

# CHAPTER 8

## UTILITIES ELEMENT

### Introduction

The Utilities Element describes, "the general location, proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed utilities, including, but not limited to, electrical lines, telecommunication lines, and natural gas lines". The goals and policies in this element deal primarily with the utility services provided by the Town of La Conner; sewer, water, and drainage. Private providers of natural gas, electricity, cable TV, telephone, and trash pick-up are also discussed. The planning horizon ends in 2045.

### Reference documents:

- Skagit County Coordinated Water System Plan dated July 2000. This sets the capacities for each water purveyor in Skagit County through the year 2050. It sets the standards for cross-connection, backflow prevention, and fire flow.
- Town of La Conner Comprehensive Water System Plan dated 2009. This includes maps showing the locations and sizes of water lines, hydrants, pumps and the storage tank. It contains the rudiments of a water conservation plan and provides capital planning and cash flow analysis. In 2022, La Conner contracted with David Evans and Associates to the firm to complete 2023 Comprehensive Water System Plan with a 20-year planning period from 2024-2044. The update is anticipated to be approved by the Washington State Department of Health. The update is ongoing.
- Town of La Conner Wastewater Treatment Comprehensive Plan dated August, 1996. This document provides information on the existing wastewater treatment facility at that time and includes management procedures along with criteria for plant expansion. As-built drawings are available at the treatment plant.
- National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit no. WA-002244-6, issued February 1, 2023(it is due for renewal February 1, 2028). This document sets the water quality standard for treatment plant effluent, the loading on the plant, and the monitoring/reporting requirements. It contains criteria for Significant Industrial Users (SIU) that are external to the system.
- Contract for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal between the Town of La Conner and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, dated December 28, 1997. This Document contains all of the agreements under which the Town

serves the Swinomish Indian Reservation as a bulk customer. It runs until December 31, 2096.

- Town of La Conner Comprehensive Stormwater Management Plan, 2017.

This chapter is based on RCW 36.70A.020(12): “ensure that those public facilities and services necessary to support development shall be adequate to serve the development at the time the development is available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service levels below locally established minimum standards.” This statute is also reflected in the following Countywide Planning Policies:

- Development shall be allowed only when and where all public facilities are adequate, and only when and where such development can be adequately served by regional public services without reducing levels of service elsewhere (CWPP12.6)
- Public facilities and services needed to support development shall be available concurrent with the impacts of development (CWPP 12.7)

The Town of La Conner is committed to implementing the following goals and policies:

## **GOALS AND POLICIES**

### **GOAL A**

*Establish objective procedures for assessing the readiness of the Town's utility systems to meet the impacts of a proposed development without degrading existing levels of service.*

#### **Policies**

**8A-1** Considering the requirements set forth in the Comprehensive Water, Sewer, and Drainage Plans, the Directors of Planning, Wastewater Treatment Plant, and Public Works will recommend to the Town Council, for their adoption, appropriate levels of service for each utility. These levels of service should differentiate between residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural users.

**8A-2** Assess the capacities of each utility annually and initiate utility plan revisions when projected demand approaches 85% of capacity.

**8A-3** Document the demand placed on a given utility by a proposed development in a manner prescribed by the Town.

**8A-4** The Finance Director and the Town Administrator should annually review general facility charges and hook-up fees to ensure that these charges/fees achieve cost recovery.

### **GOAL B**

*Integrate capital facility plans with projected capacity needs out to the year 2045.*

#### **Policies**

**8B-1** Conduct planning for utilities on a regional basis; detail planning and coordination with Skagit County, other governmental agencies and providers, and private providers.

**8B-2** Review for revision the comprehensive utility plans of the various providers in the La Conner service area to define potential impacts on Town utilities and estimate capacity needs for the current planning horizon.

**8B-3** Work directly with franchise holders to encourage planning and investment to meet capacity needs for the Town and the surrounding area.

**8B-4** Maintain consistency between Comprehensive Plan land use and comprehensive utility/capital facility plans.

### **GOAL C**

*Promote joint use of transportation right-of-ways and utility corridors with private utility providers.*

#### **Policies**

**8C-1** Develop agreements with private utility providers and public agencies as required facilitating joint use of utility corridors and public right-of-ways.<sup>1</sup>

**8C-2** Review applications and permit processes to ensure that all utilities affected by a proposal are reviewed in a single process.

**8C-3** Locate utilities within public right-of-way whenever possible.

**8C-4** Establish appropriate easements and agreements on private property as part of the permitting process.

**8C-5** Place antennas on existing towers, buildings, or other structures, where possible.

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<sup>1</sup> These agreements will set forth standards for locating utilities in public rights of way, and they will, to the maximum extent feasible, locate utility lines so as not to adversely affect future expansion or upgrades of the right of way.

**GOAL D**

*Locate utility facilities in an environmentally sensitive manner.*

**Policies**

**8D-1** Ensure utility providers avoid placing facilities in areas defined as environmentally sensitive or critical areas unless there are no feasible alternatives and only after a site assessment and mitigation plan has been approved under the provisions of the critical areas ordinance.

**8D-2** Ensure utility providers use construction and design standards that are environmentally sensitive, safe, cost-effective, and consistent with best management practices.

**GOAL E**

*Install underground utilities where possible.*

**Policies**

**8E-1** Encourage utility providers to install utility lines underground.

**8E-2** Use “local improvement districts” as a means to finance the undergrounding of utilities, if undergrounding of the existing overhead utilities is desired and is technically feasible.

**8E-3** Include provisions to install emergency shut-offs for underground utilities in the event of disasters.

**GOAL F**

*Encourage conservation of water and energy.*

**Policies**

**8F-1** Conduct a public education program to promote conservation of water and energy in conjunction with the required annual consumer confidence report.

**8F-2** Maintain an aggressive water leak detection program, utilizing outside technical assistance where necessary.

**8F-3** Consider pricing structures that encourage conservation and usage reduction.

**8F-4** Support electric and natural gas utility providers that conduct energy conservation programs for customers.

**8F-5** Be a leader by example to the public by making every effort to reduce water and energy consumption in government facilities.

**8F-6** Adopt development codes that are receptive to new ideas and technologies for reducing water and energy consumption.

**8F-7** Adopt water conservation goals in accordance with Washington State's 2007 Water Use Efficiency Rule.

## **Water**

### **GOAL G**

*Deliver a safe and reliable supply of potable water to all customers within the service area.*

#### **Policies**

**8G-1** Maintain a close working relationship with the Anacortes Public Works Department in order to ensure high water quality and adequate supply.

**8G-2** Inspect the Town's water tank on a regular basis for structural integrity and cleanliness.

**8G-3** Maintain a system for users to report problems with the water system and to document action taken.

### **GOAL H**

*Reduce unaccounted-for water to less than American Water Works Association (AWWA) standards.*

#### **Policies**

**8H-1** Conduct a public relations program to remind customers to report inordinately high water bills and obvious leaks.

**8H-2** Conduct monthly reconciliation between water purchased and water billed.

**8H-3** Obtain professional assistance, when deemed necessary, to trace and repair water system leaks.

### **GOAL I**

*Plan for capital improvements that will ensure that the urban level of service standards for water, as outlined in the*

*Skagit County Coordinated Water System  
Plan, are met.*

### **Policies**

- 8I-1** Implement the list of capital improvements shown in the Water Comprehensive Plan.
- 8I-2** Update the Capital Facilities Plan per the 6-year plan cycle to include those items listed in the Water Comprehensive Plan.
- 8I-3** Assess the funding necessary to meet the capital improvements and conduct a trade-off analysis of borrowing vs. rate-based financing annually.
- 8I-4** Work with entities within the service area but outside the corporate limits, such as the Skagit Beach Homeowners' Association, to improve fire flow in that area.
- 8I-5** Assess rate parity among categories of water users in conjunction with updating of the Comprehensive Water System Plan.

### **GOAL J**

*Ensure that fire flow capacities are met  
throughout the town.*

### **Policies**

- 8J-1** Complete the list of fire flow improvements outlined in the Water Comprehensive Plan.
- 8J-2** Establish a program for periodic testing of fire hydrants.
- 8J-3** Coordinate with Public Works to ensure that out-of-date fire hydrants are replaced when funds are available, and that adaptors for all fire hydrants are available.

### **GOAL K**

*Investigate the feasibility of an alternate  
source of potable water.*

### **Policies**

- 8K-1** Investigate with Skagit County Public Utility District the costs and legalities involved in installing an intertie from the Fire Station east along Chilberg Road to Hulbert Road.
- 8K-2** Coordinate with other purveyors of water and participate in wheeling of water when necessary.

## **Sewer**

### **GOAL L**

*Update the wastewater treatment plant with the latest technology and equipment.*

#### **Policies**

**8L-1** Implement the list of improvements scheduled in the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan.

**8L-2** Plan for financing capital improvements to the year 2045.

**8L-3** Participate in Association of Washington Cities (AWC), Washington Cities Insurance Authority (WCIA), and American Water Works Association (AWWA) programs to stay abreast of new industry standards and new technologies in wastewater treatment, as well as litigation affecting wastewater services.

### **GOAL M**

*Eliminate inflow and infiltration (I&I) as much as possible.*

#### **Policies**

**8M-1** Evaluate water usage vs wastewater treatment for in-town usages to estimate I&I.

**8M-2** Analyze current video inspections and conduct new video inspections of sewer mains and major collectors to determine the appropriate I & I program approach.

**8M-3** Budget sufficient resources for replacement or repair of leaking collection system components.

### **GOAL N**

*Implement the provisions of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) for controlling the effluent volume and strengths from external industrial users.*

## **Stormwater Drainage**

### **GOAL O**

*Implement the provisions of the 2017 Stormwater Management Plan.*

**Policies**

**8O-1** Update regularly the engineering and financial planning required to achieve the improvements identified within the 2017 plan that are applicable during the 2045 planning horizon.

**8O-2** Seek financial assistance through Skagit County and through the Public Works Trust Fund.

**8O-3** Incorporate provisions of the 2017 Stormwater Management Plan as necessary in the annual update of the Capital Facilities Plan.

**GOAL P**

*Seek non-structural solutions to drainage problems.*

**Policies**

**8P-1** Encourage new development to reduce impervious surfaces to a minimum.

**8P-2** Recognizing the limitations on those properties within the 100-year floodplain, encourage all property owners to install on-site retention systems where feasible.

**8P-3** Do not allow adverse impacts of new development storm water runoff to neighboring properties.

**GOAL Q**

*Eliminate the discharge of untreated stormwater not exempted from the Stormwater Management sections of the Uniform Development Code (UDC) into the Swinomish Channel.*

**Policies**

**8Q-2** Require oil separators on discharges that cannot be connected to the Phase I system.

**8Q-3** Enlarge and improve the biofiltration system installed at the Sullivan Slough site in order to accommodate all of the flows from the Town.

**8Q-4** Monitor and enforce stormwater treatment standards and system maintenance for independent systems (i.e. Port of Skagit County and La Conner School District).

**8Q-5** Pursue grants and low-interest funding through Federal, State and county programs for salmon recovery, clean water act, and county sales tax rebates.

## **Private Utilities**

### **GOAL R**

*Coordinate with all private utility providers to ensure that service capacities will accommodate growth to the year 2045 and that these capacities will be in place at time of occupancy.*

### **Policies**

**8R-1** Involve private utility providers in the updates of the Comprehensive Plan by requesting their comments before adoption by the Town Council.

**8R-2** Participate in regional planning programs sponsored by the major utility providers and by Skagit County.

**8R-3** Invite utility providers to participate in pre-construction meetings.

**8R-4** Keep utility providers up to date on the Town's Capital Facilities Plan and describe the impacts that will be felt by these utilities.

**8R-5** Ensure, through a checklist, that all utility services are on site and available for use prior to approving the certificate of authorization.

### **GOAL S**

*Work with private utility providers to deliver economical and environmentally sensitive services to the people and businesses of La Conner.*

### **Policies**

**8S-1** Grant franchises that reflect the market rate for use of town right-of-ways or public properties.

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## APPENDIX 8A

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### INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

#### **Water**

**Overview:** The La Conner water system is connected to the City of Anacortes' transmission main in a vault located immediately west of the intersection of La Conner-Whitney Road and Young Road (approximately four miles north of town). The City of Anacortes has historically been the sole purveyor of water to the Town, commencing in the 1920's. The Town of La Conner has no ground water used for public water supplies. Under the Skagit County Coordinated Water System Plan, the City of Anacortes is a senior water rights holder for Skagit River water withdrawal. The Town's most recent contract amendment with Anacortes was signed in 2017 and provides for annual updates of water allocation, fixed, variable, debt service and capital charges. The Town has regularly participated in the system review and cost allocation sponsored by the City of Anacortes, normally every three years. The Anacortes water is fluoridated. However, the Town of La Conner's water is chlorinated, not fluoridated.

The La Conner water system extends from the Farmhouse Inn at SR 20, along La Conner-Whitney Rd. to La Conner, and provides water to the Skagit Beach community as well as wholesale water to Shelter Bay community. Our system has 20.9 miles of piping ranging from 1½-inches to 16 inches in diameter. We have a 1.5-million-gallon reservoir which provides fire protection, pressure balancing and up to 3 days of water supply under normal conditions in the event of a disruption of water from Anacortes.

**Service area:** The Skagit County Coordinated Water System Plan designated the Town of La Conner as water purveyor for the Town proper, Shelter Bay (bulk customer), and the rural area between the Swinomish Channel and La Conner-Whitney Road, north to the Farmhouse Inn and the Shell convenience store at Highway 20. This includes:

- The Skagit Beach plats, but does not include the Telegraph Slough area. On the east side of La Conner-Whitney Road the service area includes the West one half of Sections 8, 17, and 20 in Township 35 N, Range 3 E, W.M.
- The McGlynn Island area south of town is not in the service area. Of the total 621 customers, 501 are in town and 119 are in the rural area, four of which are agricultural users with seasonal hydrant permits.
- The Shelter Bay Community, Inc. is counted as one customer; however they currently have approximately 900 hookups. Shelter Bay's population currently ranges from 1,800 to 2,000. They have an additional 56 lots to develop.

**Contractual agreements:** The contract with the City of Anacortes is amended with new fixed and variable rates on April 1 of each year. The current contract includes fixed operating costs of \$10,057.10 per month and Capital Costs/Regional System of \$12,588.87 per month.. The contract may be terminated with one-year notice. The contract with the Shelter Bay Community provides for annual rate setting, meter calibration, and also requires one-year notice to terminate. There is no contract with the Skagit Beach Homeowners' Association.

**Capacities:** The Town has a 20 year agreement with the City of Anacortes (2017-2036) for potable water supply of up to 162.0 million gallons per year. The Town has a Wholesale Agreement with the Shelter Bay Community for up to 75 million gallons per year. The Town storage tank is located on the north side of Pioneer Park and has a capacity of 1.5 million gallons and is adequate to provide the required 2 days of emergency supply. The reservoir provides fire-suppression and pressure balancing for the Town only. It was overhauled in 2001. The distribution lines are primarily trancite (asbestos cement), with ductile iron and C-900 being installed as replacements are needed. The high pressure transmission mains consist of one 8 inch and one 14 inch line coming from the Anacortes transmission vault at Young Road. The Skagit County Coordinated Water System Plan assigned the La Conner system ID no. 433500 under the State Department of Health, with unlimited Equivalent Residential Units (ERU's).

In 2018 the Town experienced significant breakages in the transmission mains in the section of pipes between Young Road and McClean/Downey Road. As a result, immediate repairs were necessary. The Town secured a loan to allow for the replacement of 7600 linear feet of the two transmission lines (14" and 8") with a 16" water main between Young Road and Mclean/Downey Road. This is the first phase of a planned three phase approach to replace the entire length of the distribution line. Construction on this project is complete as of 2024.

**Debt:** In August of 2018 the Town financed a one million dollar loan for Phase One of the water line replacement project. The loan is for 20 years with payoff scheduled for June of 2038.

Service Meter Record Annual Data Summary – **Note: this data is outdated. Will be updated when staff regains access to the server drive.**

Location	Item Days/Year	Year Average 2014	Year Average 2015	Year Average 2016	3- Year Average 2014-2016
<b>Residential Town</b>	% of Total	12.4%	10.5%	11.2%	11.3%
	# of Accounts	324	324	328	325
	Total Use (CF/year)	1,956,631	2,005,339	1,918,494	1,960,155
	Average Day Use (gpd)	40,098	41,096	39,209	40,170
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	124	127	120	123
	Estimated ERU's	304	311	297	304
<b>Commercial Town</b>	% of Total	14.0%	11.2%	11.0%	12.0%
	# of Accounts	154	154	154	154
	Total Use (CF/year)	2,216,692	2,145,561	1,897,984	2,086,746
	Average Day Use (gpd)	45,427	43,969	38,789	42,764
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	295	286	252	278
	Estimated ERU's	344	333	294	324
<b>Irrigation Town</b>	% of Total	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
	# of Accounts	12	12	12	12
	Total Use (CF/year)	71,770	76,529	68,710	72,336
	Average Day Use (gpd)	1,471	1,568	1,404	1,482
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	123	131	117	124
	Estimated ERU's	11	12	11	11
<b>Public Town</b>	% of Total	2.8%	8.9%	1.6%	4.6%
	# of Accounts	23	22	24	23
	Total Use (CF/year)	448,078	1,697,724	279,417	808,406
	Average Day Use (gpd)	9,183	34,792	5,710	16,567
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	399	1,581	238	720
	Estimated ERU's	70	264	43	126
<b>Residential County</b>	% of Total	8.6%	7.7%	8.4%	8.2%
	# of Accounts	118	118	119	118
	Total Use (CF/year)	1,355,622	1,481,233	1,442,081	1,426,312
	Average Day Use (gpd)	27,781	30,355	29,472	29,230
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	235	257	248	247
	Estimated ERU's	210	230	223	221
<b>Commercial County</b>	% of Total	6.9%	6.3%	6.9%	6.7%
	# of Accounts	9	9	9	9
	Total Use (CF/year)	108,7650	120,6546	119,3646	116,2614
	Average Day Use (gpd)	22,289	24,726	24,395	23,826
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	2477	2747	2711	2647
	Estimated ERU's	169	187	185	180
<b>Residential - Multi Town</b>	% of Total	2.8%	2.5%	2.8%	2.7%
	# of Accounts	41	40	40	40
	Total Use (CF/year)	438,362	474,004	482,398	464,921
	Average Day Use (gpd)	8983	9714	9859	9528
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	219	243	246	236
	Estimated ERU's	68	74	75	72
<b>Wholesale – Shelter Bay County</b>	% of Total	44.9%	40.2%	46.1%	43.6%
	# of Accounts	1	1	1	1
	Total Use (CF/year)	709,2479	770,3120	793,2420	757,6006
	Average Day Use (gpd)	145,347	157,861	162,116	155,256
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	145,347	157,861	162,116	155,256
	Estimated ERU's	1101	1196	1228	1176
<b>Agriculture County</b>	% of Total	7.1%	12.4%	11.5%	10.5%
	# of Accounts	7	8	8	8
	Total Use (CF/year)	112,8036	238,0490	198,0475	182,9667
	Average Day Use (gpd)	23,117	48,784	40,475	37,496
	Average Use (gpd/conn)	3302	6098	5059	4891
	Estimated ERU's	175	370	307	284
<b>TOTALS</b>	% of Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
	# of Accounts	689	688	695	691
	Total Use (CF/year)	157,95320	191,70546	171,95625	173,87164
	Average Day Use (gal)	323,696	392,865	351,430	356,318
	Estimated ERU's	2452	2976	2662	2699

CF = Cubic Feet, gpd = gallons per day ERU =132 ADD-gpd

## **Sewer**

**Overview:** The La Conner wastewater treatment plant is a regional plant. The plant is owned and operated by the Town of La Conner, but the Town is obligated under a contract with the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community that confers certain rights to the Tribe. It may serve a future role in development near the Town, i.e. areas such as Pleasant Ridge and Landing Road. The Town will continue coordination with the Skagit County Planning Department with regard to these areas.

The plant sits on a 9.5-acre tract east of the Town limits on land leased long-term from the Port of Skagit County. Co-location of the treatment plant with the fire plus the installation of a biofiltration swale for stormwater treatment, limit the amount of space available for future growth of the treatment plant.

**History:** Prior to 1976 the residents and businesses of La Conner utilized septic systems and, in some cases, discharged raw sewage into the Swinomish Channel. Using a federal grant for the treatment plant and a bond issue for the collector and interceptor systems, the town built a plant with a capacity of 225,600 gallons per day, with BOD at 574 pounds per day, and TSS at 470 pounds per day. The Indian Health Service contributed \$20,490 for the right to deliver wastewater from the Swinomish Village. In 1984, the Town and the Tribe signed an agreement, which documented the Tribe's allocation at 38,352 gpd and prescribed a "fair share formula" for pricing along with a procedure for arbitrating disputes. In 1993, the Town and the Tribe signed an agreement to expand the plant, and by December 1995, the Tribe had paid \$300,000 to purchase an additional 31,700 gpd, making their total 70,052 gpd. Skagit County Sewer District #1 contributed \$144,500 of the Tribe's share in order to hook-up the Shorewood, Snee-Oosh, Sunnyslope and Reef Point Lane plats. In May 1996 a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and the Tribe awarded the Tribe an additional 32,300 gpd at no cost, making the Tribe's allocation 102,352 gpd. On December 28, 1997, the Town and the Tribe signed an agreement that superseded the 1993 agreement. This agreement provided for a major expansion of the treatment plant capacity and revised allocations as shown below:

### **Capacities:**

	<b>Plant*</b>	<b>Town</b>	<b>Tribe</b>
Capacity gpd MMADF	520,000	345,000	175,000
Capacity gpd AADF	409,800	272,000	137,800
BOD pounds/day at MMADF	1,300	860	440
TSS pounds/day at MMADF	1,100	730	370

\* The MMADF, BOD and TSS limits were approved by the Department of Ecology in its NPDES dated February 1, 2023. It is due to be renewed February 1, 2028.

**Service area:** In 1976, the service area was defined as the corporate limits of the Town of La Conner plus the Swinomish Village. Prior to that time the Shelter Bay developer was granted permission to build his own treatment facility, which has never been part of the regional system. Under the 1997 agreement with the Tribe, the Town is obligated to provide wastewater treatment services for the entire Swinomish Indian Reservation. In January 2005, however, the Town supported the Tribe's application for a grant to build a separate wastewater treatment plant near the northern boundary of the reservation. Any service area expansion to the north or east of Town will be subject to the planning criteria and development regulations adopted by Skagit County. Any allocation or sale of excess capacity in these areas will be subject to a first right of refusal by the Swinomish Tribe, as set forth in the 1997 agreement.

**Usage Data (metered flow to wastewater treatment):** Note: this data is outdated. Will be updated when staff regains access to the server drive.

	2007	2010	2015	2016	2017
Total flow (gal.)	93,900,146	107,770,259	127,450,846	129,301,549	116,921,254
Average gpd	257,261	295,261	349,180	354,251	320,332
Tribe (gal)	27,066,837	28,409,371	22,257,146	31,199,651	27,546,783
Town (gal)	66,833,309	79,360,888	105,193,700	106,101,898	89,374,471
Outside waste (gal)	3,672,025	6,425,258	7,342,619	8,262,833	7,791,817
BOD load (lbs)	243,552	190,545	348,642	274,982	224,275
O&M cost	\$397,196	\$431,517	\$563,789	\$314,431	\$355,337

**Customer Classifications (Billed Sewer Usage):** (2017 data) Note: this data is outdated. Will be updated when staff regains access to the server drive.

Classification	Number	Volume (cf)	% of Total
Residential	365	2,042,550	24.9%
Commercial	129	1,687,289	20.6%
Schools	7	61,109	0.7%
Town Facilities	10	110,878	1.4%
Port	14	343,200	4.2%
Tribe	1 (420)	3,964,085	48.2%
Total		8,209,111	

**Inflow and Infiltration<sup>2</sup> (I&I):** Using the two tables above, the amount of unbilled wastewater can be estimated. It can be assumed that the majority of this wastewater is likely from “inflow and infiltration”.

The above Customer Classification table for 2017 shows that total billed volume at the treatment plant was 8,209,111 cubic feet. The Tribe's volume was 3,964,085 cubic feet, therefore the volume from Town was 4,245,026 cubic feet.

<sup>2</sup> **Inflow** is wastewater from other than sanitary sewer sources, such as roof drains hooked into the sewer lines. **Infiltration** is ground water from cracks in the interceptors, collectors, or sewer mains.

By multiplying the Town billed water usage by 7.48 (gallons per cubic foot), the amount of wastewater generated from known Town sources is 31,752,794 gallons.

The Usage Data chart shows that in 2017 the total wastewater flow from the Town was 89,374,471 gallons. The metered water usage from the Town minus the waste flow attributed to the Town should indicate an I&I estimate for the Town. The difference is 57,621,677 gallons. This equals 64% of Town flow.

I&I has been an issue for the Town and continues to be a growing issue. Excessive I&I has several negative results; the ratio for cost sharing with the Tribe is affected; energy and treatment resources are used unnecessarily, and O&M costs are higher. This problem should be reviewed and analyzed further by Town administration and sewer plant management to identify the sources of the unbilled wastewater.

**Debt:** None

**Composting:** In 1996, after touring a number of municipal wastewater treatment plants, the Town began investing in a composting program as an alternative to commercial sludge disposal and land application. The demand for septage processing has increased over the years, and the Town has found this to be an excellent source of revenue, while eliminating the sludge disposal problem. Combined with this program is the sale of compost punch cards for individuals who wish to dispose of green waste and obtain finished compost product. The Town also sells compost product directly to soils retailers and commercial landscapers. This enterprise is separate from the 1997 agreement with the Swinomish Tribe.

### **Stormwater Drainage**

**History:** Cedar box drains were used in the past to provide a rudimentary drainage system in certain portions of the Town. These systems have now failed. Community surveys have indicated that the highest priority for the citizens is to solve the drainage problems. In 1991 the Town obtained an FCAAP grant for a study to determine the best way to approach stormwater management. Public hearings were held, and the Town Council decided on a 25-year flood event as the basis for planning. Sturdy Engineers, Inc. was retained to do the study, and they produced a three phase plan that would provide in Phase I drainage for Morris Street and the north end. Phase II would provide drainage in the areas east of the hill and along Maple Avenue. Phase III would provide drainage to the south end and eliminate the pump station that currently pumps stormwater into the Swinomish Channel.

**Current Status:** Phase I was implemented with the Morris Street improvement project in 2003 and was completed with lateral extensions north of Center Street in summer 2005. This involved the construction of a large subterranean pump station at Sixth and Morris to collect all of the stormwater on Morris and Center Streets, and convey it approximately 0.7 mile east to settling and infiltration

ponds located south of the Public Works compound at Sullivan Slough. Stormwater from the north end of town no longer discharges into the Swinomish Channel. Another component of Phase I of this system consists of two ponds. One pond serves as a settling pond for incoming stormwater, and the second pond is an infiltration/evaporation pond. Phase II entails constructing a 4.8 acre wetland and outfall to Sullivan Slough.

## Capacities:

Sixth & Morris pump vault 3,500 gallons per hour/pump

This storm water pump station has 2 pumps that pump at 3,500 GPM each. Normal operating capacity is 3,500 GPM with one pump, but has the capacity of 7,000 GPM with both pumps running.

Second and Caledonia pump station Capacity varies

The Caledonia Pump Station has four pumps. Two of these are High Flow pumps with one pump capacity of 2,400 GPM and the other pump capacity at 1,600 GPM. The total High Flow total capacity is 4,000 GPM. The other two Water Quality pumps have a capacity of 900 GPM each, for 1,800 GPM total. The total capacity with all four pumps is 5,800 GPM.

## Future Needs:

1. Funding to complete projects identified in the 2017 plan within the planning horizon.
2. Coordination with the Port of Skagit County to better control parking lot and maintenance yard run off.
3. Improved public relations programs to keep the ratepayers abreast of progress and enhance their support of the fees required to finance these improvements in the future.

**Debt:** In 2018 the Town made its final payment on its Public Works Trust Fund loan.

## **Private Utility Providers**

**Natural Gas:** Cascade Natural Gas in 2024 is the natural gas service provider in the Town of La Conner. The company has adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of the Town over the next 20 years, and it does not envision any major expansion of service in the areas around La Conner. In 2003, Cascade Natural Gas extended service across the Swinomish Channel by directional bore drilling beneath the channel following the old Morris Street bridge right-of-way.

Electric Power: Puget Sound Energy in 2024 is the electrical service provider in the Town of La Conner. PSE engineers have upgraded the reliability of the substation at the corner of La Conner-Whitney Road and McLean Rd., as well as improving the stability of the lines along McLean Rd. into Mount Vernon so that power failures in the Town have been greatly reduced. PSE has the capacity to

serve the projected needs of La Conner for the next 20 years. Considerations for Electric Vehicle will be included in the Climate Element.

**Telecommunications:**

- a. Telephone: Historically people's telephone service has been primarily land lines to their homes. With the advent of cell phones and more recently smart phones more and more people are served with wireless phone service only. A 2017 survey by the Center for Health Statistics indicates that nationwide almost 54% of households are served only by wireless telephone service. This goes up to 57% in the western US and to 70% for people between 23 and 34 years of age.

Individuals have numerous choices when it comes to service providers for wireless telephones and internet.

- b. Fiber Optic: The Port of Skagit in conjunction with other County entities is working to provide fiber optic connections from Anacortes to Concrete.
- c. Cable TV: WAVE Broadband Telecommunications holds a franchise with the Town of La Conner and delivers a wide range of telecommunications services, including wireless support. The company sees no problems in meeting the needs of the people and businesses of La Conner for telecommunications services over the next 20 years.

**Trash Disposal:** Waste Management, Inc. provides weekly trash pick-up throughout the Town. This firm has indicated no problems, which would detract from their service over the next 20 years.