

Sherilyn Lombos, Tualatin City Manager, Cities of Washington County representative.

I want to start by saying that Clean Water Services is an essential partner to the cities of Washington County and that CWS is held in high regard for the innovative, strategic, vital work that they do. None of the cities in Washington County provide sanitary sewer and storm water services alone; we all rely on Clean Water Services; their expertise; their infrastructure; their acumen in this space. Our staff work with Clean Water Services staff on a daily basis, whether that is on permitting, or stormwater quality facilities, or fats/oils/grease collectors, and so much more. Clean Water Services is our go-to partner for this essential service. And they are a trusted partner.

Trust is a delicate thing; we spend years building it; nurturing it; fretting over it, knowing that the trust the community puts in us, our elected officials, our organizations, is fundamental to being able to carry out the vital work that we are entrusted with, whether that's police, fire, libraries, water, or sewer. And we do not take it for granted, because when something happens, to any of us, and that trust is breached, we all are negatively impacted.

And we find ourselves in a situation where the public trust has been breached, and has taken a hit; and that is troubling to all of us. There are potentially very real consequences at the local level, whether that's at the ballot box, in public meetings, or just in interactions with residents at the local market. It is not my place to sit in judgement or to point fingers. It is my place to champion that we do everything in our power to help rebuild the public trust. It will take time; it will take mindful actions.

As city managers of the partner cities in Washington County, we believe there are several specific actions that will help in this trust-building process.

- 1) We ask that Clean Water Services hire a third party auditor to conduct an independent, forensic audit of their operations, policies, practices, and financials. This is above and beyond the required annual financial audit that is conducted for Clean Water Services.
- 2) We ask that Clean Water Services come to the partner cities at least annually to present information pertaining to the rates and any proposed rate adjustments.
- 3) We ask that Clean Water Services initiate with the partner cities an exploration of centralizing billing services in-house.
- 4) We ask that Clean Water Services commits to transparency and upholding Oregon public records and meetings laws with regards to the Clean Water Insurance Company, regardless of where the company is based.

It is so important that we get this right, because getting it wrong has dire consequences for all of us. Thank you for your partnership, and thank you for your consideration.