



CLEAR FACTS ON WASTEWATER

#VILLAGE UPGRADES

FACTSHEET #3 – GROWTH

Cumberland's wastewater treatment has been out of compliance for nearly 20 years. It's not growth that has created this problem, but new development will contribute to fixing it. Sustainable infrastructure is key to meeting our economic development goals. Here are some facts:

FACT #1

The Village is growing, and we need a plan to prepare. While the current population of Cumberland is roughly 3,750, it's expected that in 20 years, this could reach 7,000. The proposed solution for wastewater treatment will be able to accommodate this growth.

FACT #2

Fast growth in the community hasn't created this problem. The wastewater treatment system in Cumberland has been out of compliance for nearly two decades – long before the current trend of growth in the community started. In the 2001 census, when the compliance issue was already two years old, Cumberland had roughly 2,600 residents and had only seen its population rise by 70 people in five years. The large increases in population began after 2006, when compliance infractions were already seven years old.

FACT #3

Growth – residential and commercial – will contribute to the solution: As the tax base broadens, there are more people and businesses to share the cost of these upgrades through property taxes, sewer user fees and charges on development. This means both future capital and operational costs for the wastewater capital upgrades are reduced.

FACT #4

New construction in Cumberland is already helping to pay for these upgrades: Nearly \$750,000 has been saved from development charges dedicated to help pay for the required wastewater upgrades and that amount will increase with new development. These fees are reducing the amount that potentially needs to be borrowed. Current charges on new development are roughly \$9,664/lot, with 83% of that going to wastewater infrastructure (once developed, property owners will pay ongoing service rates).

FACT #5

Upgrades will help achieve community planning goals determined by residents. The Village's Official Community Plan envisions a place where "infrastructure, economic development, and social well-being have been strategically improved to ensure that the quality of life is not compromised while achieving managed growth."

FACT #6

Upgrades will also help meet economic development goals: In creating the Cumberland Economic Development Strategy 2018-2023, goals such as improved quality of life, deepened sense of community identity, and enhanced environmental assets are all dependant on reliable, sustainable infrastructure.

FACT #7

Cumberland has high standards for businesses and development – they, in turn, have high standards for us: Developers and businesses who share the goals and values of the Village's residents are seeking locations aligned with their values as well. Adequate and reliable infrastructure is necessary to attract the types of developers and business owners that reflect the community's social, economic and environmental values.

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