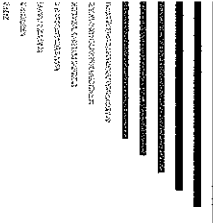


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**Whatcom County Water District 13**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Chairman, Robert Vandenhaak**  
**Secretary, Richard Whitson**  
**Tom Watkins, Johnnie Frieson, Phil Cloward**  
**542 Sprague Valley Dr**  
**Maple Falls WA 98266 (360) 599 1801**

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JAN 28 2009

Whatcom County P&DS

Whatcom County Planning Commission  
Jean Melious, Chair of the Commission  
Honorable Commissioners  
Becky Boxx, Administrator

January 27th, 2009

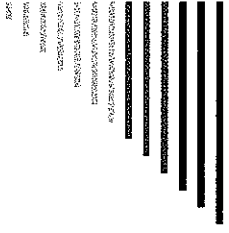
Greetings,

Whatcom County Water District 13 submits this correspondence to be used in the planning process of the subarea plan revision regarding the UGA options. The District shall remain neutral regarding suggestion of which specific option should be adopted.

The District would experience significant financial obligation in order to be in compliance with providing water- and sewer-related services for the UGA. We estimate the plant facilities upgrade to exceed over \$1,000,000 to bring the plant up-to-date referencing our current customer base. Possibly, this infrastructure upgrade would suffice in serving the area with growth patterns as they have been over the past 20 years. However, in an unapproved draft of a proposed Comprehensive Plan for the District, presently being studied, it is estimated that the District would need over \$5,000,000 for the plant expansion and up to \$14,000,000 to address infrastructure needs under proposed scenarios for the UGA. The District's current financial position is far less than 25% of the minimal expansion or upgrade estimates!

In the newly drafted Comprehensive Plan we are studying, the engineering report calls for an expansion to the drain field that would require acquisition of many acres. At present, there is no legal agreement assuring the District of the possibility of obtaining the acreage and there is no telling how much such an acquisition could add to cost estimates. Therefore the District concludes that these conditions need to be thoroughly addressed before proceeding, as we need reasonable assurances that the land is available and the District could afford the purchase without undue financial burden on our current customers.





**Whatcom County Water District 13  
Board of Commissioners**

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Water connections are available to serve the UGA. Sewer connections, however, are another matter. It is the understanding of the Board that a project application for approximately 289 homes adjacent to Peaceful Division 2 was submitted for permit. From previous engineering and estimates of connection availability, this figure is very close to current availability of connections.

**There are no funds available at present for upgrading or expansion to the District facilities.** The financial burden of serving the UGA will be funded by: the present 379 connections of the District, being awarded Grants or low interest loans, and the connection fees and revenue from future customers of the District.

There is great concern for the customers of the District regarding the financial impact to their sewer and water bills to fund the loans required to meet any and all of the proposals for the UGA. Demographically, the per capita income of residents in the Kendall area is said to be well below that of most other areas of the county. We are concerned that additional costs incurred for expansion of the current District #13 facilities could have a devastating impact on our customers.

With many cuts and budget adjustments throughout Washington State, we feel that opportunities for loan money or grants, to be highly unlikely at this time.

In closing, the Board of Commissioners have decided that the circumstances and conditions presented with this correspondence should be addressed and considered as a part of the planning processes regarding the UGA and sub-area plan recommendation.

Very truly yours,

Robert Vandenhaak, President of the Board of Whatcom County Water District 13

Cc: Whatcom County Council  
Whatcom County Planning, Matt Ammot