

# Clean Water Division Background

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January 31, 2024



# Clean Water Division Overview



Our Division is small, but mighty – only 18 staff!

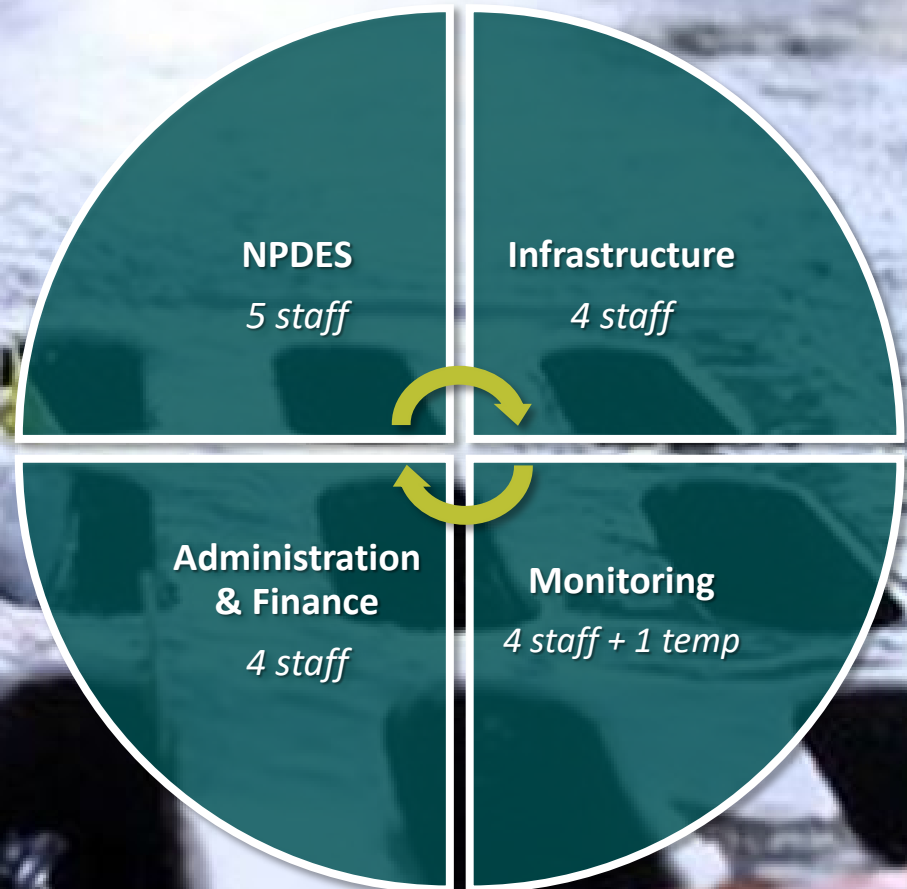


- Private Stormwater Facility Inspections
- Source Control
- Complaint & Spill Response
- Education & Outreach
- Public Involvement
- Pollution Prevention & Assistance
- Stormwater Management Planning

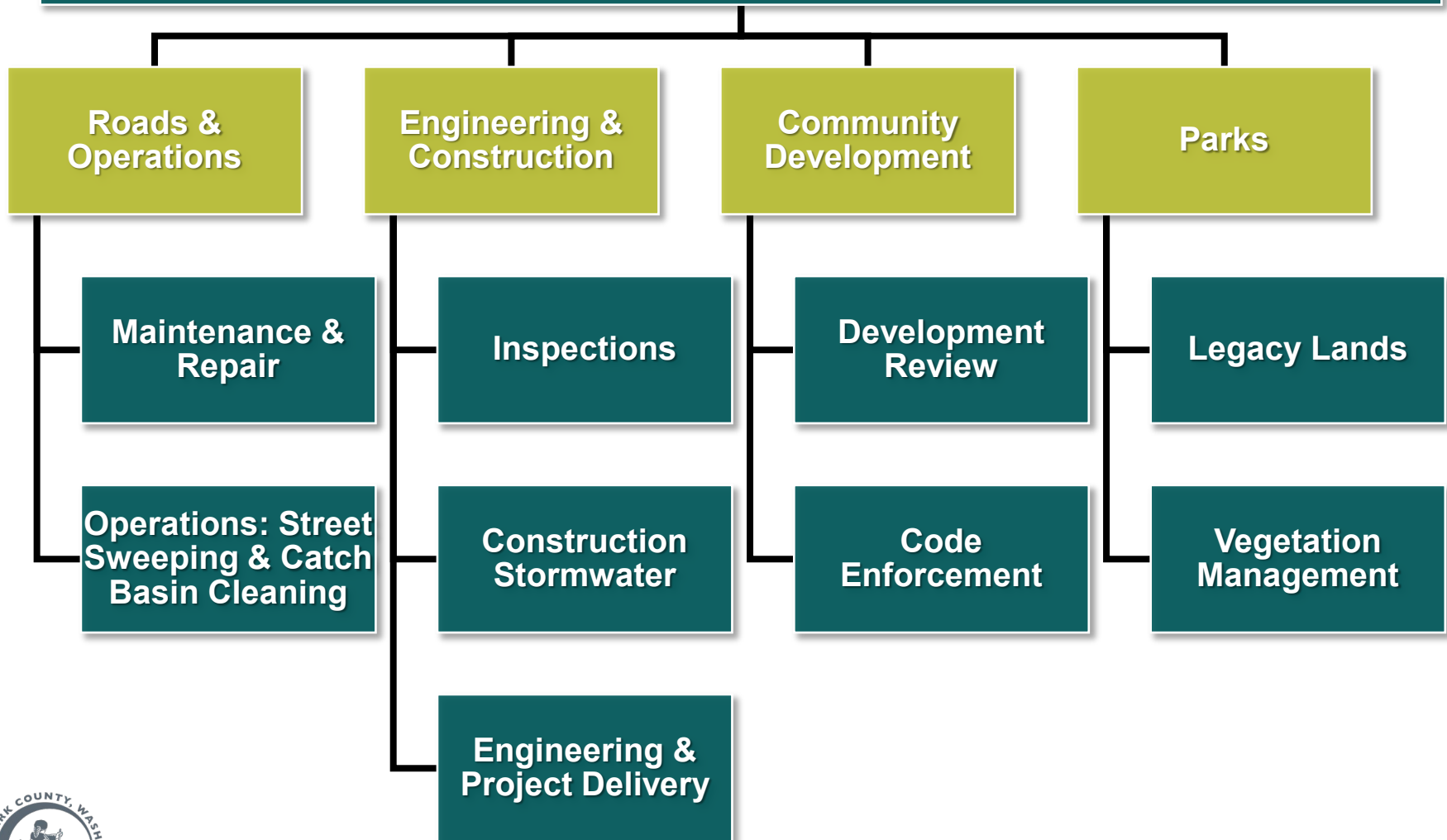
- Capital Planning
- Project Delivery
- Operations & Maintenance
- Mapping
- Inventory
- Reforestation

- Contract & Grant Management
- Invoicing
- Terms and Conditions
- Purchasing & Procurement
- Clean Water Fee
- Financial Forecasting
- Clean Water Commission
- Title VI

- Stream Health Report
- Lower Columbia Urban Streams
- Hydrology
- Pollution Identification & Correction



# Clean Water Division Service Agreements





**COMPLIANCE**

**STANDA**



**POLICI**



**REGULATIONS**

**RULES**



# Clean Water Priorities 2024

QUARTER 1

QUARTER 2

QUARTER 3

QUARTER 4

Stormwater  
Management  
Plan

Vancouver  
Lake  
Implementation

LCUS

Capital Plan  
Due

Annual Report

Capital Plan:  
Public  
Involvement

SMAP RFP

Budget

Camas  
Interlocal  
Agreement

Stormwater  
Manual RFP

NEW Phase I  
Permit  
Requirements

Vancouver  
Lake RFP

Drainage Asset  
Management +  
CBP3

Stormwater  
Rate Study



# What are some challenges for Clean Water Division?





An aerial photograph showing a river winding through a lush green forest. In the upper center, a residential development with several houses and a large building is visible. The river has a sandy bank on the right side. A dark green banner with white text is overlaid on the middle of the image.

**Need funding for new Permit requirements**



**\$219,000,000**  
**Public Infrastructure**  
**Replacement Value (2018)**

<b>Stormwater Asset</b>			<b>Count</b>	<b>Replacement Value</b>
<b>Catch basins</b>			11,815	\$14,000,000
<b>Outlet control structures</b>			642	\$4,000,000
<b>Storage &amp; Treatment</b>	Biofiltration swales	661	\$9,000,000	
	Ponds/wetlands	489	\$6,000,000	
	Bioretention areas	294	\$5,000,000	
	Underground storage	502	n/a	
<b>Manholes</b>			8,305	\$25,000,000
<b>Treatment cartridges</b>			350	\$12,000,000
<b>Gravity mains</b>			25,802	\$135,000,000
<b>Drywells</b>			1,601	\$8,000,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>50,461</b>	<b>\$219,000,000</b>



**Infrastructure is aging**

**Need for asset management**

A photograph of a red car overturned in a flooded street at night. The car is partially submerged in murky water. In the background, there is a stop sign and a street sign that reads "Washington St". Emergency lights from a fire truck or ambulance are visible, casting a red and blue glow on the scene. The ground is covered in snow and ice. The text "Priority = pipe asset management" is overlaid on the image in a white font on a dark green background.

**Priority = pipe asset management**

A photograph of three construction workers walking away from the camera on a dirt path at a construction site. The worker on the left wears a yellow and red hard hat and an orange safety vest. The worker in the middle wears a white hard hat and a yellow safety vest. The worker on the right wears a blue hard hat and a yellow safety vest, and is holding a white document. In the background, there is a yellow excavator, a black pickup truck, and a building with 'ERS' and 'CAT' logos. The sky is overcast.

# Managing & planning for growth

# Other Challenges

- Regulations becoming more stringent.
- Water quality is degrading.
- Salmon recovery needs increasing.
- Climate is changing.



An aerial photograph of a large, calm lake surrounded by a dense forest of evergreen trees. In the background, a residential area with houses is visible. The sky is bright blue with scattered white clouds. A dark green banner with white text is overlaid on the image.

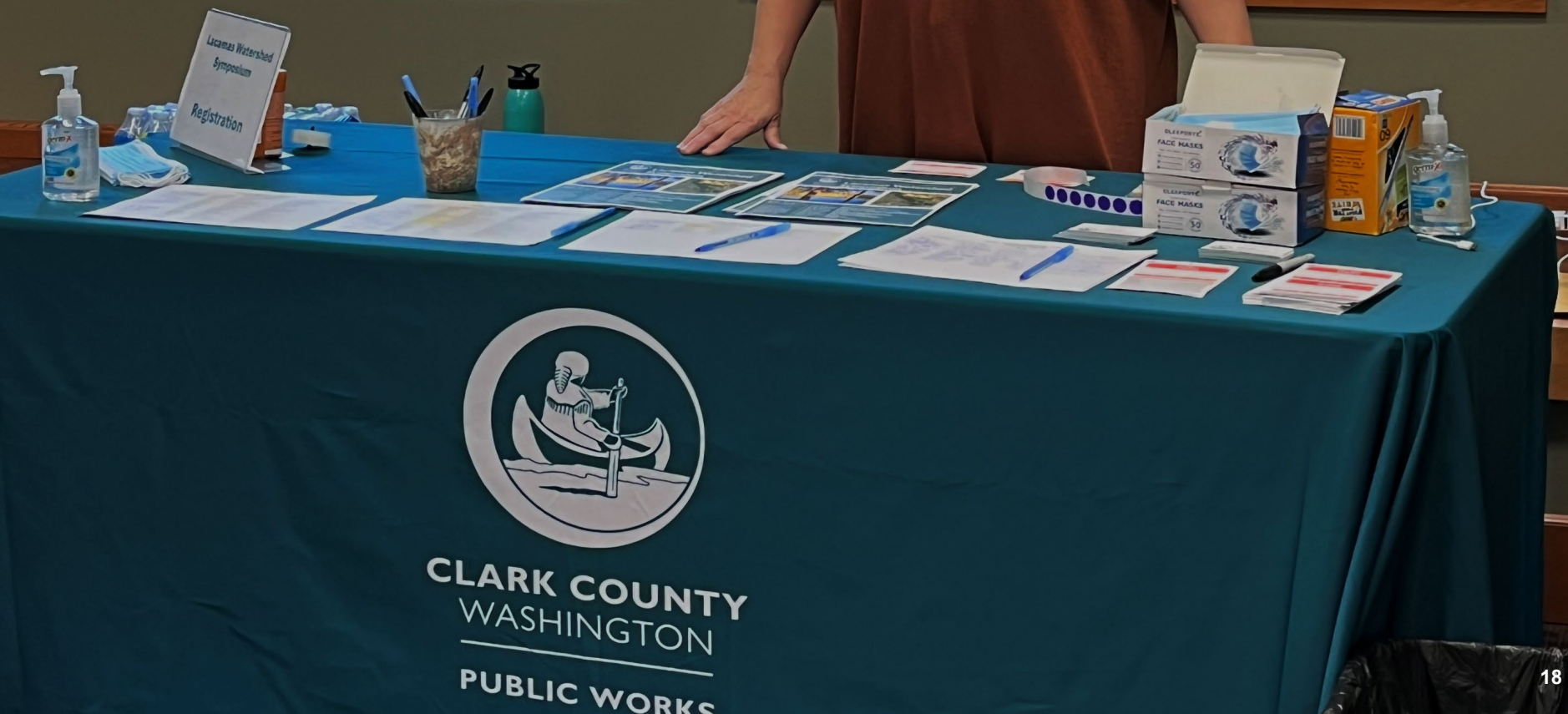
# No budget for Lake Management



A photograph showing a residential area with a stream in the foreground. A person wearing a blue jacket and a white hat stands on a grassy bank next to a small culvert pipe. In the background, there are several houses with grey roofs and green lawns, surrounded by tall evergreen trees. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. A dark green banner with white text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**Need funding for more people**

# Limited resources for outreach



# How does Clark County pay for clean water work?



# Clean Water Fund 4420



**Enterprise fund.**



**Goal is Cost Recovery.**



**For 2023**

**79,309 properties billed.  
0.3% increase since 2022.  
Approx. \$7.6M revenue  
collected.**

# Why now?

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Structural deficit, fund balance depletion projected as early as 2026.



Stormwater fee rates last increased in 2015; only one increase since 2000.



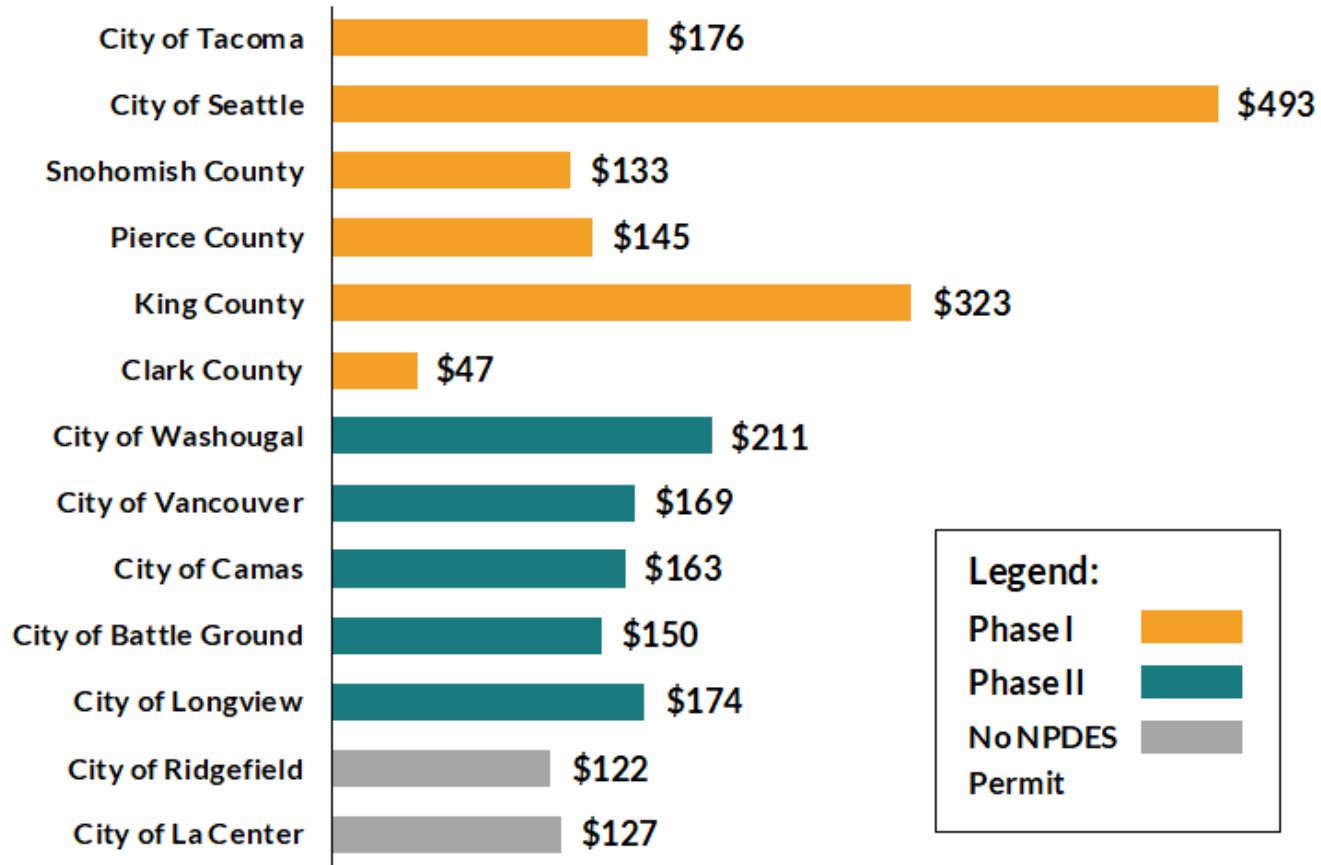
8% average annual increase in stormwater facilities.



Estimated 2,256 public facilities and 1,800 private facilities at year-end 2023.

# How do we compare?

## 2023 Annual Stormwater Fee Rates



# How do we compare?

**Lower than jurisdictions with no permit requirements.**

- Ridgefield Rate = \$122
- La Center Rate = \$127

**219%-350% lower than neighboring jurisdictions.**

- Vancouver
- Camas
- Battle Ground
- Washougal
- Longview

# DRAFT Timeline

A large salmon is captured mid-jump, leaping out of a stream over a rocky bank. The fish's body is arched, and its mouth is open. The water is clear and greenish, and the rocks are dark and wet.

**January 2024:** Council Work Session – Rate Study Kickoff.

**Feb. to March 2024:** Research, estimate costs, level of service options.

**April 2024:** Council Work Session – options for Clean Water level of service.

**July 2024:** Council Work Session – final stormwater rate recommendation.

**August 2024:** Final stormwater rate adoption.

**October 2024:** Code updates implemented; begin 2025 fee calculation.

**November 2024:** Public outreach & education to ratepayers.

**February 2025:** New fees to ratepayers.





# CHANGE IS COMING



# New Grants / Loans in 2024!

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- **Project #1 – Heritage Farm Wetland Restoration Phase II Implementation - \$3,448,170 – 20-year loan at 1.2% interest**
  - *This project will excavate a shallow floodplain bench and provide wetland restoration along a channelized section of Cougar Creek headwaters on Clark County's Heritage Farm property. This project implements a portion of the Heritage Farm master plan and addresses a priority of enhancing and restoring headwater wetlands within the Cougar Creek watershed. Primary benefits are wetland habitat creation, increased infiltration, and maintenance of cool summer baseflows to downstream Salmon Creek.*
- **Project #2 - Changing behaviors to reduce nutrients and pesticides in SW Washington - \$352,393 grant**
  - *This project reduces nutrients and pesticides in the Lower Columbia River from urban communities in SW Washington by raising awareness of impacts lawn practices have on water quality, and by changing fertilizer and pesticide use behaviors. Through implementation and amplification of the region-wide public outreach campaign - Follow the Water – and the behavior change campaign – What’s Your Lawn Style - SW Washington residents will engage with digital content and on-the-ground lawn care programs.*
- **Project #3 – Poop Smart Clark - \$74,039.40 for Clark County, \$500,000 total to Clark Conservation District**
  - *Poop Smart Clark is a nonpoint source PIC program. The Poop Smart Clark Septic Reimbursement Program provides outreach and financial assistance to OSS owners for inspections, maintenance, repair, and replacement. This funding will support a second phase of the PIC program by expanding the reimbursement program to the entire county and implementing MST testing in the Lacamas Creek Watershed to target future work.*
- **Project #4 – Clark County Community Forestry – TBD (DNR Grant for ~\$350,000)**



# Multiple RFPs in 2024! = New Work

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1. **Vancouver Lake Management** - January 24, 2024
2. **Microbial Source Tracking** – February 7, 2024
3. **Stormwater Code and Manual Update** – February 21, 2024
4. **Rate Study (TBD)** – March 20
5. **Facility maintenance services** – April 18, 2024
6. **Capital project engineering design services** – April 24, 2024



# Vancouver Lake – Legislative Proviso

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- **Total Cost:** \$330,000.00
- **Timeline:** By June 2025
  - **Jan. 24** – RFP live
  - **Feb. 14** – Applications Due
  - **Feb15&16** – Review/Evaluation
  - **Feb19-27** – Interviews
  - **Feb 28** – Selection deadline
  - **March-Apr.** – Contract execution
  - **May 1** – Work begins



# Consultant work ~ \$255,000

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- 1. Framework for Vancouver Lake Management Special District & Governance Structure.**
- 2. Beach Algaecide Treatment Implementation Plan**
- 3. Flushing Enhancement - Conceptual Designs and Alternatives Analysis**



# Clark County work ~\$75,000

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- **Public Involvement, Partnerships, Funding Strategy**

- Engage Vancouver Lake TAG
- Public Participation Plan
- Website Updates
- Partnerships & funding Strategy

- **Implementation**

- Noxious weed follow-up survey, mapping, treatment
- Stormwater inventory, assessment, retrofit plan
- Stormwater cartridge replacement
- MST monitoring – pollution identification and correction
- Goose management



# Lacamas Lake – Camas Interlocal Agreement

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- **Work Session with Council:** February 2024
- **Goals:**
  - Joint Vision & Charter Development
  - Create Technical Advisory Group
  - Joint public outreach and education.
  - Joint approach for dairies/golf courses.
  - Policy & Funding Initiatives – septic, sewer, stormwater, agricultural, riparian restoration, phosphate-based fertilizer, motorized boaters, event and recreation gees.
  - Partnership Funding – Lacamas Watershed Council, Clark Conservation District, Watershed Alliance.
  - MST monitoring – pollution identification and correction



# Lake Treatment in 2024

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- **Vancouver Lake**
  - Beach Algaecide
- **Lacamas Lake**
  - Alum Dosing





**Questions?**  
*Thank you for your time!*



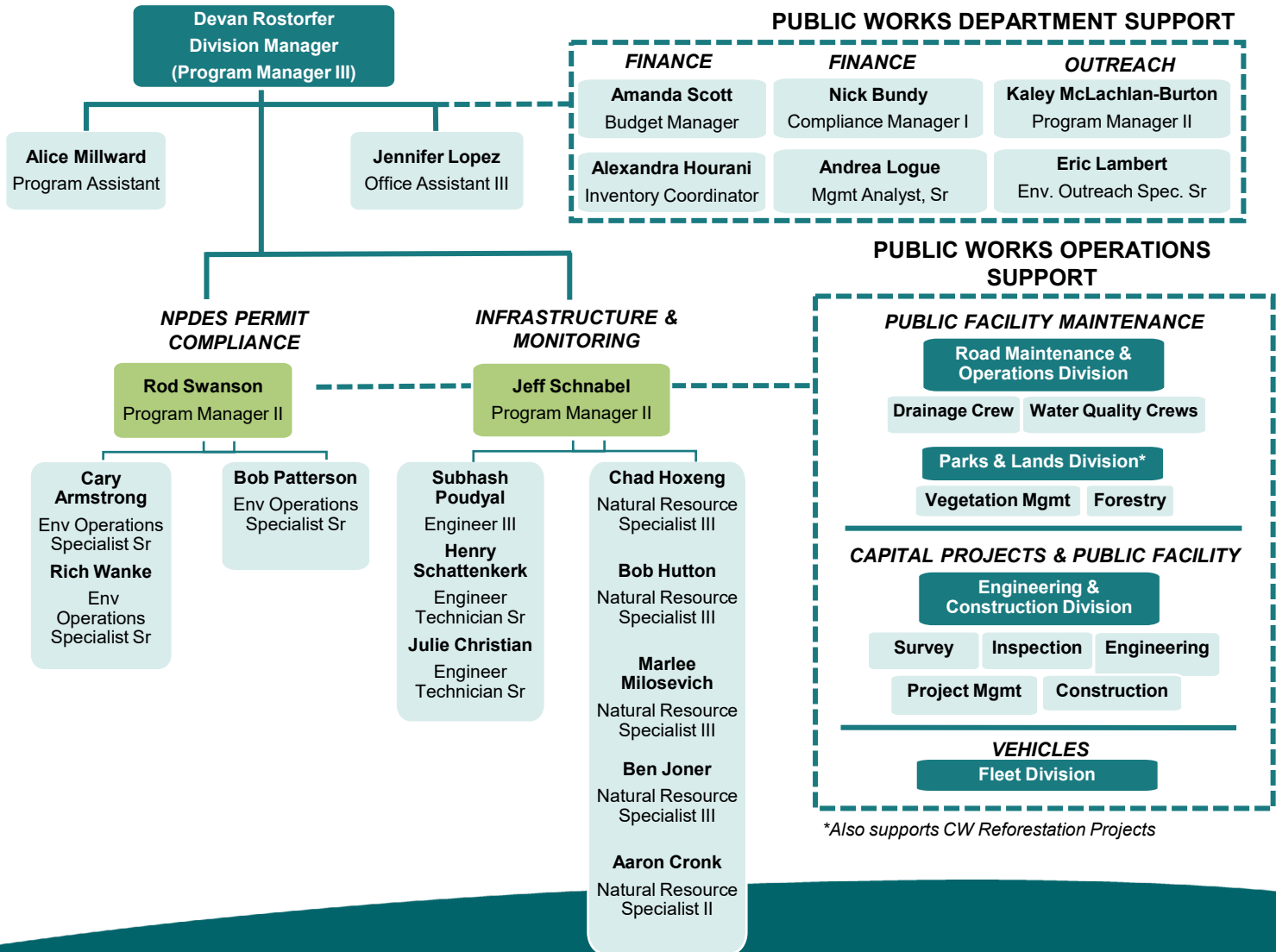
# Appendix Slides

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# CLARK COUNTY MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT COMPLIANCE

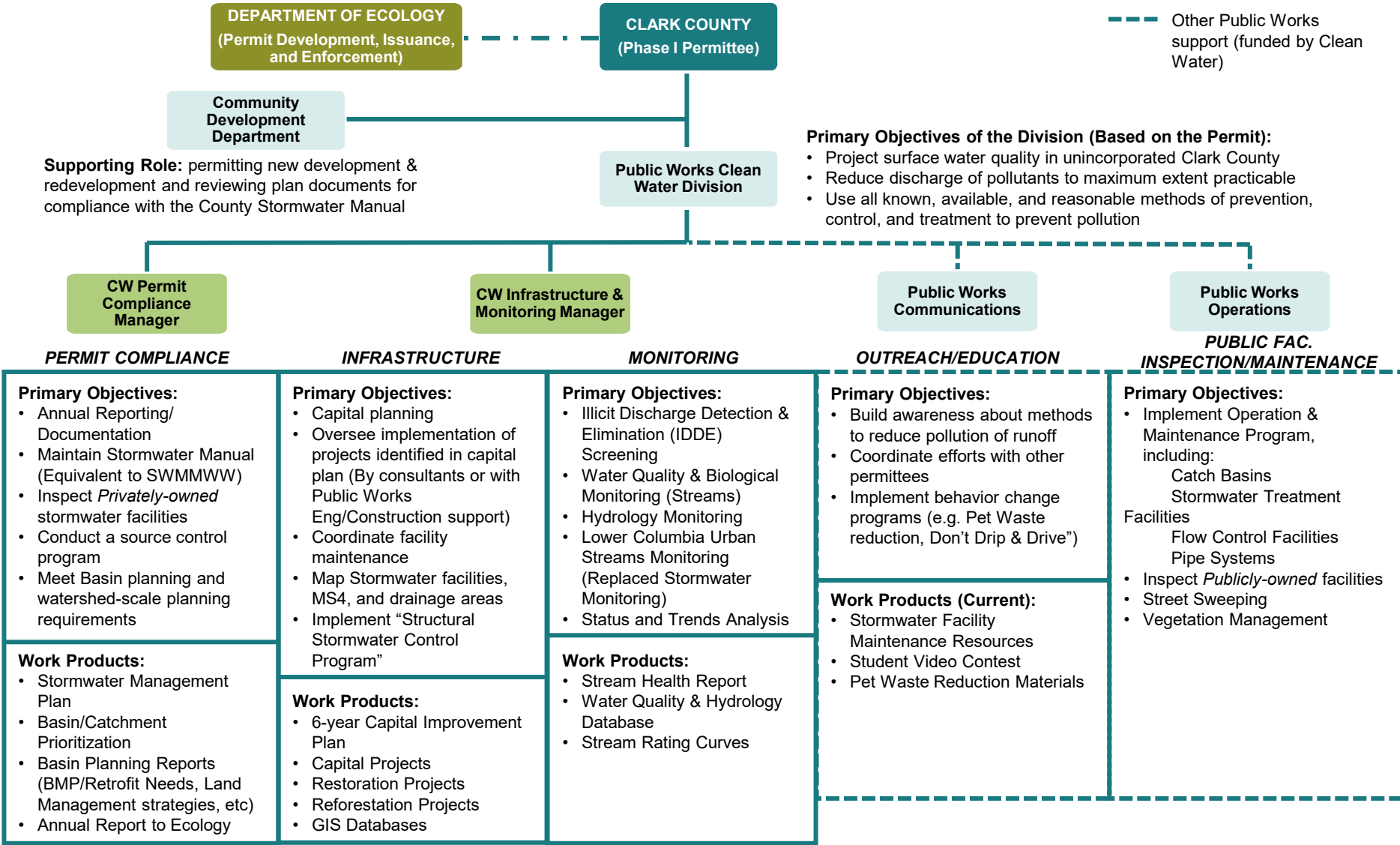
## PUBLIC WORKS CLEAN WATER DIVISION



**Scott Melville**  
Code Enforcement Officer



# CLARK COUNTY MUNICIPAL STORMWATER PERMIT COMPLIANCE



# Clark County Clean Water Division NPDES Compliance

