



September 26, 2014

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Department of Commerce

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Senator Don Benton
17th Legislative District
PO Box 40417
Olympia, WA 98504-0417

Representative Monica Stonier
17th Legislative District
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Representative Paul Harris
17th Legislative District
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Senator Ann Rivers
18th Legislative District
PO Box 40418
Olympia, WA 98504-0418

Representative Brandon Vick
18th Legislative District
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Representative Liz Pike
18th Legislative District
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Senator Annette Cleveland
49th Legislative District
PO Box 40418
Olympia, WA 98504-0418

Representative Sharon Wylie
49th Legislative District
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Representative Jim Moeller
49th Legislative District
PO Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

RE: **Public Works Assistance Account Critical to Local Residents in Your District**

Dear Honorable Governor and State Legislators:

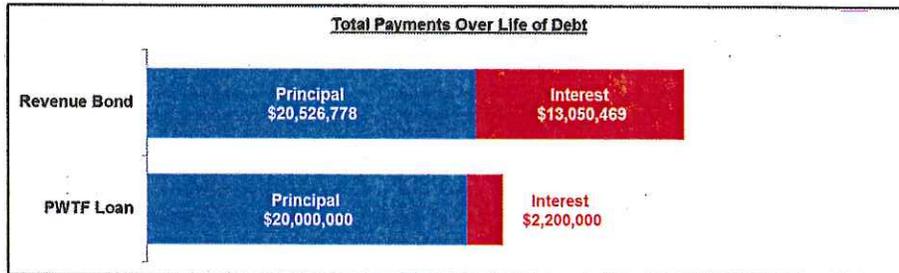
The Discovery Clean Water Alliance is a newly formed, Governor's 2013 Smart Communities Award-winning regional partnership designed to provide reliable wastewater transmission and treatment service at an affordable price to the approximately 100,000 residents of our service areas and your legislative districts.

As the Alliance Board of Directors, we are writing to request your support to reinstate funding of the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) in the 2015 legislative session. This is a critical component of our ability to maintain and expand regional wastewater infrastructure to cost-effectively meet the needs of current and future generations of local residents in the communities you represent. We are the team charged with on-the-ground delivery of this vital service, and the following factors form the basis of our request:



Laying the foundation
for a vibrant economy
and healthy environment

- **No Funding Program More Effective.** The PWAA is the preferred capital funding program in our state. The combination of low-interest rates and reasonable security requirements allows us to best leverage every dollar paid by local residents through their sewer bills. See the comparison below of a \$20 million project funded by PWAA vs. a sewer revenue bond at market rates. The PWAA option allows us to deliver the same project at a cost \$11 million lower than bonding. To be sure, PWAA makes local government more efficient and effective.



- **Funds Put Our Community to Work – Local Success Story Before Funds Diverted.** The \$20 million PWAA funding of the Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System allowed a critical regional infrastructure project to move forward. This funding was secured in 2011 and 2012, immediately before the diversion of funds in 2013. This project is currently in construction, providing jobs to local residents employed by Battle Ground contractor Tapani, Inc. and opening up hundreds of acres of employment lands for development along the critical I-5 corridor.



Construction crews at work on the Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System project

- **More Priority Projects Waiting for Funding.** As a Board, we are currently developing the first Capital Plan for the Alliance and have identified a base of over \$100 million of investment needed for repair and expansion of the regional sewer system. Our ability to cost-effectively deliver this work will depend on the availability of the PWAA as a viable program going forward. On behalf of the residents we jointly serve, your help is needed to restore funding for this essential program.



Rebar Showing at Failure Location

Salmon Creek Interceptor Repairs

Two vital projects are essential to maintain the integrity of the Salmon Creek Interceptor regional pipeline. One project will replace a damaged section of the interceptor pipe, reducing the potential for environmentally harmful failure in this location. Another will re-line approximately 2,500 feet of pipe originally installed in 1975 that is showing advanced corrosion.

Battle Ground Force Main Valve and Vault Repairs

This project will ensure the Alliance's ability to continue providing reliable and predictable service to the Battle Ground area by addressing extensive deterioration of valve and vault structures along the nine-mile length of the Battle Ground force main.



Valve Corrosion



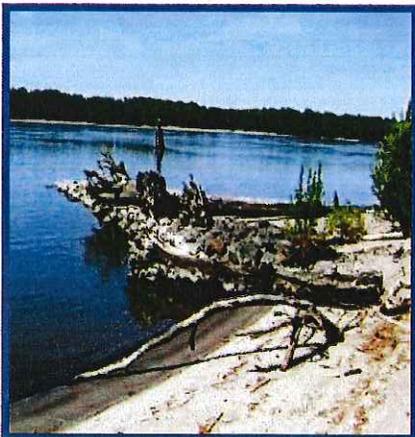
Raw Sewage Pumps – End of Life

36th Avenue Pump Replacements

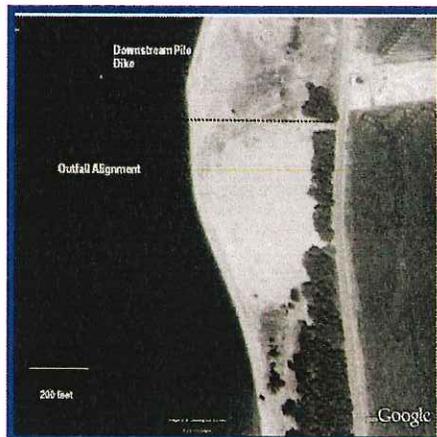
This critical work will ensure reliable and effective transmission of flow to the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant with the replacement of primary raw sewage pumps and motors. Existing pumps were installed approximately 20 years ago and are now at the end of useful life. The pumps have experienced accelerated deterioration due to chronic vibration and related operating difficulties, and failure could ultimately cause damaging overflows of raw sewage.

Columbia River Outfall Pipeline Replacement and Expansion

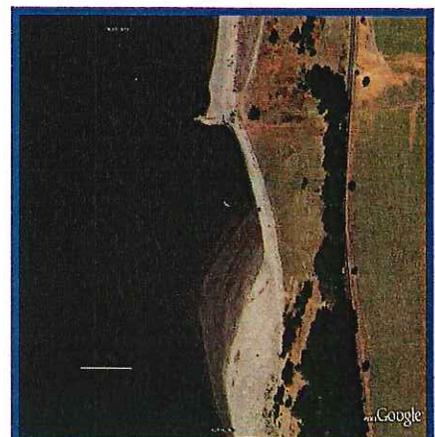
Significant bankside erosion is affecting the long-term stability of the Columbia River outfall from the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant. This essential project will replace the in-water and on-shore segment of the outfall pipeline to address the condition of the 40-year-old pipe. Additional future work is also necessary to install approximately 7,200 feet of new outfall pipeline and a new in-water diffuser assembly.



Existing Outfall Installation – Low Water



Aerial View of Outfall Area – 1994



Aerial View of Outfall Area – 2010

We understand that balancing the needs of state government is difficult and we appreciate your dedication to public service. We also understand the significance of addressing critical needs locally, and the importance of PWAA funding to serve our residents. Your leadership in this area is essential to the environmental health and economic well-being of our community.

Sincerely,



Ron Onslow
Chair, Board of Directors
Discovery Clean Water Alliance
Mayor
City of Ridgefield



Tom Mielke
Vice-Chair, Board of Directors
Discovery Clean Water Alliance
Commissioner
Clark County



Shane Bowman
Board of Directors
Discovery Clean Water Alliance
Mayor
City of Battle Ground



Neil Kimsey
Secretary, Board of Directors
Discovery Clean Water Alliance
Commissioner
Clark Regional Wastewater District

C: Kende Yamaguchi, Public Works Board Executive Director