

## **-SECTION VII - UTILITIES ELEMENT**

### **Introduction**

The City of Stanwood is required, under GMA, to develop a Utilities Element in their Comprehensive Plan. This Element provides policies guiding how city utilities should be provided within the City and the Urban Growth Area. This element also addresses “the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication lines, and natural gas lines.” The following facilities will be addressed in this Utilities Element:

- A. Electrical System
- B. Natural Gas
- C. Telecommunications
- D. Cable Television
- E. Solid Waste Disposal
- F. Recycling Programs
- G. Water System
- H. Sewer System

Additional policies related to water service can be found in Chapter 5 – Policies and Design Criteria City of Stanwood Comprehensive Water System Plan (Appendix G). Also, additional policies related to sewer service can be found in Chapter 5 – Policies and Design Criteria City of Stanwood Comprehensive Sewer System Plan (Appendix H). Both of these Chapter 5 are hereby incorporated by reference.

### **Utilities Goals and Policies**

#### *Provision of Services to Support Existing and Future Urban Development*

#### **Goal**

*UTG-1* - To ensure that cost-effective high quality water and sewer service is available or can be provided to serve projected population and employment growth with the City as a first priority.

#### **Policies**

*UTP-1.1* - All proposed developments within City limits and Urban Growth Area shall connect directly to the City’s water and sewer system unless deemed unfeasible by the City at the time of request.

*UTP-1.2* - The City will strive to provide portable water service and sewer service to all people within the City limits and Urban Growth Area provided all policies related to service can be met.

*UTP-1.3* - Provide utilities outside the UGA only to continue service to existing

customers on properties served throughout contractual agreements and to protect public health, safety, welfare and the environment.

*UTP-1.4* - Sewer service can be extended outside of the City limits but within the Urban Growth Area (UGA) only if the project is in compliance with the City's utility regulations, standards and policies. Annexation is required before service can be provided outside City limits.

*UTP-1.5* - Sewer extensions shall be given based on system capacity using the following priorities:

- 1) Extension shall first be given to applicants within the City limits
- 2) Second priority shall be given to those applicants within the UGA
- 3) Extensions may be given higher priority where existing environmental problems make extension necessary

*UTP-1.6* - Sewer service cannot be extended outside of the City's UGA, except for exceptions identified in City code.

*UTP-1.7* - All sewers shall be designed as a gravity sewer whenever feasible.

*UTP-1.8* - Layout of extensions shall provide for the future continuation of the existing system as determined by the City.

*UTP-1.19* - The City will promote the efficient and responsible use of water and will conserve water during a water shortage.

*UTP-1.10* - Consolidate new utility systems to all existing right-of-ways and utility easements whenever possible.

*UTP-1.11* - The City will pursue steps to meet or exceed all water quality laws and standards.

*UTP- 1.12* - The City will take all responsible measures to protect its system and customers.

*UTP- 1.13* - The City has a responsibility to protect the public water system from contamination due to cross-connections. Cross-connections that can be eliminated will be eliminated.

*UTP- 1.14* - The City will plan for minimum fire flows. The City will plan for saturation use of its supply sources so that future water resource limitations can be handled effectively.

*UTP- 1.15* - The City will ensure that the capacity of the system including wells, pump stations and transmission mains, is sufficient to meet the peak day demand of the system.

*UTP- 1.16* – The City will participate in regional supply management and planning activities.

**Goal**

*UTG-2* - Provide adequate storage for the water utility system and backup facilities for the sewer system.

**Policies**

*UTP-2.1* - The City will provide sufficient standby storage for an emergency condition in which a major supply source is out of service.

*UTP-2.2* - The volume of storage will be sufficient to maintain uninterrupted service to the system during the emergency condition.

*UTP-2.3* - The City will provide sufficient fire suppression storage for a fire condition equal to the system’s maximum fire protection water demand and the required duration.

*UTP-2.4* - The City shall ensure that the sewer system is constructed, operated and maintained to protect against failures of power supply, treatment process, equipment or structure with appropriate backup facilities.

**Goal**

*UTG-3* - Phase system connection for existing septic systems.

**Policies**

*UTG 3.1* - Existing single-family homes with septic systems in good working condition per the Snohomish County Health Department may continue to be used.

*UTG 3.2* - Property owners with a failing septic system, as documented by the Snohomish County Health Department, shall connect to the sewer system.

*Coordination, Efficiency and Safety*

**Goal**

*UTG-4* - To ensure that private utilities including drainage, garbage disposal, electricity, natural gas, telecommunications, cable television and satellite transmission are available or can be provided to serve existing and projected growth within the City in a manner which is efficient and safe.

**Policies**

*UTP 4.1* – If utility companies identify a need for major improvements to utility facilities, the

City shall coordinate with those companies at the earliest possible stage of the planning for the needed facility. Coordination shall include consideration of alternatives to new facilities and alternative locations for the facilities.

UTP 4.2 - Promote co-location of major utility transmission facilities such as high voltage electrical transmission lines and water and natural gas trunk lines within shared utility corridors, to minimize the amount of land allocated for this purpose and avoid the division of neighborhoods.

UTP 4.3 - Coordinate and promote co-location of utility lines by sharing trenches and, when appropriate sizing ductwork/conduit for future growth, during installation of, or improvements to, utilities.

UTP 4.4 - Coordinate utility related construction between utility companies to minimize construction related disruption to the public and to reduce the costs of public utility delivery.

UTP 4.5 - Promote conservation measures to reduce the need for additional utility distribution facilities in the future.

UTP 4.6 - Where safe, feasible, and does not pose a health danger, promote recreational use of utility corridors; for example, trails, bike paths, green belts, and similar facilities.

UTP 4.7 - Encourage multi-family, commercial, and industrial developers to provide for satellite signal receiving facilities as part of an initial building and site design and to explore joint use of such facilities among neighboring properties

UTP 4.8 - Update the Utilities Element at least every five years to reflect changing regulatory conditions, electric load forecasts, and technology in cooperation with providing agencies.

### *Vegetation, Aesthetics, and the Environment*

#### **Goal**

UTG-5 - Encourage improvements to utility facilities that are environmentally responsible, aesthetically acceptable to the community and safe for nearby inhabitants.

**Policies**

UTP 5.1 – Ensure that utility companies limit disturbance to vegetation within major utility transmission corridors that are necessary for safety and maintenance of transmission facilities.

UTP 5.2 – Require the undergrounding of new utility distribution lines with the exception of high voltage electrical transmission lines. High voltage lines are exempt due to the high cost and potential adverse environmental impacts of undergrounding such lines.

UTP 5.3 – Require the undergrounding of new utility distribution lines where physically feasible as streets are widened and/or areas are redeveloped. Assign a high priority to undergrounding of lines within view corridors.

UTP 5.4 – Require landscaping of utility facilities to minimize adverse aesthetic impacts on the surrounding

**Inventory and Analysis**

**Electrical System**

*Existing System*

Electricity is delivered to the City of Stanwood by the Snohomish County Public Utility District (PUD). The Snohomish County PUD is the largest single public utility customer of the Bonneville Power Administration. The area is serviced by 115,000-volt transmission lines. These high voltage transmission lines deliver power to Stanwood's only substation which is located at the east end of downtown by the Burlington Northern Railroad tracks and Cedar Street. This substation houses two step-down transformers with a combination of 12.7 kV distribution circuits 996, 997, 998 and 3204 serving the majority of the City.

**Table UT-1  
Electrical Consumption within Stanwood City Limits  
January - December 2013**

<b>Type</b>	<b>Connections</b>	<b>Kilowatt Hrs. Per Month/ Per Consumer</b>	<b>Average Monthly Bill</b>
Residential	2,557	746	\$ 65
Commercial	521	5,050	\$ 401
Industrial	4	63,963	\$ 4,672

*Future Needs*

The Snohomish County PUD has stated that they do not anticipate having any problems meeting the future electrical needs of the Stanwood area over the next 20 years.

**Natural Gas**

*Existing System*

Natural gas is supplied to the Stanwood area by Cascade Natural Gas which purchases gas from the Northwest Pipeline. There are two main gas lines operated by the Northwest Pipeline. These lines are 26 and 30 inches in diameter and operate under 600 and 1,000 lbs./sq. inch (PSI), respectively. Cascade Natural Gas runs a six-inch line from Route 9 under 200-250 PSI to the Camano Island Bridge. From there, the pressure is reduced to 40-45 PSI and the Stanwood service line is reduced to four inches. Over the past several years, Cascade Natural Gas has significantly extended mains and lines into the Stanwood area. In January of 1994, Cascade Natural Gas supplied 371 customers in the Stanwood area. As of June 2014, 2662 customers in the Stanwood area (includes Camano Island) are supplied by Cascade Natural Gas.

*Future Needs*

Cascade Natural Gas states that they do not foresee any problem with supplying natural gas to the Stanwood area, even if the population were to double or triple over the next 20 years they would only require minor reinforcements to their infrastructure.

**Telecommunications**

*Telephone*

*Existing System*

Frontier Communications is the local provider of telephone service to the Stanwood area. Each telephone customer can choose between multiple long distance service providers. Frontier Communications also provides DSL and broadband internet service to the Stanwood area.

*Future Needs*

Frontier Communications states that it has no difficulty keeping up with the demand for telephone service in the Stanwood area.

**Cellular Phones**

*Existing System*

Cellular phone service is currently available in the City of Stanwood from numerous providers. The exact number of customers is confidential information.

### *Future Needs*

Providing future cellular service to Stanwood does not present a problem because Stanwood is relatively small in area and only a few cell sites are needed to service the area. There is also a large selection of undeveloped parcels within the city limits and in the adjacent lands from which future cell sites could be chosen.

The City strictly regulates cellular towers and encourages the co-location of cellular facilities.

## **Cable Television**

### *Existing System*

Cable and digital cable television are provided by Wave Broadband. No distinction is made between residential, commercial, or industrial subscribers.

There are isolated pockets of Stanwood that do not have cable service. These include Viking Village and 267th St. NW (south of SR-532).

### *Future Needs and Issues*

There does not appear to be any difficulties in providing cable television in the future. Cable internet service is available in the Stanwood area.

## **Solid and Hazardous Waste Disposal and Recycling Programs**

### *Existing System*

Private: Currently, Stanwood utilizes the private services of Waste Management of Skagit County for solid waste disposal and curbside recycling. As of January 2014, they have 1,719 solid waste accounts inside the City limits of Stanwood. Of these accounts, 1,524 are residential, 194 are commercial (front-load containers), and one is multi-family. There are 1,529 residential units recycling as well. In 2013, Waste Management conducted outreach to 40 commercial businesses; in 2013 they conducted outreach to 46 commercial businesses. At each of the businesses they provide the attached “going green easy form”, offered free recycling, compost and garbage fliers and posters, and answered questions, and also offered free: site visits, waste audits, and professional recycling workshops for employees and staff. In addition the recycling materials from the City are transferred from Waste Management’s hauling site in Burlington to their recycling center located in Woodinville, WA.

Public: Snohomish County is also an active participant in waste and recycling services in Stanwood. The County contracts to have automobile oil, antifreeze and batteries hauled away from the collection sites at Twin City Auto and O’Reilly’s Auto Parts. Every year, the County sponsors a City of Stanwood hazardous waste collection event. During that time (typically two days), local residents can drop off hazardous waste, at a designated site, at no cost and the County handles the disposal.

### *Cost of Waste Disposal*

The costs of solid, fluid and hazardous waste disposal continues to climb dramatically. In 1974, there was no cost to take garbage to the dump. In 1984, it cost \$35 to leave one ton of garbage (prorated). In 1994, it cost \$89 per ton, and it did in 2003 as well. In 2003, the cost for a passenger car to dump waste was \$15.10. The cost for trucks, SUV's and station wagons to dump waste was \$16.75 for up to 360 lbs. After 360 lbs, additional weight was charged at a pro-rated rate of \$89 per ton. In 2014, to dump waste was \$20.00 for up to 360 lbs. After 360 lbs, additional weight is charged at a pro-rated rate of \$105 per ton plus tax. Yard and clean wood debris is \$11.00 up to 500 lbs and \$45.00 per ton after 500 lbs.

#### *Destination of Waste and Recyclable Materials*

All solid waste is taken to the Arlington Transfer Station. From there, it is removed to various disposal sites. Household recyclable materials are taken to the Arlington Transfer Station as well.

#### *Future Needs*

With regional landfill operations closing all the time, the cost for waste disposal will continue to climb. The solutions in dealing with waste must be creative and efforts to increase recycling should be intensified. Consumers can continually seek new sites to deposit garbage but recycling a higher percentage of refuse may become a more viable solution.

#### **Water System**

The City of Stanwood Comprehensive Water System Plan is adopted by reference. Please refer to this document for information on the City's water system.

#### **Sewer System**

The City of Stanwood Comprehensive Sewer System Plan is adopted by reference. Please refer to this document for information on the City's sewer system.