



October 4, 2017

To: Allison Greene, Outdoor Grants Manager

From: Sam Adams, Utilities Manager 

Subject: Camp Currie Pump Station Alternative Analysis

The City of Camas has designed a new sewer line and pump station system to service properties north of Lacamas Lake. The design included a new pump station at Camp Currie and the City worked closely with Clark County to site the facility in their park. This letter is intended to give RCO background information on why Camp Currie was selected for a pump station and the analysis behind the selection of this location.

The City of Camas selected the pump station site at Camp Currie based on engineering requirements and availability of the property. For engineering purposes, the Camp Currie site is located in the low point of the gravity sewer system in an area known as North Shore which was annexed by the Camas several years ago. Locating the sewer pump station at the lowest point optimizes the overall system, provides efficient operations and reduces costs. This site is located next to public right-of-way with easy access.

The City of Camas also explored a site directly across NE 232nd Avenue and directly east from the Camp Currie pump station location. The site was situated on private property. The City gained access to the site from the property owner to conduct preliminary wetland/habitat investigations, survey and very preliminary archaeological investigations. The site was suitable for a pump station however the property owners were not willing to sell a portion of property to the City. The City could have condemned the property but that's a last resort scenario and one that we seldom use. It is also very time consuming and the City had a deadline to design and construct the system by early spring of 2018.

The City looked at a small piece of property owned by the City and located directly next to Lacamas Lake and borders Camp Currie at the Camp's southeast boundary. A desk top review of the site revealed many obstacles for locating a pump station at this location. The most important is the property is owned by our Parks Department and it's slated to be developed as a paddle boat launch site. The site would have been extremely difficult to permit if at all due to proximity to Lacamas Lake. It was estimated to take at least two years to obtain environmental permits and as previously mentioned there was a deadline to complete the project. There were a host of engineering challenges such as groundwater intrusion from the lake, poor soils, and overall constructability of a pump station at this location.

The Camp Currie location was best suited for the project. The City of Camas partnered with Clark County Parks staff to secure a license agreement with them to design and construct the pump station at Camp Currie. Camas included in the pump station design the extension of water and sewer into the camp for future connection and will be constructing over a mile long, 9-foot-wide gravel public trail through the camp.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Cc: Steve Wall, Public Works Director