

Project Information Sheet

Applicant: City of Lacey

Strategic Initiative: Septic to Sewer Conversions in the Lacey City Limits and Lacey UGA

Priority Near-Term Action: Contract with an engineering firm to develop a plan for the conversion of individual private septic systems to sewer. This plan will outline the order in which annual conversion projects will proceed and recommend a mechanism to finance the program.

Ecosystem Threat Summary – There are over 10,000 parcels within the Lacey City Limits and the Lacey Urban Growth Area served by private individual septic systems. In aggregate, these septic systems discharge about 1.5 million gallons per day of sewage into the ground. Studies have shown that the majority of these systems in the Lacey City Limits and the Lacey Urban Growth Area pose a high risk to groundwater and surface water due to poor soils and or housing densities too high for the safe use of septic systems. As a result, excessive nutrients are entering south Puget Sound via surface and groundwater contributing to the deterioration of marine water quality.

Project Description – The Cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater, and Thurston County, have been discussing the need and means for converting septic systems in the cities and UGMA portion of the county to sewer. In order to make further progress in this multi-year effort, an overarching plan is needed. This plan will lay out a broad strategy projecting the order in which neighborhoods will be converted to sewer. The goal is to move from areas of existing sewer infrastructure out into areas currently on septic systems. Priority will be given to areas within the Lacey city limits and to neighborhoods posing the highest risk as defined in an analysis performed by Thurston County. It is anticipated that the work would be performed by an engineering consulting firm and would begin in 2016.

Major Tasks – 1) Develop a strategy to convert neighborhoods in private individual septic systems to sewer. The strategy will prioritize addressing the those neighborhoods with the highest potential for environmental contamination, consistent with advancing from the currently sewered city core into the urban growth area of Thurston County. 2) Develop a mechanism for financing this septic to sewer conversion program.

Budget – At this stage in the development of the proposal the size of the required budget is uncertain. It is roughly estimated that the budget would be around \$50,000.

Project Schedule – This work would commence in 2016 and be completed by June 30, 2017.

Project Partnerships and Roles – Lacey’s multiyear effort of converting private septic systems to sewer is part of a coordinated effort on the part of Thurston County, Tumwater, Olympia, and Lacey. Each city will be conducting their own conversion program. However, the programs will have as much commonality as practicable.