazel Dell Sewer District) in 1993 and treatment system to the Discovery Clean Water Alliance (Alliance) in 2015. Sanitary sewer services in Clark County are provided by the Cities of Vancouver, Washougal, Camas, Battle Ground and La Center, as well as Clark Regional Wastewater District (District). In general, the city sewer districts tend to be slightly larger than current city boundaries and Vancouver, Washougal, Camas and La Center have their own sewage treatment facilities. For further information on sewer provisions for the individual cities, refer to the respective city's comprehensive plans.

Within the county's unincorporated urban area, sanitary sewer service is provided by the City of Vancouver and the Clark Regional Wastewater District. The Vancouver service area encompasses over 55 square miles, extending well beyond city limits to Vancouver Lake to the west, 202<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the east and NE 99th Street to the north. The Vancouver system includes two treatment plants and an industrial pretreatment lagoon.

The Clark Regional Wastewater District encompasses more than 47 square miles and serves a population of approximately 100,000 within the unincorporated urban area north and northeast of Vancouver, portions of the Orchards area and Hockinson and Meadow Glade and the City of Ridgefield. Effective January 1, 2014 the City of Ridgefield transferred ownership of their collection system to the District. The District completed construction of phase one of the Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System (DCWTS) in 2016. DCWTS provides a way for wastewater generated in Ridgefield to be conveyed south into the District's central service area for treatment at the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. The District's service area within the unincorporated Vancouver Urban growth area is estimated to be developed at 60 percent of full coverage based on 2016 population.

Projected needs and funding sources for the Clark Regional Wastewater District are included in the District's Comprehensive General Sewer Plan (GSP), March 2001 (with amendments in June 2006 and March 2013) which incorporates the City of Ridgefield General Sewer Plan, March 2013. These plans have the necessary contents required by RCW 36.70A.070 (3), including inventories,

forecasts and analyses of future plans and financing mechanisms. The District has reviewed the proposed county land use designations and determined that the plans are fully consistent with these provisions and the additional service demands which they entail. The District is currently in the process of updating these plans. This update will be reviewed for consistency with the County’s Comprehensive Plan. Annually the District updates and adopts a six-year capital improvement program. The current adopted six-year program for the period of 2016-2021 is summarized in Table 6.4 below.

**Table 6.4 | Clark Regional Wastewater District: 6-yr Capital Program Summary, 2016-2021**

PROJECTS	ESTIMATED COST	REASON FOR NEED	FUNDING SOURCE
General Facilities	\$18,089,100	New capacity	Rates and charges
District Installed Infrastructure	\$1,000,000	New capacity	Rates and charges
Septic Elimination Program	\$750,000	New capacity	Rates and charges
Developer Reimbursement	\$9,460,000	New capacity	Rates and charges
CIP – Fleet & Facilities	\$220,000	New capacity	Rates and charges
R&R – Gravity	\$5,366,500	Aging infrastructure	Rates and charges
R&R – Pump Stations & Force Mains	\$2,440,100	Aging infrastructure	Rates and charges
R&R – Fleet & Facilities	\$1,922,000	Aging infrastructure	Rates and charges
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$39,247,700</b>		

Source: Clark Regional Wastewater District Approved Budget.

Note: R&R in the table above stands for Restoration and Replacement.

Wastewater collected by the City of Battle Ground and the Clark Regional Wastewater District is delivered to the Discovery Clean Water Alliance (Alliance). The Alliance provides regional transmission and treatment of wastewater in central Clark County. The Alliance assumed full operation on January 1, 2015 (Alliance Operations Date). As currently established, the Alliance serves four Member agencies – the City of Battle Ground, Clark County, Clark Regional Wastewater District and the City of Ridgefield. The Members jointly own and jointly manage the regional wastewater assets through an interlocal framework established under the State of Washington Joint Municipal Utility Services Act (JMUSA) (RCW 39.106). As of the Alliance Operations Date, the Alliance owns, operates and manages nine Regional Assets with an estimated book value (historical cost less depreciation) of approximately \$126 million.

These assets include:

- Salmon Creek Interceptor
- Kline Interceptor
- 36th Avenue Pump Station
- 117th Street Pump Station
- 36th Avenue Pump Station Force Main
- 117th Street Pump Station Force Main
- Salmon Creek Treatment Plant and Outfall
- Ridgefield Treatment Plant and Outfall
- Battle Ground Force Main

The JMUSA statute was passed by the Washington State Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2011. The Discovery Clean Water Alliance was the second agency in the state to form under this statute. While the Alliance is a regional wastewater transmission and treatment utility today, the



statue allows for any form of municipal water-related utility service to be provided and supports any combination of municipal partner agencies as Members. This structure ensures the flexibility to accommodate changing needs of the regional service area over time. In 2013 the Members were recipients of the Governor’s Smart Communities Award for smart growth planning for their cooperative efforts to create the Alliance.

The Alliance system is adequate to meet existing demands and Table 6.5 lists the projected 6-year capital improvements required for the regional treatment plants and transmission system. This information and related details are included in expanded form in the Discovery Clean Water Alliance Capital Plan (Capital Plan), December 2014. The Capital Plan has the necessary contents required by RCW 36.70A.070 (3), including inventories, forecasts and analyses of future plans and financing mechanisms. The Alliance has reviewed the proposed county land use designations and determined that the Capital Plan is fully consistent with these provisions and the additional service demands that they entail. Future changes made to the Capital Plan should be reviewed for consistency with county plans on an annual basis. Further sewage treatment plant expansions are planned chiefly to address the needs of new development. The program shown in Table 6.5 assumes that major sewer facility expansions will be financed from revenue received from the county’s wholesale wastewater treatment customers. The wholesale customers bear the full cost and responsibility for the expansion costs.

**Table 6.5 | Alliance Capital Facilities Plan for Regional Sewage Treatment and Transmission System, 2016-2021**

PROJECT	ESTIMATED COST	REASON FOR NEED	FUNDING SOURCE
<i>Expansion Of Salmon Creek Treatment Plant (Phase 4) PLC Replacement</i>	\$1,300,000	Concurrency item; maintain adequate treatment capacity for additional growth	Revenue Bonds and Public Works Trust Fund Rates
<i>Outfall Replacement</i>	\$3,400,000	Existing equipment at the end of 20-yr useful life	Rates
<i>Effluent Pipeline Expansion</i>	\$13,000,000	Addresses bank stability and long-term discharge configuration Additional capacity required	Rates
<i>Regional Conveyance System Pump Stations</i>	\$900,000	Existing equipment at the end of 20-yr useful life	Revenue Bonds and Public Works Trust Fund Rates
<i>Force Mains</i>	\$490,000	Existing valves and vaults require repair	Rates
<i>Interceptors</i>	\$1,650,000	Existing interceptors require rehabilitation and new odor protection	Rates
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$20,740,000</b>		

Source: Discovery Clean Water Alliance Capital Plan, December 2014.

Unincorporated rural Clark County is served by individual private septic systems. Since 1974 the installation of on-site septics has been regulated by the Clark County Department of Health. The Health Department estimates that over 50,000 septic systems are in use throughout the county, about half of which are located within urban service areas. Septic systems installed prior to 1974 were subject to virtually no regulation. Recent technological advances and the establishment of mandatory maintenance requirements on some subdivisions have limited septic system failure rates. However, the number of septic systems subject to mandatory maintenance requirements remains quite small, even of those installed after 1974. Septic systems will remain the

predominant form of sewage disposal within the rural area, but will be replaced with public sewer as it becomes available in the urban area.

The collective sewer provisions of Clark County and the individual city and outside agency capital facilities plans are consistent with the Land Use Element of the 20-Year Plan. Outside of urban growth areas, there is limited public sewer provision and future expansions are generally discouraged by policies of the Land Use and Capital Facilities Elements of the 20-Year Plan. Rural sewer provision is provided by individual private septic systems, subject to the review of Clark County Public Health.

Given the anticipated growth in the County, several studies have been completed to examine the potential economic and environmental benefits of regionalization of various aspects of sewer service. A Sewer Coalition Planning Study was completed in November 2009 with the participation of all sewer utilities in the County. This Study resulted in the development of a Regional General Sewer Plan (RGSP) outlining a long-term vision for sewer service in the County and the recommendation that four agencies (Battle Ground, Ridgefield, Clark County and Clark Regional Wastewater District) form a partnership to provide treatment and major conveyance for sewage for each agencies service area. The collective sewer provisions of Clark County and the individual city and outside agency capital facilities plans are consistent with the Land Use Element of the 20-Year Plan. Outside of urban growth areas, there is limited public sewer provision and future expansions are generally discouraged by policies of the Land Use and Capital Facilities Elements of the 20-Year Plan.

Within unincorporated Urban Growth Areas other than the Vancouver UGA the Comprehensive Plan Map has designated relatively little land for short term urban density development which would require public sewer service. These UGA lands are affixed with an "Urban Holding" overlay designation, which explicitly precludes urbanization until a site-specific demonstration of serviceability is made.

Provisions for lands within corporate limits are addressed in the city comprehensive plans. Within the Vancouver UGA there is a substantial amount of land under county jurisdiction which is designated for near term urban development without the Urban Holding overlay. The District serves the City of Vancouver Urban Growth Area consistent with the County's Comprehensive Plan.

#### **Indirect Concurrency Services**

Indirect concurrency services include storm drainage, public schools, parks, fire protection, law enforcement, solid waste disposal, county buildings, electricity, natural gas and telecommunications. These services are necessary to support additional growth to varying degrees, but they have not been identified by the GMA as critical facilities to be applied using direct concurrency standards as is the case with roads, sewer and water facilities.

#### **Stormwater Drainage**

Unmanaged stormwater runoff can result in flooding, elimination of fishery and wildlife habitat, pollution of the county's drinking water supply and negative impacts to the aesthetics of the county's streams, lakes and wetlands. The regulation and management of storm drainage in Clark County falls under the responsibility of the local municipalities and Clark County. City governments regulate and maintain the drainage systems within their city limits.

Clark County regulates and manages surface water runoff in the unincorporated areas outside of city limits. The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) is responsible for the management of runoff from State highways and associated properties. The 100-year floodplains are designated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and are managed by the county or individual cities. The U.S. government and the State of Washington, through legislation or administrative actions, greatly influence how the county and its cities are required to regulate and manage storm drainage.

In 1999 Clark County received a Municipal Storm Sewer System permit through the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). This permit is issued by the State of Washington Department of Ecology under the authority of the federal Clean Water Act. The stormwater permit requires Clark County to take certain actions to reduce pollutant from discharges from its storm sewer system. These actions include requiring construction of stormwater treatment and flow control facilities for development projects and a program to plan and build capital improvements to reduce pollutants from the county storm drainage system.

It is anticipated that the Stormwater mitigation for private development will continue to be financed by the development community, though opportunities will be sought to achieve private-public partnerships where feasible. Public stormwater facility construction will mitigate its stormwater impacts as part of the project funding, using sources such as the road fund. The remaining need is for an ongoing retrofit program under the requirements of the county NPDES stormwater permit. (Readers interested in stormwater provisions for individual cities within Clark County should refer to the respective city's comprehensive plan.)

### **Public Schools**

In addition to their primary educational function, public schools serve as a community focal point and provide facilities used for a variety of community, civic and recreational needs. Schools are not required as a mandatory concurrency item under the GMA, but are required by existing state law under RCW 58.17.110 to be adequately provided for before land divisions may be approved. Chapter 10, School Element provides a complete overview of the school districts serving Clark County. Additional information representing the priority capital projects for school districts are presented in each school district's Capital Facility Plans.

### **Parks**

Chapter 7, Parks, Recreation and Open Space provides a complete overview of the Clark County system, based on the 2015 Clark County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan.

### **Fire Protection/Suppression**

Fire protection in Clark County is provided by a combination of sources. Urban area service has been historically provided by city fire departments, while various fire protection districts serve the unincorporated areas. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides protection for all state trust lands located in the forested portions in the eastern and northern ends of the county. The USDA Forest Service provides protection for the small portion of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest located in the far eastern area of the county.

In addition to providing fire protection, most districts provide emergency medical services (EMS) and basic life support and/or advanced life support. The City of Vancouver operates the only hazardous materials response team in the county and is the primary service provider for technical rescue services in conjunction with Fire District 6. EMS calls have constituted an

increasing portion of the fire agency's activities and responsibilities, at increasing cost. Emergency response ambulance transport is provided by three providers within Clark County: 1) North Country EMS providing service to Fire Districts 10, 13 and part of District 3; 2) Camas/Washougal providing service to the cities of Camas and Washougal and East County Fire and Rescue; and 3) the City of Vancouver providing service to the City of Vancouver, Fire District 5 and EMS District 2. EMS District 2 makes up the bulk of the remaining portions of the unincorporated County and small cities.

Clark County has grown rapidly since 1980, much of it in previously unurbanized areas of the county. Virtually every fire district has experienced some urban type growth. Annexation by cities can provide a higher level of service to these areas to meet the increased urban growth, while reducing the service impacts to districts. Fire districts within or adjacent to urban areas desire to provide an Urban Service delivery to reflect the need to protect a growing community. The impacts of service levels because of annexation by cities is statutorily mitigated by RCW 35.13 and RCW 35.103.050.

There has been a trend towards increased coordination and cooperation among the various fire and emergency service providers in recent years and greater integration will be needed in the future. To date, this has involved the joint use of stations or other facilities and even merging Fire Districts in certain cases. There will likely be increased consistency of standards and levels of services provided among the various districts, with the Clark County Fire Marshal likely playing a larger coordinative and oversight role. Fire protection and suppression services are in the process of becoming more proactive and preventative, rather than strictly reactive as has often been the case in the past. There will likely be increased incentives or regulatory measures to decrease the likelihood of fires occurring, such as fire restrictive materials in all areas, or land use restrictions in fire-prone areas, as well as on-site sprinklers to suppress those fires that do occur. Estimated capital facility six-year needs are listed in Table 6.6.

**Table 6.6 | Fire Protection Estimated Six-year Capital Expenditures by Fire District, 2016-2021**

Fire District	Projects	ESTIMATED Cost	Projected financing Funding sources
Clark County Fire & Rescue (Ridgefield/La Center)	1 remodel; 1 land purchase; 2 engines; 2 rescues; 3 command vehicles; Air Packs	\$3,120,000	Reserve Fund and general obligation bonds
East County Fire & Rescue	2 new facilities; 2 new vehicles	\$6,800,000	Bonds, general fund, emergency rescue fund
FD #2 (Woodland area)	1 remodel; 1 engine; 1 water tender	\$1,150,000	General obligation bonds
FD #3 (Brush Prairie & Battle Ground area)	3 engines; 1 water tender, 1 new facility; 1 new brush engine	\$6,000,000	Existing reserve fund, bond sale, development and impact fees
FD#5 and Vancouver FD (Vancouver area)	10 fire station maintenance; 2 new facilities; 3 remodels; purchase land	\$18,800,000	General fund, property tax revenue
FD #6 (Hazel Dell area)	4 new vehicles	\$1,550,000	Property tax revenue
FD #10 (Amboy area)	No identified projects	No information provided	No information provided
FD #13 (Yacolt area)	No information provided	No information provided	No information provided
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$37,420,000</b>	

Note: Clark County Fire Districts 11 & 12 merged into Clark County Fire and Rescue. The City of Woodland contracts with Clark County Fire and Rescue to provide service. The City of Battleground contracts with Clark County Fire District #3.

**Law Enforcement/Corrections**

The Clark County Sheriff’s Office provides law enforcement services throughout the unincorporated area and in the Town of Yacolt. The cities of Camas, Washougal, Battle Ground, La Center, Ridgefield and Vancouver are served by municipal police departments. There is extensive cooperation between the cities and the county law enforcement forces involving shared facilities and provisions for mutual back-up in emergency situations. The Washington State Patrol has police jurisdiction on all state routes within the county and is largely responsible for state facilities. The state also provides back-up for the Clark County Sheriff’s Department and local jurisdictions’ forces. The primary law enforcement facilities used by the county are the Clark County Law enforcement Center (main jail), the Jail Work Center, the Juvenile Detention Center and the West and Central Precincts.

Regional or shared Law enforcement and correction facilities including the main jail, the Jail Work Center, the Juvenile Detention Center, the Clark-Skamania Drug Task Force (Task Force) leased facility, the new 911 Emergency Center (CRESA and a leased facility for the Child Abuse Intervention Center (CAIC). These last three (3) agencies (Task Force, CRESA and CAIC) are inter-jurisdictional. In addition to these regional facilities, Vancouver, Camas, Washougal and Battle Ground each has their own jail/holding facility. Larch Corrections Center, the only state detention facility in Clark County, is an all-male minimum security facility that houses 164 inmates. Table 6.7 provides the Sheriff’s summary capital facilities plan.

**Table 6.7 | Summary of Sheriff’s Capital Facilities Plan**

CAPITAL FACILITY	DESCRIPTIONPROJECTS	COST (millions,2006 dollars)	FUNDING SOURCES
<b>Jail Expansion</b>	600 to 700 maximum security facility with administrative offices, office for Property and Evidence and parking	\$90 to 100 million (est.)	Construction: Bonds Operating: Levy or Sales Tax
<b>Central Precinct Replacement</b>	8,600 sq. ft. building, space for public meetings and parking. Joint project with Public Works	\$2.0 million (est.)	Construction: Bonds Operating: road fund Diversion or General Fund Allocation
<b>Marine Patrol Facilities Replacement</b>	1,300 sq. ft. boathouse and 720 sq. ft boat storage garage	\$100,000	Construction: General fund
<b>Jail/Records Management Replacement</b>	Building remodel/expansion to house inmate and criminal records, related information	\$2.1 million (est.)	Information Technology Reserve Funds
<b>East Precinct</b>	8,000 to 9,000 s.f. Precinct including space for public meetings and parking	\$3 million (est.)	Construction: Bonds Operating: General Fund or Levy
<b>Shooting Range</b>	Replacement, Classrooms, 40 lanes, tactical training facilities (includes EIS for new site and decommissioning of old site)	\$1 million (est.)	Construction: Bonds Operating: General Fund or Levy
<b>Total</b>		\$98.2 to 108.2 million	

The major cost of the Jail Expansion will likely necessitate Bond financing, combined with a dedicated levy or sales tax increase to fund debt service and the additional Jail operating costs that would result. A portion of the additional operating costs may be recovered from other jurisdictions for housing misdemeanants.

Demand for law enforcement services is directly related to the population (number of households) and the amount of developed commercial/industrial acreage for the area. Most of the growth in the county has occurred in the unincorporated, largely rural sections of the county. As a result, the Clark County Sheriff's Office has experienced the greatest increase in demand/need for services.

The traditional measure of levels of law enforcement services is the ratio of officers to population served, which is a personnel and non-capital issue. Using the number of sworn officers as a measure of staffing is also becoming outdated as workload and performance measures have become more sophisticated. The level of law enforcement service for Clark County is increasingly evaluated based upon a demand or workload indicator, like calls for service and performance outcomes like crime clearance rates. Most calls for police assistance are associated with places of residences, but calls from workplaces and commercial areas are becoming more significant.

### **Solid Waste Disposal**

The purpose of solid waste management activities in Clark County is to protect and preserve human health, environmental quality and natural resources through efficient, cost-effective programs and services. Solid waste collection and recycling operations in the county and its associated cities are conducted almost entirely by private contractors. Within the unincorporated portions of the county these services are conducted by one private company under the regulatory authority of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC). Clark County has no authority to directly contract for solid waste collection services, other than for the collection of residential recyclable materials. Cities and towns have the option to contract directly for collection services, provide the collection themselves or defer regulation to the WUTC. Currently, Battle Ground, La Center and Yacolt defer collection company regulation to the WUTC. Vancouver, Ridgefield and Washougal contract their services to private haulers, while the City of Camas provides its own garbage collection.

Waste collected by the WUTC certified haulers, city contracted haulers and self-haulers is initially disposed of at the Central Transfer and Recycling Center (CTR), the West Van Materials Recovery Center (West Van), or the Washougal Transfer Station (WTS) in Clark County. Some processing of mixed loads is conducted at the transfer stations to recover recyclable materials. Capital expenditures for site improvements of the Central Transfer Station over the next six years are approximately \$4,000,000. Non-recyclable waste is transported for final disposal to the Finely Buttes and Wasco County Landfills in Eastern Oregon. The transfer facilities, landfill and transportation of materials are operated by the Columbia Resource Company (CRC). The CRC system replaced the in-county Lechner Landfill which closed on December 31, 1991.

Currently, curbside collection of a variety of recyclable materials is provided to residents at varying service levels within all of the cities and the urban and non-urban areas of Clark County. Recyclable materials collected through county/city curbside collection programs are delivered and processed at West Van.

Residential curbside collection of yard debris is also provided at varying service levels in the cities of Vancouver, Battle Ground, Camas, Washougal and the urban areas of unincorporated Clark County. Yard debris collected in the county is currently either composted at one of several yard debris composters in the Clark County/Portland Metro area or used as a source of fuel in industrial burners.

Two fixed household hazardous waste collection facilities are located at CTR and West Van and WTS facilities. These facilities are open to the public and accept household hazardous waste from county residents at no charge.

The Clark County Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan is used to provide the community with goals and policies for implementing, evaluating and modifying existing and future solid waste management programs. The intent of the plan is to establish the foundation for a viable and functional system for the proper management of solid and moderate risk wastes in Clark County. It identifies source reduction, reuse, recycling and composting and as preferred management tools. The updated Plan includes recommendations to: 1) focus on sustainable materials management; 2) implement three core outreach programs (Green Business, Green Neighbors and Green Schools); 3) master plan the Leichner Landfill and decommissioning the Rufener Landfill site; 4) facilitate business growth within waste related industries; 5) continue to rely on the private sector to fund and finance such capital improvement projects; and 6) prohibit (in-county) landfills.

The existing system of the three transfer stations can be modified or upgraded, as needed and as possible, to maintain or improve existing levels of service. In addition the existing contract with CRC provides the option to determine if a fourth transfer station is needed. If a fourth transfer station is to be developed, the contract provides for CRC to propose a location and design; and, upon County approval, permit, construct and operate the facility. CRC shall be compensated for developing, constructing and operating the Fourth Transfer Station.

### **Public Safety Communications**

The county, through CRESA, researched a public safety communications upgrade countywide for many years. As a part of the FY 1996 budget the Commissioners approved a capital budget program of \$13.5 million, to upgrade the public safety communications system. Over a two-year period, an 800 MHz trunked radio system, purchased from Motorola Communications and Electronics was installed. The system is a Clark County owned proprietary system that is compatible with the Portland, Washington County and future Clackamas County, Oregon systems.

### **General Government Buildings**

Clark County presently owns over 100 buildings and structures comprising 1,805,004 square feet of total floor space, as indicated in Table 6.8. We also rent 5,000 square feet in East County.

Population growth projected through 2035 will require additional space for offices, courtrooms, detention, maintenance and storage uses. The county will continue planning efforts for an expanded law and justice capability. We expect adding this capacity could cost as much as \$150 million. We are also looking at constructing a \$10 million building on Public Works' 149<sup>th</sup> Street Complex to house a number of county agencies in an effort to improve service delivery to areas of the county further north. Finally, we are investigating a small expansion of county facilities on the Veterans' Administration campus. This expansion would include a maintenance, service, receiving and storage building, additional parking and park space.

**Table 6.8 | Existing County Buildings**

County Owned - County Occupied	
Building	Square Ft
Fairgrounds	314,883
Center for Community Health	176,404
Public Service Center	159,376
Corrections Justice Center	130,324
PSC Parking Structure	150,159
Jail Work Center	90,000
Courthouse	79,383
Juvenile Center	62,840
Pepsi Warehouse	58,596
Dolle Building	40,000
Lewisville Park	31,490
Social Service Center	30,725
Health Center	27,886
Franklin Center	25,000
CRESA	23,624
1408 Franklin- License/Elections/Print Shop	22,976
800 Mhz Tower Sites	22,320
Public Safety Complex	20,000
Building C - Shops	19,760
Vancouver Lake	18,480
General Services Building	16,000
149th Street Bldg A1 Main WH	16,000
Camp Lewisville	11,060
Whatley Decant Facility	10,800
English Transfer Station	10,000
Death Investigations	9,300
Frenchman's Bar	9,112
Tri Mountain Golf Course	7,114
Hazel Dell	6,864
Klinline (Salmon Creek)	6,753
English Site and Shed	6,000
78th St. Swale Maint F & G	5,270
North County Social Service Center	4,563
Orchards	4,480
149th Street Building B West WH	3,900
Daybreak	3,732
Mabry Complex	3,696
Moulton Falls	3,601
78th Street North Shed Bldg J	3,264
Haapa Park	3,163
149th Street Building A (Sheriff's)	3,000
Washougal Site and Shed	3,000
Lucia Falls	2,956
Modular 78th St. - Bldg N	2,772
149th Building C Fuel Island	2,625
78th Street Building A	2,400
Daybreak Site and Shed	2,400
Finn Hill Site and Shed	2,400
Maple Site and Shed	2,400
Salmon Creek Site	2,400



78th Street Signals Bldg H	2,210
Amphitheatre Pump Station	2,000
Livingston Radio Site & Shed	2,000
78th Street Building B	1,800
78th Street Rock Storage A	1,800
Drug Task Force	1,800
78th St Conference Ctr Bld B1	1,680
Felida Park	1,500
78th St Special Storage Bldg L	1,496
149th St Bldg D (Sign Shop)	1,496
78th Street Fuel Island	1,496
English Pit Rifle Range (Park)	1,456
78th Street Wash Rack	1,200
Lacamas Lake	1,040
Portable 78th St. - Bldg M	1,040
78th Street Building A1	1,008
HB Fuller 134th St. (Park)	1,000
Downtown Fuel Island	880
78th Street West Shed	864
78th Street Central Bldg E	700
78th Street Building D	650
Lewisville Fuel Island	600
Wolfe Creek Pump Station/99th Str.	25
Mountain View Pump Station	25
88th Street Pump Station	25
Harmony Sports Complex	10
Total	1,805,004

**Center for Community Health**

Clark County has recently completed construction of the 176,000 square foot Center for Community Health on the Veteran’s Administration campus on Fourth Plain Boulevard. The new building consolidates a number of community health organizations in one convenient location. The facility provides new inpatient capabilities which will be a significant benefit to the community.

**Clark County Exposition Center**

In the early 2000’s Clark County completed the "Clark County Exposition Center." This is a state of the art year round multi-purpose facility located on the Fairgrounds. It is suitable for shows and events of almost every type and contributes to the goal of making the Fairgrounds less reliant of the annual County Fair for revenues.

**Coordination with Other Plan Elements**

In the event that funding is insufficient to meet the capital needs for any of the above described projects, a reassessment of the land use element and other elements of the capital facilities plan will occur. Other funding possibilities and levels of service will also be reassessed. This will be done to make certain appropriate action will be taken to ensure the internal consistency of the land use and capital facilities portions of the plan.

**Electricity**

Electric service throughout Clark County is provided by Clark Public Utilities (CPU), a customer-owned public utility district. About one-third of the power the utility sells its customers

is generated at the River Road Generating Plant, a combined-cycle combustion turbine that uses natural gas to produce electricity. The remaining power supply is purchased, mainly from the Bonneville Power Administration, a federal agency that markets power generated at federal dams in the Pacific Northwest.

The system consists of more than 100 miles of high-voltage transmission lines (69,000 and 115,000 volts), 47 substations, three switching stations and about 6,500 miles of overhead and underground distribution lines. The facilities serve about 192,000 customers. The utility has administrative offices in its Electric Center, 1200 Fort Vancouver Way, Vancouver. Engineering and operations functions are located at the Ed Fischer Operations Center, 8600 N.E. 117<sup>th</sup> Avenue. These facilities are located primarily in the urban area of the county. Most of the rural area is served with minor facilities.

The utility routinely reviews the county's growth plans and coordinate the construction of new electrical facilities with those plans. Major electrical facilities are in place to serve existing utility customers; however additional substations, transmission lines and distribution facilities will be required to meet the needs of new customers. It should be noted that state law requires utilities to provide electricity to all who request it.

The utility believes it has adequate supplies of electricity to meet anticipated customer demands. Utility officials routinely prepare projections of future demand for electricity and review available supplies. When projections show that demand for electricity will exceed the available supply, the utility will conduct extensive evaluations of the available options. The major options are to build additional electrical generating capacity, purchase additional supplies of electricity, or expand electricity conservation programs to reduce demand for power. Any one or a combination of the options could be selected.

### **Natural Gas**

Granted its service territory by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Northwest Natural Gas is the sole purveyor of natural gas in Clark County. The company serves about 56,325 residential, 4,715 commercial and 51 industrial gas customers in the county. Its customer base has grown rapidly over the past 10 years, reflecting a strong preference by builders for natural gas heating in new homes as the county's residential population increases.

Northwest Natural Gas receives about 20 percent of its supply from British Columbia, 60% from Alberta and 20% from the Rocky Mountain States. Northwest Pipeline's current and future need is to keep its pipeline corridors accessible for maintenance.

Despite recent fluctuations in energy prices, as the local distribution company of natural gas, Northwest Natural anticipates continued strong growth in customer additions in Clark County and is planning for future infrastructure construction and maintenance to serve the expected need. Additional distribution lines will be constructed on an as-needed basis in accordance with local, state and federal regulations and codes covering land use and safety issues.

Public safety has been the number-one consideration in the siting and construction of new pipelines, as reflected by natural gas' superior safety record in the pipeline industry. The growth of new development and housing subdivisions in the county to be served by natural gas will only increase the need for stringent adherence to safety and maintenance standards for the building and operation of transmission and distribution lines.

## **Telecommunications**

The telecommunications industry is currently in the midst of tremendous advances in technology. Cellular and optical fiber technologies are transforming the way service is delivered. In addition, the physical barriers that separate data, video and voice technologies are rapidly disappearing. With the breakup of AT&T in 1984, new technology and new providers have entered the market at a rapid pace and have fostered a competitive industry. There are several local and national telecommunication companies that provide service to Clark County residents. As detailed in the Transportation Element, Chapter 5, telecommunications will play an increasingly important role in the transportation demand management strategy of Clark County. This will require a substantial commitment to telecommuting and its related communication technology. In general, GTE and Lewis River should be able to meet the growing demand for telecommunications services. However, the county will need to work with providers to assure that employers know the benefits of telecommuting in the work place.

## **Libraries**

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library District (FVRLD) serves an area of approximately 4,200 square miles and nearly 470,000 people in four counties. The district is diverse in its service requirements, ranging from rural bookmobile service to a self-service library in Yacolt to the award-winning 83,000 square foot Vancouver Community Library in downtown Vancouver. Currently FVRLD provides a total of 182,341 square feet of library space in nine branches serving Clark County, with an additional 2,376 square feet in Woodland and a 36,000 square foot headquarters facility in downtown Vancouver.

Currently in the planning stages for libraries in Clark County:

FVRLD is planning the construction of two 12,000 square foot facilities in Washougal and Ridgefield to replace aging and undersized buildings in those locations. Both projects are in the process of locating suitable property for construction. Funding for these projects will come from a combination of capital reserves, privately raised funds through the Fort Vancouver Regional Library Foundation and Friends groups and capital facility bonds, if deemed necessary. Both projects are currently estimated to be in the \$4.5 million range with adjustments for inflation assumed going forward. There is also a new facility being planned for Woodland.

FVRLD is additionally, looking to site a future facility in northeast Vancouver that could potentially house the district's headquarters offices as well as a new library. This area does not currently have library services and is an area of growth for the county that needs to be addressed in the near future.

FVRLD worked with Berger ABAM in 2013 to create a Strategic Facilities Plan that can be reviewed at [www.fvrl.org/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/Media%20browser/bergerabam-fvrl\\_strategicfacilitiesplan\\_finalreport.pdf](http://www.fvrl.org/sites/default/files/wysiwyg/Media%20browser/bergerabam-fvrl_strategicfacilitiesplan_finalreport.pdf).

**Table 6.9 | Existing Fort Vancouver Regional Library District Buildings**

FVRLD Library	Square footage	Own / Lease	Year Built / Remodeled
Battle Ground	14,356	Own	2009
Cascade Park	24,175	Own	2009
La Center	3,380	Lease	1905 / 2004
Ridgefield	2,055	Lease	1994
Three Creeks	13,000	Own	2002
Vancouver	83,000	Own	2011
Vancouver Mall	3,575	Lease	2013
Washougal	2,400	Lease	1981
Yacolt	400	Lease	1908 / 2012
Headquarters	36,000	Lease	1963
Total	182,341		

Source: FVRL Capital Facilities Plan

## Goals and Policies

### State Goals and Mandates

The statewide planning goals were adopted in 1990 as part of GMA. Included within the 13 goals was the mandate to ensure that public services and facilities necessary to support development shall be adequate to the development (RCW 36.70A.020).

### Community Framework Plan

Both the policies within the Countywide Planning Policies and the Community Framework Plan (CFP) frame the issues and needs for the 20-Year Plan with regards to capital facilities. See Section 6.0 of the CFP for these policies.

## 6.0 Countywide Planning Policies

- 6.0.1 The County, State, municipalities and special districts shall work together to develop realistic levels of service for urban governmental services.
- 6.0.2 Plans for providing public facilities and services shall be coordinated with plans for designation of urban growth areas, rural uses and for the transition of undeveloped land to urban uses.
- 6.0.3 Public facilities and utility services shall be planned so that service provision maximizes efficiency and cost effectiveness and ensures concurrency.
- 6.0.4 The County, municipalities and special districts shall, to the greatest extent possible, agree upon present and future service provision within the urban area.
- 6.0.5 The County, municipalities and special districts shall agree on a full range of services to meet the needs of the urban area, including sewer, water, storm drainage, transportation, police, fire, parks, etc.
- 6.0.6 The County, its municipalities and special districts shall work together to ensure that the provision of public facilities and services are consistent and designed to implement adopted comprehensive plans.

- 6.0.7 Local jurisdictions shall establish a process to re-evaluate the land use element of their comprehensive plans upon its determination that the jurisdiction lacks the financing resources to provide necessary public facilities and services to implement their plan.
- 6.0.8 General and special purpose districts should consider the establishment of impact fees as a method of financing public facilities required to support new development.
- 6.0.9 The County, its municipalities and special districts will work together to develop financial tools and techniques that will enable them to secure funds to achieve concurrency.
- 6.0.10 The Comprehensive Plan of the County and each municipality shall include a process for identifying and siting essential public facilities such as airports, state education facilities and state or regional transportation facilities, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities and regional parks.
- 6.0.11 When siting state and regional public facilities, the County and each municipality shall consider land use compatibility, economic and environmental impacts and public need.
- 6.0.12 The County shall work with the state, each municipality and special districts to identify future needs of regional and state wide public facilities. This will ensure countywide consistency and avoid duplications or deficiencies in proposed facilities.
- 6.0.13 The County, municipalities, special districts and Public Health will work cooperatively to develop fair and consistent policies and incentives to: eliminate private water and sewer/septic systems in the urban areas; and to encourage connection to public water and sewer systems.
- 6.0.14 Within Urban Growth Areas, cities and towns should be the providers of urban services. Cities and towns should not extend utilities without annexation or commitments for annexation. Exceptions may be made in cases where human health is threatened. In areas where utilities presently extend beyond city or town limits, but are within Urban Growth Areas, the city or town and the county should jointly plan for the development, with the county adopting development regulations which are consistent with the city or town standards.
- 6.0.15 Plans for providing public utility services shall be coordinated with plans for designation of urban growth areas, rural uses and for the transition of undeveloped land to urban uses.
- 6.0.16 The County, municipalities and special districts shall, to the greatest extent possible, agree upon present and future service provision within the urban area.
- 6.0.17 Establish a stormwater treatment plan for existing and future developments that complies with salmon recovery objectives.

## County 20-Year Plan Policies

**Goal: Ensure that necessary and adequate capital facilities and services are provided to all development in Clark County in a manner consistent with the 20-Year Plan.**

### 6.1 Policies

- 6.1.1 Continue to plan for and provide capital facilities and services as necessary to support development consistent with the 20-Year Plan and coordinate and facilitate the planning and provision of such facilities and services by other public or private entities.
- 6.1.2 The primary role of Clark County regarding service provisions shall involve the planning and delivery of regional, rather than urban, services. It is the policy of Clark County that, in general, cities or special service districts are the most appropriate units of local government to provide urban governmental services and that, in general, it is not appropriate that urban governmental services be extended or expanded to rural areas except in those limited circumstances shown to be necessary to protect basic public health and safety and the environment and when such services are financially supportable at rural densities and do not permit urban development.
- 6.1.3 Explore and assist other providers to explore a variety of funding sources for capital facilities and services, including a range of federal, state and other grants where possible.
- 6.1.4 Encourage and assist other utilities, service districts and providers to pursue the use of impact fees, special assessment and improvement districts and other local financing techniques to fund new facilities and services.
- 6.1.5 Assist and facilitate the siting of capital facility and service infrastructure in a manner consistent with the 20-Year Plan, through appropriate land use planning and development review policies and procedures.
- 6.1.6 Develop a process for identifying and siting essential regional public facilities such as state or regional transportation facilities, state education facilities, airports, corrections facilities, solid waste handling facilities, regional parks and regional stormwater facilities.
- 6.1.7 Clark County incorporates by reference the sewer and water Capital Facilities Plans of the Clark Regional Wastewater District, Clark Public Utilities and the City of Vancouver. The county should review future changes to these Capital Facilities Plans on an ongoing basis to ensure that consistency with county capital facility and land use plans is maintained.

**Goal: Provide water service to all households minimizing environmental impacts and, at least, long-term public cost.**

### 6.2 Policies

- 6.2.1 All new development in the urban area shall be served by a connection to a public water system. Existing developments within the urban area using private wells shall be encouraged to convert to public water usage.
- 6.2.2 Private wells may be used in the rural area, subject to the review of the Clark County Public Health.
- 6.2.3 In cases where public water service is needed, it shall be provided by a water purveyor under the following order of preference, articulated within the Coordinated Water System Plan (CWSP):
  - Direct or satellite service by the water utility designated by the CWSP to serve the area.
  - Interim or permanent service by an adjacent water utility. CWSP service area designations shall be adjusted if permanent service is arranged.
  - Satellite service on an interim basis by CPU, if the development to be served is located outside CPU's service territory.
  - Formation of a new utility and construction of a new public water system to serve only the development. CWSP service area shall be adjusted to reflect the change.
- 6.2.4 The CWSP shall be reviewed and updated at a minimum of every five years. Design standards included in the CWSP shall be reviewed and amended annually, if necessary.
- 6.2.5 CPU shall continue to be recognized as the satellite water system management agency for Clark County.
- 6.2.6 Clark Public Utilities may construct and manage satellite water systems within the service territory of other water utilities, but only if a prior agreement is reached with the utility designated by the CWSP to serve the area. Such agreements shall address issues of equipment compatibility, asset transfer and other issues deemed necessary by the parties.
- 6.2.7 Major water utilities, including Clark Public Utilities, may construct extensions of existing services in the rural area only if service is provided at a level that will accommodate only the type of land use and development density called for in the 20-Year Plan, recognizing maximum buildout and reasonable allowances in design of facilities to promote overall system efficiency. Extension of water service shall be permitted to public regional park facilities that are outside of but adjacent to an urban growth boundary.
- 6.2.8 Water transmission lines constructed in rural areas for the purpose of connecting water systems shall be limited from use for tributary line tie-ins.
- 6.2.9 The CWSP shall be amended to reflect any water service extensions in the rural area.
- 6.2.10 Developments shall demonstrate a sufficient and sustainable source of water before development approval is issued.

- 6.2.11 Water service plans shall be coordinated with the adopted 20-Year Plan map and policies, including the designation of urban growth areas.
- 6.2.12 Work with other cities and special districts to develop fair and consistent policies/incentives to eliminate private water systems in urban areas and to encourage connection to public water systems. Unused wells should be identified and decommissioned.
- 6.2.13 Practice and encourage water conservation.
- 6.2.14 Work with water service providers to encourage public education and outreach programs on water reuse, conservation, reclamation and other new water efficient technology.
- 6.2.15 Encourage water pricing structures to facilitate conservation to public water systems and to cover the full cost of providing water service.

**Goal: Provide sewer service within urban growth areas efficiently and at least public cost.**

### **6.3 Policies**

- 6.3.1 All new development in the urban area shall be served by a connection to a public sewer system.
- 6.3.2 Develop strategies for the conversion of on-site septic disposal systems to public sewer use in the urban area.
- 6.3.3 New and existing development in the rural area outside of rural centers shall use individual on-site septic disposal systems, unless public sewer is available. New or existing development within designated rural centers may use community septic systems.
- 6.3.4 Installation of new individual or community septic systems shall be subject to the approval of the Clark County Public Health (CCP). Installation approvals for new septic systems shall include agreements for mandatory future monitoring unless waived by the CCP.
- 6.3.5 Require regular inspections of existing on-site sewage disposal systems in wellhead protection areas.
- 6.3.6 Work with the CCP to support efforts to establish mandatory subsurface sewage disposal septic inspection/maintenance programs for existing septic systems, particularly areas needing environmental health guarantees.
- 6.3.7 Expand treatment facilities to meet current and future demand for development within urban areas.
- 6.3.8 Extension of public sewer service shall not be permitted outside urban growth areas, except in response to documented health hazards; or to provide public sewer to regional park facilities, K-12 public schools, in designated rural centers;



or where the county has contractually committed to permit public sewer connection.

- 6.3.9 Sewer service plans shall be coordinated with the 20-Year Plan policies and maps, including urban growth area designations.
- 6.3.10 Provide public education about the potential for groundwater contamination from on-site sewage disposal systems.
- 6.3.11 Encourage and work with sewer service providers in the development of a regional sewer system.

**Goal: Provide a long-range stormwater management program to minimize impacts from stormwater discharge from existing and new development. (for additional policies see Chapter 4 – Environmental Element)**

#### **6.4 Policies**

- 6.4.1 Maintain clear development review standards for the control of the quantity and quality of stormwater discharge from development projects which emphasize on-site retention, treatment and infiltration of run-off to minimize impacts on the established wastewater system and local streams, rivers and lakes.
- 6.4.2 Limit the removal of vegetation during development in order to reduce stormwater run-off and erosion.
- 6.4.3 Develop and implement comprehensive stormwater management plans, including funding provisions, for all watersheds in the county.
- 6.4.4 Develop measures countywide to ensure erosion and sediment control for new development, re-development and excavation projects.
- 6.4.5 Explore the possible formation of a regional stormwater facility.
- 6.4.6 Establish a coordinated approach with local jurisdictions to address both surface water and groundwater issue.
- 6.4.7 Clark County shall monitor and update the stormwater control ordinance and related policies and standards to implement and enhance stormwater management.

**Goal: Coordinate with individual school districts to ensure that school sites and facilities are constructed to meet the educational needs of county residents. (See Chapter 10 School Element)**

**Goal: Provide police, fire and emergency medical services efficiently and cost effectively to residents of Clark County.**

#### **6.6 Policies**

- 6.6.1 Encourage interjurisdictional cooperation among law enforcement and corrections agencies to continue to further develop, where practicable, shared service and facility use.
- 6.6.2 Encourage continued and further interjurisdictional cooperation among fire districts where practicable, in areas of mutual aid, sharing of equipment and facilities and consolidation of districts.
- 6.6.3 Encourage development of community benchmarks and program performance measures to monitor outcomes from public safety efforts.
- 6.6.4 Mobile services such as police, fire and other services may establish precincts and similar facilities beyond the urban growth area. The level-of-service provided in such cases should remain rural in nature.
- 6.6.5 Provide for regular fire and building inspections and educate about fire safety.
- 6.6.6 Continue to provide for animal control services and educate about animal safety.
- 6.6.7 Encourage resource allocation decisions based on achievement of outcomes rather than simply workload or output measures.
- 6.6.8 Provide for comprehensive origin and arson fire investigation across jurisdictional and regional boundaries.
- 6.6.9 Develop and implement a comprehensive information management system for all fire, law enforcement, emergency responders, general government and the general population with interagency use and compatibility.
- 6.6.10 Provide for regional training of fire, law enforcement and other emergency service providers. Provide educational and training opportunities for identified segments of the population who use emergency services.
- 6.6.11 Identify funding mechanisms with inter-jurisdictional participation and cooperation to support regionally delivered programs.
- 6.6.12 Identify and implement comprehensive emergency management plans for all service providers consistent with the elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

**Goal: Provide solid waste services efficiently and cost-effectively to residents of Clark County.**

## **6.7 Policies**

- 6.7.1 Continue implementation of the county's Solid Waste Management Plan in order to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the solid waste stream in the next 20 years and update on a regular basis.
- 6.7.2 Implement mandatory solid waste collection in all or parts of the county and continue development and implementation of curbside collection of recyclable materials in rural county areas.

- 6.7.3 Continue on-going consideration of the needed balance in solid waste disposal between land filling, incineration and recycling and consider further reduction measures, such as deposits and product container and packaging bans.

**Goal: Facilitate the provision of electricity, natural gas and other services to the residents of Clark County.**

## **6.8 Policies**

- 6.8.1 Encourage location of underground transmission lines within rights-of-way.
- 6.8.2 Maintain policies for the siting of substation facilities.
- 6.8.3 Encourage and coordinate with other agencies in the provision of libraries and social services.
- 6.8.4 Provide for adequate facilities for county government to deliver services to the public.
- 6.8.5 Encourage and coordinate with other utility providers in the provision of electric, gas, telecommunications and cable.

**Goal: Develop specific concurrency management standards for incorporation into the development review process, to determine the precise requirements for the timing, funding and circumstances for the provision of concurrent services and facilities.**

## **6.9 Policies**

- 6.9.1 Develop direct concurrency requirements for the provision of transportation, water, sewer and stormwater facilities and services into the normal development process.
- 6.9.2 Develop direct or indirect concurrency requirements for school services consistent with existing requirements of RCW 58.17.110.
- 6.9.3 Develop provisions ensuring parks and recreation facilities are provided for all developments as specified in Chapter 8, Parks and Recreation and Open Space of the 20-Year Plan.
- 6.9.4 Capital Facilities plans for the Clark County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element shall be adopted by reference through the adoption of the Supporting Documentation associated with the 20-Year Comprehensive Plan.
- 6.9.5 Develop standards or guidelines to determine how the sufficiency of governmental services, including fire protection, law enforcement, solid waste service, telecommunications, electricity, natural gas, government buildings, libraries and other services shall be addressed during the development review process.
- 6.9.6 Services should be provided and direct or indirect level-of-service standards should be established, consistent with general service provision levels outlined in Table 6.13.

- 6.9.7 Establish a public process to re-evaluate the Land Use Element of the Comprehensive Plan upon determination that financing resources are inadequate to provide necessary public facilities and services to implement the plan.

**Goal: Ensure that capital facilities and services are provided in as cost efficient manner as possible and are consistent with the land use objectives of the 20-Year Plan and State Growth Management Act.**

## **6.10 Policies**

- 6.10.1 Coordinate land use planning and decisions with capital facilities planning and service provision.
- 6.10.2 Encourage and work with utilities, special districts and other service providers to ensure their functional plans are consistent with county level-of-service standards.
- 6.10.3 Encourage and facilitate inter-jurisdictional cooperation and analysis to assess fiscal and other impacts to service delivery related to annexation.
- 6.10.4 Encourage and facilitate the exploration of shared use of facilities and services between service providers where feasible. Activities to be encouraged range from shared responsibility agreements between police and fire service providers, to development of joint facilities such as schools and parks.
- 6.10.5 Encourage compact development patterns which are more easily and efficiently served, rather than less dense development patterns which are more difficult and costly to serve.
- 6.10.6 Within the urban area, encourage and facilitate new development to occur sooner and at greater intensities in areas where necessary services and facilities are already in place and available to serve such development and to a lesser extent in areas where such facilities are not yet available but can be extended.
- 6.10.7 To encourage maximum use of existing public facilities and services, encourage new and infill development in the urban area to occur at the maximum densities envisioned by the 20-Year Plan.
- 6.10.8 Pursue true cost pricing service policies and encourage other providers to pursue similar policies, which allocate the full and true cost of connection to and use of facility and service systems to new system users and do not allocate costs created by systems additions to existing system users.
- 6.10.9 In evaluating land use requests in the rural area, the availability of public water or sewer shall not be considered as providing sole justification, or providing any additional justification in combination with other factors, for applications for development densities beyond those specified by the 20-Year Plan, or for proposed changes to the plan.

- 6.10.10 Changes to the 20-Year Plan shall not be approved which impose inordinate additional net costs on mobile, centralized services such as police, fire, emergency services, school busing or solid waste services.
- 6.10.11 In evaluating requests for an extension of urban services or levels of service beyond the urban growth boundary in a manner consistent with the 20-Year Plan, Clark County shall consider the implications of such an extension for future growth and development patterns. In evaluating requests for changes to the urban growth boundary or other proposals for development beyond the density specified by the 20-Year Plan, Clark County shall consider implications of such actions for service provision and efficiency of provision.
- 6.10.12 Coordinate with and encourage continued participation of other jurisdictions and service entities with the Coordinated Water System Plan, the Solid Waste Management Plan and other service plans, where such plans do not conflict with the 20-Year Plan.
- 6.10.13 Mobile services such as police, fire and other services should locate facilities within the urban area. Precinct or substation facilities may be located in the rural area where necessary to serve rural population, but are encouraged to locate in rural centers or areas of concentrated development. The level-of-service provided must be rural in nature only.
- 6.10.14 The County may invest in urban services or require that urban standards be provided through development review by non-residential developments in the rural area if:
- it is necessary to remedy threats to public health or safety; or,
  - the lead agency can demonstrate that the service extension or the application of urban development standards would yield long-term capital cost savings to the jurisdiction as a whole or the investment would complete an identified system which serves the entire growth area (such as a trail or bicycle network); or,
  - there is a need to permit urban service extension to a non-residential development that conforms to the 20-Year Plan and serves the public health, safety and welfare.

**Table 6.10 General Service Provision Levels**

<b>Service</b>	<b>Urban</b>	<b>Urban Reserve</b>	<b>Rural</b>	<b>Rural Centers</b>
<b>Water</b>	Public water for domestic and fire flow.	Coordinate water systems to match future plans, discourage potable wells for individual dwelling units or use of satellite systems.	Private Public water or private wells	Public water
<b>Sewer</b>	Public sewer	Septic systems with mandatory maintenance and hook-up when sewer is available.	Septic systems	Community septic systems
<b>Storm Drainage</b>	Gutters, pipes and regional Runoff treatment and control facilities by development projects.	Runoff treatment and control facilities by development projects. and.	Open conveyance system. On-site treatment and control of runoff.	Runoff treatment and control facilities by development projects. .
<b>Schools</b>	Full range of school facilities.	Plan for full range of future schools.	Limited	Schools should locate in rural centers.
<b>Police</b>	Police protection and facilities.	Sheriff services	Sheriff services	Sheriff services with potential for neighborhood headquarters.
<b>Fire</b>	Fire flow of 1,000 gpm or better.	Fire protection rating of 3 or better; Urban fire flow of 1,000 gpm or better.	Fire protection rating of 6 or less; rRural fire flow of 500 gpm.	Fire protection rating of 6 or better.
<b>Electricity</b>	Electricity	Electricity	Electricity	Electricity
<b>Parks</b>	Neighborhood, community and regional.	Plan for neighborhood, community and regional.	Regional parks	Rural centers may have neighborhood parks.
<b>Library Services</b>	Libraries	Bookmobile	Bookmobile	Bookmobile
<b>Government Buildings</b>	Facilities	Plan for future facilities.	No facilities	Limited facilities
<b>Telecommunication</b>	Phone and fiber optic services fully available	Phone available, plan for fiber optic services	Phone available	Phone available, plan for fiber optic services
<b>Natural Gas</b>	Available throughout	Available throughout	Available throughout	Available throughout
<b>Solid Waste</b>	Weekly collection from customers, mandatory recycling	Centralized collection, mandatory recycling	Centralized collection, voluntary recycling	Centralized collection, mandatory recycling

gpm = gallons per minute Source: Clark County Department of Community Development.

## Strategies

- Implement water conservation techniques at existing county facilities and design new facilities to optimize water conservation.
- Require new large commercial and industrial developments and high water users, such as schools, parks and golf courses, to implement water reuse and reclamation techniques.
- Revise zoning and subdivision ordinances to encourage design of new development that is capable of accommodating the long-term construction of sewer systems that efficiently accommodate population growth.
- Maintain a project listing of priority watersheds for basin planning and priority capital improvement projects.
- Endorse and encourage community policing and associated decentralization of police operations to move services closer to areas where services are demanded.
- Encourage and invest in programs and services which provide for partnerships with the community or other entities which help to solve local problems in a cross-disciplinary manner.
- Encourage use of a diversity of resources such as volunteers and civilians where appropriate to improve cost effectiveness of public safety operations.
- Conduct resource allocations based on achievement of outcomes rather than simply workload or output measures.
- Encourage the use of installed fire protection or increased fire resistive construction materials or design and increased use of sprinklers and alarm systems by providing incentives or non-penalties for their use.
- Encourage the development of community oriented police, fire and emergency services programs designed to meet community identified needs.
- Provide increased enforcement and control of illegal dumping.
- Continue consideration of an east county transfer station for solid wastes.
- Protect transmission corridors for energy resources from conflicting development.
- Develop and, if necessary, revise policies consistent with current scientific research regarding electrical magnetic field impacts from high voltage electrical lines, or other utility transmission or substation facilities with health potential impacts. Such policies should at a minimum provide for notice of potential impacts to prospective residents adjacent or near such facilities.
- Incentive policies may be developed to allow adjustments of impact fees where such adjustments are necessary to provide or encourage the provision of a demonstrable public benefit, provided that public share budgetary implications of such adjustments have been addressed.
- Encourage the development of countywide Remain engaged in the management and operation of the regional sewer utility, Discovery Clean Water Alliance.

## Current Revenue Sources for Capital Projects

**General Fund:** This is the basic operating fund for the city or county that comes from general tax and revenue resources of the jurisdictions. General fund moneys are often used to finance capital improvement projects. The county's general fund should decrease dramatically in the future as cities annex incorporated lands within their UGAs.

**Additional Voter Approved Financing:** Voter approved financing is debt financing through voter approved bonds and levies which are funded with property tax revenues. Bonds require a 60 percent voter approval, levies require a simple majority. Both bond and levy financing are described below.

**General Obligation Bonds:** The cities or county can raise revenues for major capital projects by selling tax-exempt municipal bonds and incurring debt. Bonds are basically loans from investors who are paid interest in return for their investment. The jurisdiction uses its property tax revenues to make its interest and principal payments on the bonds.

The State of Washington limits the amount of debt that jurisdictions can incur. It does so by limiting the amount of taxable property (measured by the property's assessed value) that can be committed to pay off debt. In the State of Washington, jurisdictions are authorized to incur, with a 60 percent majority of voter approval, 2.5 percent of their assessed valuation in general obligation debt for general purposes, 2.5 percent for utility related capital expenditures and 2.5 percent for parks and open space acquisition.

Of the 2.5 percent allowed for general purposes, a jurisdiction may commit 0.75 percent without a vote of the people. This is known as limited general obligation. An additional 0.75 percent can be incurred to pay for long-term leases.

**Property Taxes:** The cities and county can raise money for general or specific purposes by increasing property taxes through property tax levies. The State of Washington has an annual 106 percent lid on property taxes. However, with a simple majority of voter approval, cities and counties can increase the lid and levy an additional tax on property for a specified length of time ranging from one to 10 years for a specified purpose.

**Intergovernmental Revenues:** The county and cities receive grants and matching funds for major capital projects. These revenues come from the state and federal governments for specific projects. Some examples include the Centennial Clean Water Fund, the Water Pollution Control State Revolving Fund and Community Development Block Grants.

**Fees and User Charges:** The GMA provides cities and counties the authority to implement a variety of taxes for use in mitigating the impacts of growth on capital facilities. User charges and developer fees are designed to recoup the cost of providing public facilities or services by charging all or a portion of the fee to those who benefit from such services. As a tool for affecting the pace and pattern of development such fees may vary for the quantity and location of services provided. Examples include impact fees, utility taxes and special assessment fees.

**Lease Purchase:** The city and counties can engage in lease purchase agreements for purchasing major equipment like fire trucks or 9-1-1 communications systems. There are a number of reasons, besides current market conditions, which make lease purchase agreements attractive. A primary advantage is leasing a building with an option to buy eliminates the need for the



jurisdiction to issue bonds to build a facility. The lease payments are not considered as debt service and thus do not detract debt capacity. Since there is no obligation to buy, the jurisdiction can move as growth occurs. A potential disadvantage is that the lease purchase payments can cost more than current rents. A lease purchase agreement does not require voter approval.

**Timber Excise Tax:** The county and other local taxing districts (excluding cities) can enact a local timber excise on private timber at a rate of 4 percent, which is allowed as a credit against the State tax.

### **Potential New Revenue Sources for Capital Projects**

In addition to current revenue sources, there are a number of other financing options that could potentially be used for capital projects. A brief discussion of some potential sources is conducted below.

**Mandatory Dedications or Fees in Lieu of:** The city or county may require, as a condition of plat approval, that subdivision developers dedicate a certain portion of the land in the development or a equivalent fee in lieu of dedication be used for public purposes, such as roads, parks or schools.

**Impact Fees:** Several cities and counties in the region impose fees on developers to finance parks, schools and roads through the provision of the GMA. These impact fees are assessed on the construction of new homes and other buildings. The fees must reflect the costs of providing capital facilities needed to serve the new development. Some local school districts and jurisdictions in Clark County currently use impact fees to finance their capital facilities.

**Special Assessment Districts:** Special assessment districts implement financing methods for capital facilities which require partial or complete financing by entities other than the jurisdiction. These financing alternatives include those that require financial participation by the existing property owner or developers. Special assessment bonds are restricted to uses related to the purpose for which the district was created. Most typical types of districts include Local Improvement Districts, Road Improvement Districts and Utility Local Improvement Districts.

**Growth Induced Tax Revenues:** This revenue raising technique would divert some of the incremental tax revenue generated by new growth into a capital fund so that it could be used to finance infrastructure improvements necessary to support growth. For example, a certain percentage of the increment in property tax revenue generated by new growth could be diverted for a specific number of years into a special capital projects fund. Money in that fund would be restricted to use for growth related capital project.

**Regional Tax Base Sharing:** Regional tax base sharing is a technique for redistributing local government revenues among jurisdictions in a metropolitan area. It generally involves placing a portion of the growth-related tax revenues collected by each jurisdiction into a pool and then redistributing the pooled revenue among the jurisdictions according to a specified formula. The redistribution formula attempts to address fiscal imbalances or inequities that result from such factors as the inequity in tax generating capacity and public costs among jurisdictions, the unequal distribution among jurisdictions of public facilities that serve the regional population (e.g., the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant) and the concentration of both high and low tax generating users in specific jurisdictions. Tax base sharing is not widely used in the United States.

**Stormwater Utility:** Requires a basin plan to be adopted by Board of County Councilors similar to existing Burnt Bridge Creek Utility. Authorized by RCW 36.89 and 36.94.

**System Development Charges:** May be used for stormwater control and treatment facilities. Authorized under RCW 36.94.

**Voter Approved Real Estate Excise Transfer Taxes:** In addition to the one-half-of-one percent of Real Estate Excise Transfer (REET) tax authorized by the State Legislature, cities and counties authorized to plan under GMA may also ask voters to approve additional REET taxes for planning and for open space acquisition.

**Conservation Futures:** The Conservation Futures levy is provided for in Chapter 84.34 of the Revised Code of Washington. Boards of County Councilors may impose by resolution a property tax up to six and one-quarter cents per thousand dollars of assessed value for the purpose of acquiring interest in open space, farm and timber lands. The Board of Clark County Councilors adopted the Conservation Futures levy in October 1985. Conservation Futures funds may be used for acquisition purposes only. Funds may be used to acquire mineral rights and leaseback agreements are permitted. The statute prohibits the use of eminent domain to acquire property.

**Real Estate Excise Tax:** Chapter 84.46 of the Revised Code of Washington authorizes the governing bodies of counties and cities to impose excise taxes on the sale of real property within limits set by the statute. The authority of counties may be divided into four parts.

1. The Board of Councilors may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in unincorporated parts of the county at a rate not to exceed 1/4 of 1 percent of the selling price to fund "local capital improvements," including parks, playgrounds, swimming pools, water systems, bridges, sewers, etc. Also, the funds must be used "primarily for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan . . ." This tax is now in effect in Clark County.
2. The Board of Councilors may impose a real estate excise tax on the sale of all real property in the unincorporated parts of the county at a rate not to exceed 1/2 of 1 percent, in lieu of a five-tenths of one percent sales tax option authorized under RCW 82.14.040 (2). These funds are not restricted to capital projects. The statute provides for a repeal mechanism. However, this levy is not available to Clark County, because it has implemented a portion of its discretionary sales tax option.
3. In counties that are required to prepare comprehensive plans under the Growth Management Act, Boards of Councilors are authorized to impose an additional real estate excise tax on all real property sales in unincorporated parts of the county at a rate not to exceed 1/4 of 1 percent. These funds must be used "solely for financing capital projects specified in a capital facilities plan element of a comprehensive plan."
4. With voter approval, Boards of Councilors may also impose a real estate excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at a rate not to exceed 1 percent of the selling price for the specific purpose of acquiring and maintaining "local conservation areas."

**Real Estate Excise Tax - Local Conservation Areas:** With voter approval, Boards of County Councilors may impose an excise tax on each sale of real property in the county at rate not to exceed one percent of the selling price for the purpose of acquiring and maintaining conservation areas. The authorizing legislation (RCW 82.46) defines conservation areas as "land and water that has environmental, agricultural, aesthetic, cultural, scientific, historic, scenic, or

low-intensity recreational value for existing and future generations..." These areas include "open spaces, wetlands, marshes, aquifer recharge areas, shoreline areas, natural areas and other lands and waters that are important to preserve flora and fauna."