



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

4601 N Monroe Street • Spokane, Washington 99205-1295 • (509)329-3400

May 11, 2017

The Honorable John Jaeger
City of Tekoa
PO Box 927
Tekoa, WA 99033

RE: Tekoa STP – NPDES No. WA0023141 - Support for Tekoa Infiltration and Inflow Improvements, CDBG General Purpose Grant Application

Dear Mayor Jaeger:

Ecology understands that the City of Tekoa (City) plans to apply to the Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program for a general purpose grant. Specifically, the City is seeking funds for sewer improvements to help reduce the infiltration and inflow (I&I) into the sewer collection system.

Tekoa's wastewater treatment facility discharges to Hangman Creek 54.3 miles upstream of the confluence with the Spokane River. The facility is currently permitted to discharge to Hangman Creek through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program under discharge permit number WA0023141.

Hangman Creek is on Washington State's list of impaired water bodies (303(d) list) for fecal coliform, pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, and turbidity. The City will be required to meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) established temperature limits by 2024. Ecology is working on a receiving water study localized to the Tekoa area that will help in establishing other water quality based effluent limits, particularly for nutrients. It is anticipated that the City will have to complete major upgrades to their treatment facility in order to meet the new and future effluent limits. Completion of sewer collection system improvements as soon as possible, particularly those due to I&I, will allow the City to collect and analyze flow data more representative of their wastewater needs. This data will be critical in the planning efforts for the much needed treatment facility improvements.



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The City has made strides over the last decade in identifying and correcting areas impacted by I&I. These efforts have both short term and long term benefits to the City and water quality. Improvements in the short term include; better treatment efficiency and reduced operational costs at the wastewater treatment facility by preventing the ground and storm water from entering the collection system. In the long term, reducing I&I will make it easier for the City to plan and design treatment facility upgrades that are sized for actual wastewater needs without the additional dilution from I&I. With the costs of facility improvements largely based on the overall treatment capacity needs, reducing the overall flow to the facility now can save hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of dollars to the City in construction costs, as well as operations and maintenance.

Ecology appreciates the City's continued efforts to reduce I&I through sewer collection system improvements. We are encouraged by your commitments to improving water quality in the Hangman watershed. Ecology supports the City's currently proposed project as well as seeking funds from CDBG.

Sincerely,



Kim Priscock, P.E.
Permit Manager/ Facility Engineer
Water Quality Program

KAP:jab

cc: Matt Morkert, P.E., Century West Engineering
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