

## RESOLUTION NO. H-2-2016

A Resolution adopting the *Thurston County On-site Sewage System Management Plan Update*.

WHEREAS, the Board of Health makes the following findings of fact:

1. The Washington State Board of Health, in WAC 246-272A-0015, requires the Thurston County health officer to develop a management plan for the development and management of on-site sewage systems (OSS) within Thurston County; and

2. The 2006 Washington State Legislature passed 3SHB1458, adopting ch. 70.118A RCW, that requires the Thurston County health officer to take actions to reduce impacts of on-site sewage disposal systems on the marine waters of Puget Sound. These actions include designating Marine Recovery Areas where on-site sewage systems are a significant factor contributing to the degradation of shellfish growing areas, low dissolved oxygen levels, fecal coliform pollution, or excessive nitrate contamination within Puget Sound; and

3. State regulations require areas where OSS pose a greater public health risk to be identified, and monitoring and maintenance requirements in these areas to be established that are commensurate with the public health risks posed by the OSS; and

4. Proper inventory, evaluation, and funding for the management of on-site sewage systems is important to protect public health and water resources within Thurston County; and

5. An advisory committee comprised of representatives from various government entities in Thurston County, the building industry, sewage system professionals and shellfish and environmental groups met numerous times in 2006 and 2007 to assist Environmental Health Division staff with the development of the *Thurston County On-site Sewage System Management Plan*; and

6. The Thurston County Board of Health adopted H-1-08 and the *Thurston County On-site Sewage System Management Plan* on January 7, 2008; and,

7. The Thurston County Board of Health authorized an update of the 2008 plan. An advisory committee of 14 community members reviewed past accomplishments, determined "What Needs Attention" within each program area, and developed strategies and recommendations to improve electronic records, provide services for all OSS owners, create new marine recovery and sensitive areas, and fund the county's on-site sewage system regulatory and oversight programs with a charge to all OSS owners via the property tax statement that would replace the time of transfer, septic tank reporting, and operational certificate renewal fees; and

8. The Thurston County Board of Health directed Environmental Health to develop a tiered fee structure so charges are commensurate with the services provided.

9. The three tier structure bases charges on the geographic location of the septic system and the work the health department anticipates is needed to implement the Plan in that area. It charges the highest amount for septic systems in Marine Recovery Areas or other special area, an intermediate amount for septic systems in Puget Sound watersheds that are not special areas, and the lowest amount to septic systems in the Chehalis watershed, and will generate approximately the same amount of revenue as the charge structure recommended by the advisory committee; and

10. The *Thurston County On-site Sewage System Management Plan Update* was shared at public workshops on December 5, 2015 in Olympia, December 9, 2015 in Rainier, and February 11, 2016 at Griffin School west of Olympia; and,

11. The *Thurston County On-site Sewage System Management Plan Update* proposed by the advisory committee and Environmental Health staff offers an improved strategy for managing on-site sewage systems in Thurston County; and

12. The Board of Health held a public hearing on June 14, 2016 to receive public comment on the proposed plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Board of Health of Thurston County, State of Washington, hereby resolves as follows:

**Section 1.** The *Thurston County On-site Sewage System Management Plan Update* attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference is hereby adopted.

**Section 2.** This plan will be implemented as county staff and financial resources allow. Full implementation of the plan will require additional time and resources.

**Section 3.** The Environmental Health Division is directed to begin implementation of the Plan by preparing a funding proposal and amendments to the Sanitary Code for Thurston County for the Board to consider for adoption. The funding proposal may be considered as part of the 2017 budget adoption process, or as a separate effort in 2017. Amendments to the Sanitary Code will be considered for adoption in 2017.

**Section 4.** Severability. If any provision of this Resolution or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, in whole or in part, for any reason, the remainder of this Resolution or the application of the provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected.

ADOPTED: November 8, 2016

ATTEST:

BOARD OF HEALTH  
Thurston County, Washington

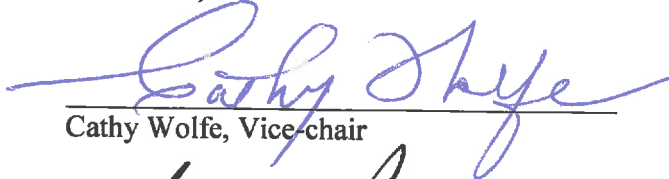


Lydia Hodgkinson, Clerk of the Board

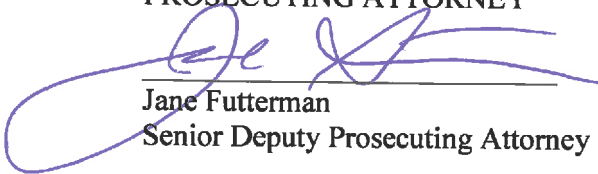
\_\_\_\_\_ Voted no  
Bud Blake, Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

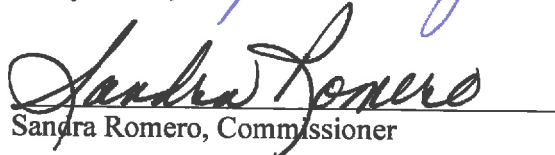
JON TUNHEIM  
PROSECUTING ATTORNEY



Cathy Wolfe, Vice-chair



Jane Futterman  
Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney



Sandra Romero, Commissioner