## STAFF REPORT

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| **Agenda Item:** | 5 | **Name:** | Terra Rose |
| **Proposed No**.: | 2017-0101 | **Date:** | April 18, 2017 |

**SUBJECT**

An ordinance approving the Cedar River Water and Sewer District’s 2016 Comprehensive Plan Update, a combined plan for both the water and sewer systems.

**SUMMARY**

Proposed Ordinance 2017-0101 would approve an update to the Cedar River Water and Sewer District’s 2016 Comprehensive Plan (Plan), meeting the requirement for a water and sewer utility to provide service in unincorporated King County.

**BACKGROUND**

The Cedar River Water and Sewer District (District) owns and operates a water and sewer system located in the south central part of King County. The District provides water service to portions of the Cities of Renton and Maple Valley, as well as unincorporated King County. Sewer service is provided to a small part of the City of Renton, but predominately serves the Fairwood community in unincorporated King County.

**King County Utility Comprehensive Plan Criteria**

King County Code Chapter 13.24 requires the Utilities Technical Review Committee (UTRC) to review and make recommendations to the Executive and County Council on the adequacy of all water and sewer comprehensive plans and related matters, and to determine whether the plan:

* is consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan,
* is consistent with local comprehensive plans,
* reflects current supply and demand,
* forecasts future supply and demand,
* provides a capital plan for obtaining, using, storing and conveying water and sewage, and
* provides sufficient information to demonstrate the utility district’s ability to provide service consistent with all applicable laws and regulations.

In addition to satisfying the requirement of KCC Chapter 13.24, the County's approval also provides state regulatory agencies with the determination required under RCW 43.20.260 that the Plan is consistent with the King County Comprehensive Plan and implementing development regulations.

Additionally, King County has adopted a Comprehensive Plan that includes policies F-101 through F-254, the applicable portions of which address water policies for facilities and services, calling for consistency with other adopted plans, pursuit of reclaimed water, water conservation, and protection of water resources.

**UTRC ANALYSIS OF CEDAR RIVER WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT’S 2016 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

The Cedar River Water and Sewer District obtains and distributes water, as well as provides sewer service, in unincorporated areas of King County making UTRC and Council review appropriate under KCC 13.24, KCC 28.84.050, and chapter 57.16 RCW.

The UTRC finalized its review of the Plan in November 2016. The UTRC found the Plan meets the requirements of KCC chapter 13.24 and has recommended its approval. Highlights of the Plan, as reviewed by the UTRC, are outlined below.

**Water System**

**Service Area:** The District’s existing water service area encompasses approximately 36 square miles of urban and rural areas east of the City of Renton and north of the City of Covington. No changes to the service area are included in the Plan. As of 2014, the water system serves a population of nearly 30,500 people and 4,400 employees through 7,800 service connections.

**Facilities and Supply:** The District owns and operates a multi-source water system that includes supply, treatment, storage, and distribution of potable water to residential, commercial, governmental/educational, and irrigation customers. The District relies on the Seattle Public Utilities Cedar River regional water supply for approximately 70 percent of its supply, and the remainder from a groundwater well and a treatment facility that it operates and maintains.

The District’s water transmission and distribution system consists of a network of pipes ranging in size from three- to twenty-inches in diameter, arranged into the three primary areas of the District (West, Central and East) and includes 21 separate pressure zones. The system relies on gravity and 11 pump stations to transport the water. There are currently seven storage reservoirs owned or partially owned by the District which hold approximately 8.10 million gallons of water.

Average water use in the system has declined from 220 gallons per day per equivalent residential unit (ERU) in 2006 to approximately 177 gallons per day per ERU in 2013.[[1]](#footnote-1)

**Growth:** The District’s water system has experienced little growth in recent years, expanding from approximately 7,400 water connections at the beginning of 2006 to approximately 7,800 connections in 2014. By the year 2034, the District expects to serve more than 31,500 residents and an employment population of nearly 5,000.

Recent and planned growth is somewhat offset by the reduction in water use per household described in the previous subsection. The annual demand within the District is expected to increase from nearly 650 million gallons (2013) to approximately 800 million gallons per year in 2034, representing an increase of almost 25 percent.

The District’s water plan demonstrates that the district has ample water supply to provide service consistent with the requirements of all applicable statutes, codes, rules, and regulations.

The Plan does not discuss climate change impacts on water supply.

**System Improvements:** The District’s capital improvement plan (CIP) recommends improvements totaling approximately $9,167,000 between 2016 and 2025 and $42,165,000 between 2026 and 2035. Historically, the District has relied on a combination of developer financing and utility local improvement districts for construction of extensions to the water system. The UTRC considers the CIP adequate and appropriately focused to meet anticipated facility and service needs.

**Sewer System**

**Service Area:** The sewer service area is approximately four square miles located in the Fairwood and Shady Lake areas of unincorporated King County, also including the Rainier Christian School. Sewer service is limited to the urban area with the exception of the school, which received sewer service prior to the establishment of the urban growth boundary. As of December 31, 2014, the sewer system served more than 14,500 people and 1,200 employees through 4,210 sanitary sewer connections.

**Facilities:** The District’s sewer system includes approximately 40 miles of pipe varying in size from 6-inch to 21-inch. Sewage flows are discharged into the King County Cedar River Interceptor.

**Growth:** The sewer analysis in the Plan is very similar to the previously approved plan done in 2008 because the sewer system has not seen significant changes due to the fact that the service area and projected development is largely unchanged. Since the last plan, the number of connections has increased by just over one percent.

By the year 2034, the District expects to serve nearly 17,200 residents and an employment population of more than 1,300. The UTRC confirms that the District is prepared to serve any new developments in the Urban Growth Area.

**System Improvements:** Improvements to the sanitary sewer system proposed in this Plan are limited to renewal and replacement projects that will extend the life of the system. The District’s capital improvement plan (CIP) recommends improvements totaling approximately $1,682,000 between 2016 and 2025. The UTRC considers the CIP adequate and appropriately focused to meet anticipated facility and service needs.

**SEPA**

The District completed a State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) checklist for both the water and sewer components of the Plan and issued a determination of non-significance for the Plan on June 6, 2016. There were no appeals.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Proposed Ordinance 2017-0101 (attachments available in the Clerk’s office)
2. Transmittal Letter
3. Fiscal Note

1. The Plan defines “equivalent residential unit” as “the amount of water consumed by a typical full-time single family residence.” This metric is “used for converting users other than single family residences into an equivalent number for the purposes of demand forecasting, system analysis, and facility sizing” (p. ix). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)