

## RESOLUTION 1327

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, ADOPTING AN AMENDED 2018 WASTEWATER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN BY REVISING THE LANGUAGE AND CLARIFYING THE PROCESS TO PERFORM TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE WASTEWATER COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

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**WHEREAS**, the city of Gig Harbor established its sanitary sewerage system in 1974 and subsequently developed its first Wastewater Comprehensive Plan (WWCP) more than 30 years ago to act as the “general sewer plan” as required by the Washington State Department of Ecology per WAC 173-240 and as further required by RCW 35.67; and

**WHEREAS**, the WWCP is also supported by GHMC 13.28 and the Public Works Standards to best operate, maintain, and manage the city’s wastewater system; and

**WHEREAS**, the WWCP is not an element of the City Comprehensive Plan but is instead adopted by reference in Chapter 9 of the City of Gig Harbor Comprehensive Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the city routinely receives requests to adjust wastewater basin boundaries that are established in Appendix B of the WWCP and these requests often stem from the feasibility to flow sewer by gravity into a different basin than identified in the WWCP once detailed topographic data for a property is created or a developer’s general desire to shift basin boundary lines because this detailed topographic data may show that gravity sewer is not feasible as established in the WWCP or that gravity sewer is also feasible when discharging sewer to a sewer basin not previously prescribed in the WWCP; and

**WHEREAS**, other requests to amend basin boundaries are due to a property owner’s desire to reduce their own construction costs for developing the wastewater conveyance infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the city similarly receives requests to adjust sewer flow values for specific properties due to proposed changes in land use and/or zoning; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2008 the city was facing wastewater treatment capacity issues at the wastewater treatment plant, so to allow for the consideration of amendments despite this treatment capacity issue and any such future issues, staff from both the Public Works Department and the (then) Planning Department worked together to add Section 1.4.2 to the 2009 WWCP, which provided for the processing of technical amendments to the WWCP that did not adversely impact the wastewater treatment plant capacity, to be reviewed at a technical level by public works staff to determine if there were any

impacts to the wastewater system instead of following the high-level, policy-based city comprehensive plan process as outlined by the growth management act; and

**WHEREAS**, the language in Section 1.4.2 was intended to direct the Public Works Department to assess and determine those amendments, as determined by the Public Works Department, that did not adversely affect the treatment system capacity would be processed by the Public Works Department then presented to city council for consideration; and

**WHEREAS**, all amendments to the WWCP followed this process between 2009 and 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2023, due to some ambiguity in Section 1.4.2, the city began processing all proposed amendments to the WWCP in accordance with GHMC 19.09; and

**WHEREAS**, to most efficiently and effectively review and manage WWCP amendments that are not required by state law to go through a city comprehensive plan amendment process, staff is proposing an amendment to the Section 1.4.2 of the WWCP as outlined in Section 1 below.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor:

**Section 1.** Adopt the 2018 Wastewater Comprehensive Plan as amended in Section 1.4.2 to read as follows:

**1.4.2. Amendments to the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan**

Amendments to policies or growth projection contained within this plan or amendments which adversely affect wastewater treatment system capacity as outlined in Section 1.4.2.1 shall be processed through the City's Comprehensive Plan amendment procedures (Chapter 19.09 GHMC). All other amendments, to be known as technical amendments, must be made through application to the City of Gig Harbor Public Works Department. Decisions on technical amendments will be made by the city council and will, where accepted by the city council, be adopted by resolution and, if required, be forwarded on to the appropriate state jurisdiction for additional review or approval. The requisite fee for proposed amendments to the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan must accompany the proposed application. Additionally, all costs incurred by the city will be reimbursed by the applicant proposing the amendment. These costs may include, but are not limited to, consultant fees, legal fees, and review fees required by other jurisdictions. All proposed amendment applications must include a completed Sewer Hydraulics Report in city format.

1.4.2.1. A proposed amendment that meets any one of the following scenarios shall be determined to adversely affect the city's wastewater treatment system capacity:

- Adjusts the city's comprehensive plan designation to allow for an increase in housing density and/or employment density; or
- Increases sewer flows to the wastewater treatment plant by 100 ERUs or more above the average dry weather flow projected and modeled for the parcel(s) in Chapter 3 of the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan.

1.4.2.2 Any proposed amendment that affects the wastewater treatment system capacity but does not adversely affect the wastewater treatment system capacity per Section 1.4.2.1 shall be processed through the city's sewer concurrency process (GHMC 19.10).

ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Gig Harbor at a regular meeting thereof, held this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

  
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Mary K. Barber  
Mayor

Attest:

  
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Joshua Stecker, CMC  
City Clerk