1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides general information about the Vader-Enchanted Valley water system which came under Lewis County management in 2011 and ownership in 2014. Information is given about the authority, purposes, service area, history and planning process of this plan.

1.1 OBJECTIVES

This Water System Plan (WSP) is developed to comply with Chapter 246-290-100 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) and the following objectives:

- Update the previous WSP issued in 2008 and WSP Amendment in 2010 when the system was owned and managed by the City of Vader.
- Provide information about the Enchanted Valley Country Club water system when it was purchased by the City of Vader in June 2009.
- Give information about the Court appointment of the system from the City of Vader (City) to Lewis County on October 31, 2010.
- Identify present and future needs.
- Demonstrate that the county system has the operational, technical, managerial and financial capability to comply with all relevant local, state and federal plans and regulations.

1.2 OWNERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

This WSP is developed for the Vader-Enchanted Valley public water system owned and managed by Lewis County Department of Public Works. The Vader-Enchanted Valley water system is a Group A community water system known as PWS #90900E and approved in 2010 for 369 connections by DOH. A summary of the system is provided in the utility's Water Facilities Inventory (WFI) included in Appendix A.

Superior Court awarded the system to Lewis County on October 29, 2010 with the plan to have transitional operation and management by Lewis County immediately, full operation and management by Lewis County on January 1, 2011; and transfer of assets to Lewis County by October 2011. The transfer of assets was finalized in January 2014, and Lewis County owned the system as of April 30, 2014.

Prior to the receivership, the City managed the system. A run of 16 main breaks from 2006 to 2010 placed the City on ten boil water advisories issued by the DOH. Then the City faced a budget deficit in 2010, was under investigation by the State Auditor, and was unable to financially and managerially operate the water system. DOH, the City and Lewis County met to explore options and found that the best solution was to appoint Lewis County receiver of the public water system (PWS).

Another event prior to the receivership was the dissolution of the Enchanted Valley Country Club (EVCC) in 2009 and purchase of the system by the City of Vader in June 2009. The EVCC system was a Group A community public water established in February 1980 of 107 approved connections and known as PWS #23390Y. However, problems with the shallow groundwater wells necessitated emergency water purchase of water from the City of Vader in 1978 with approved wholesale purchase of water in June 1980.

DOH formally approved and the merged the EVCC system into the City system on October 14, 2010.

The Vader-Enchanted Valley water system is a Group A community water system known as PWS #90900E and approved in 2010 for 369 connections by DOH.

1.3 RETAIL SERVICE AREA

The County provides water service to customers within the water service area shown in Figure 1.1. This area is made up of land within the City limits, City Urban Growth Area (UGA) and Lewis County. This service area is also the same as the Retail Service Area (RSA). The service area has not changed from prior WSPs (2010, 2008, 1997) when the system was under City management. For this water system, the Existing Service Area, Retail Service Area, Future Service Area and Water Rights Place of Use share coincident boundaries, as shown in Figure 1.1.

The City was incorporated in 1906 and has a land area of approximately 592 acres within city limits and of 390.3 acres in their UGA. Once a populous timber town in the early 1900s, it is a primarily residential town serviced by a city hall, local restaurant, post office, and two grocery stores with over 65% low-moderate income households per the an income survey undertaken by the Utility in April 2014.

Lewis County was established in 1854 and is situated in southwest Washington. The county seat is Chehalis which lies midway between the two metropolis Seattle, WA and Portland, OR. The country has a land area of about 2,435 square miles and is predominately rural. There is about 177.3 acres of county lands in the service area.

1.4 POLICIES

Policies and agreements are in place to ensure compliance and consistency of a variety of circumstances. Utility policies are in Title 13 of the Lewis County Code (LCC) with administration by the Director of Public Works. Engineering, solicitation of services, maintenance and operation, funding administration, and land development approvals follow the Department's policies and practices for public works projects. Fiscal matters of payment, receipt, and cash handling follow compliance with the Lewis County Auditor Office. Budgeting and public hearings follow Board procedures. Fees are established by Board of County Commissioner (BOCC) resolutions. Land development activities in the city are under City jurisdiction and administration, and follow their regulations. Land development activities in county lands are administered and follow county regulations.

A Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual has been developed using the aforementioned county policies and relevant state and federal regulations. Because county staff tasked to manage and operate the Vader-Enchanted Valley water system work in different departments and divisions, the SOP Manual was developed to provide guidance. The SOP outlines procedures for monitoring daily Plant operations, processing work orders, opening and closing accounts, dealing with customer complaints, handling delinquent accounts, placing liens, repairing main breaks, reporting requirements to be in compliance, and other procedures foreseen in the operation and management of the utility.

The Administrator of the water utility is the Director of Public Works. Assistance to the Administrator is provided in a workgroup forum with representation by operations, engineering, administrative and fiscal staff. This workgroup reviews and resolves issues. Outcomes may be used to define practices, develop procedures and form policies.

1.4.1 Duty to Serve

The Utility will serve connections located within the RSA when all of the following threshold factors in WAC 246-290-106 are met:

1. The request is consistent with the City's and County's plans and development regulations.
2. There is sufficient capacity to provide water in a safe and reliable manner.
3. There are sufficient water rights to provide water service.
4. It can be available in a timely and reasonable manner.

The procedure for water service application triggered by building permits, land development reviews, land use changes and requests for water service are discussed in Chapter 9.

1.5 RELATED PLANS AND REFERENCES

A list of documents and references used in developing this WSP is provided in Table 1.1.

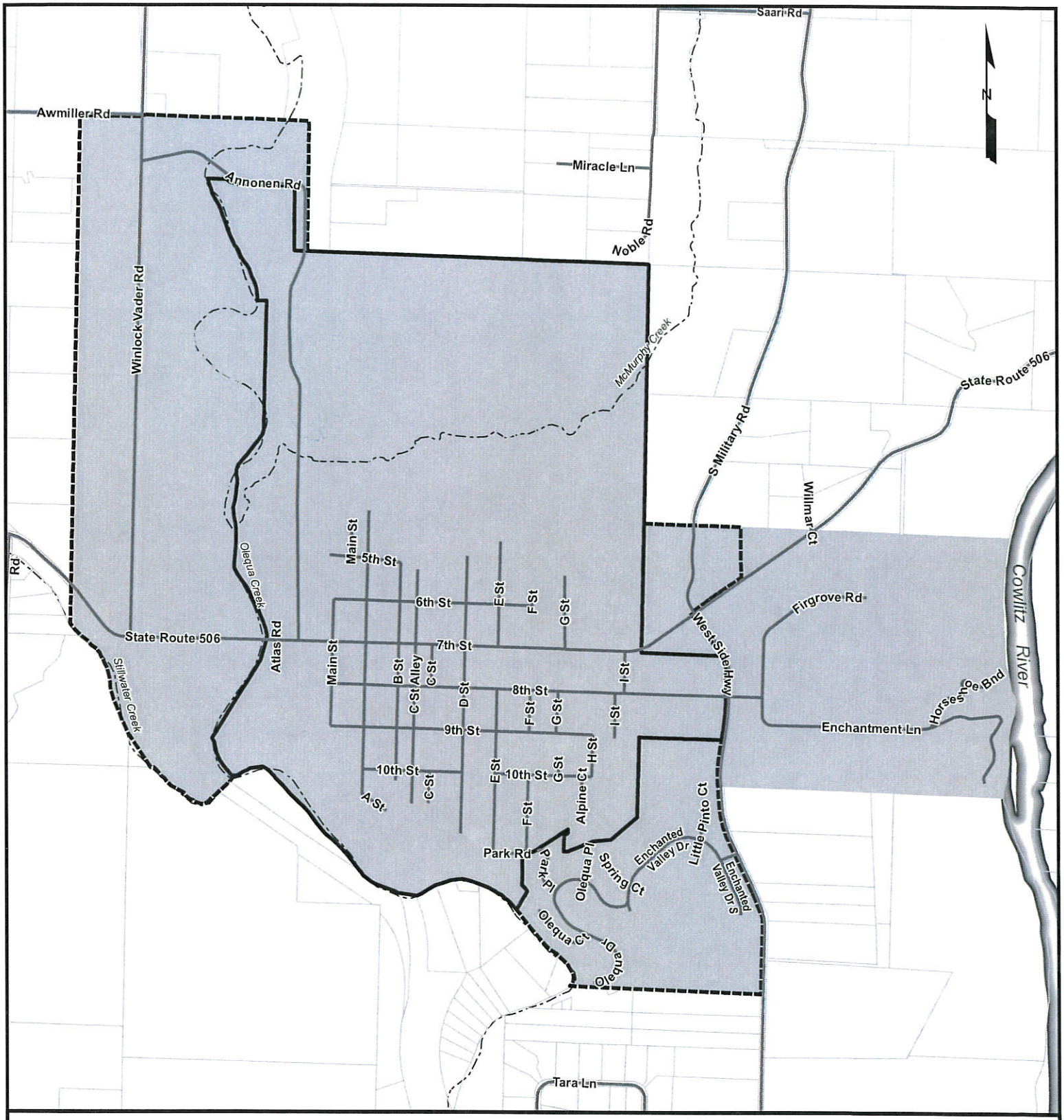
TABLE 1.1 – LIST OF INFORMATION AND REFERENCES
"City of Vader Comprehensive Water System Plan" by Gray & Osborne, Inc. May 2008.
"City of Vader, Comprehensive Water System Plan Amendment" by Gray & Osborne, Inc. September 2010.
"Draft Vader Water System Comprehensive Plan" by Gray & Osborne, Inc. December 1997.
"Engineering Report on the Water System for Enchanted Valley Country Club" by Gibbs & Olson, Inc. December 1994.
Water Facilities Inventory for Enchanted Valley, #23390Y by DOH.
Lewis County Land Use plans and zoning maps.
"Lewis County Comprehensive Plan", November 25, 2013.
"Lewis County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan", adopted July 26, 2010.

1.6 REVIEWS AND RESPONSES

All pertinent review and response documents for the WSP are in Appendix B. Copies of the draft WSP were provided to DOH, the Lewis County Community Development Department and the City for review. Consistency reviews and approvals were made by Lewis County

Community Development and the City. Lewis County met with DOH on December 3, 2013 to discuss the proposed planning efforts of this WSP. Notes from the Pre-Plan meeting along with public meeting, BOCC approval and other pertinent documents to show review and planning efforts of this WSP are also in Appendix B.

Because the water system has less than 1,000 connections, the WSP is exempt from the provisions of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA).



Lewis County, Washington

0 750 1,500 Feet

The water service area shown is based on Gray & Osborne, Inc. Consulting Engineers plan maps that were adopted by the City of Vader in 2010 and approved by the Department of Health.

The Retail Service Area, Existing Service Area, Future Service Area, and Water Rights Place of Use are the same areas, and thus are all represented by a single shade on this map.

Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
Datum: 1983 North American Datum
Coordinate System: State Plane Washington South

Vader - Enchanted Valley Water System

Figure 1.1 - Water Service Area

City Limits

Urban Growth Area

Retail Service Area, Existing Service Area, Future Service Area, and Water Rights Place of Use

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