

Utilities Finances Overview

Presentation to Environmental Services Commission

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Direction Needed from Commission

- No action required
- Informational briefing on Utilities finances



Agenda

- **Sources of Revenues**
- **Uses of Revenues**
- **Financial Policies:**
 1. Rates and Rate Levels
 2. Reserves Management
 3. Capital Investment
- **Rate Setting**

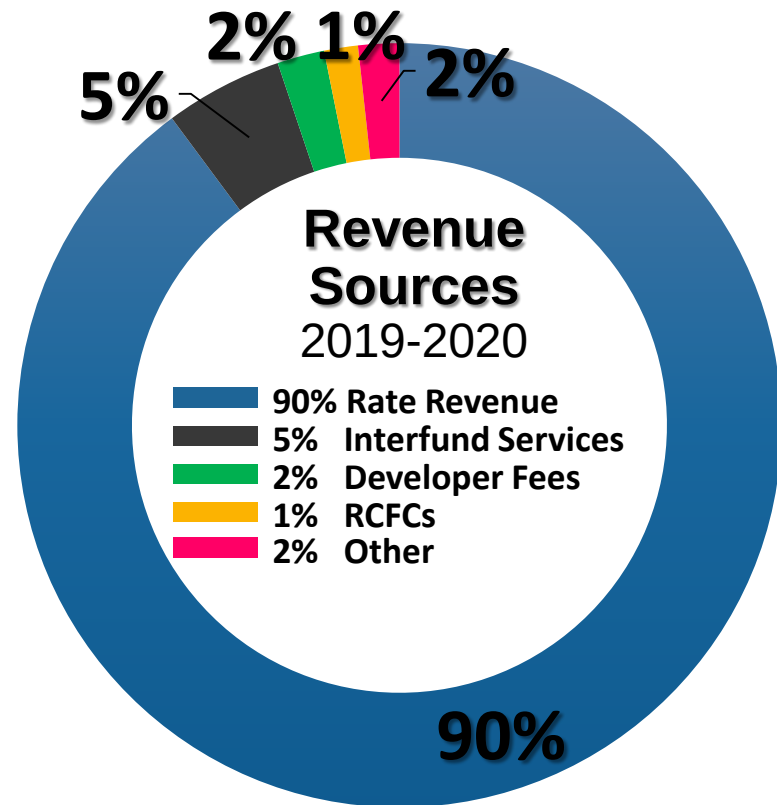


Sources of Revenue

Utilities Department is...

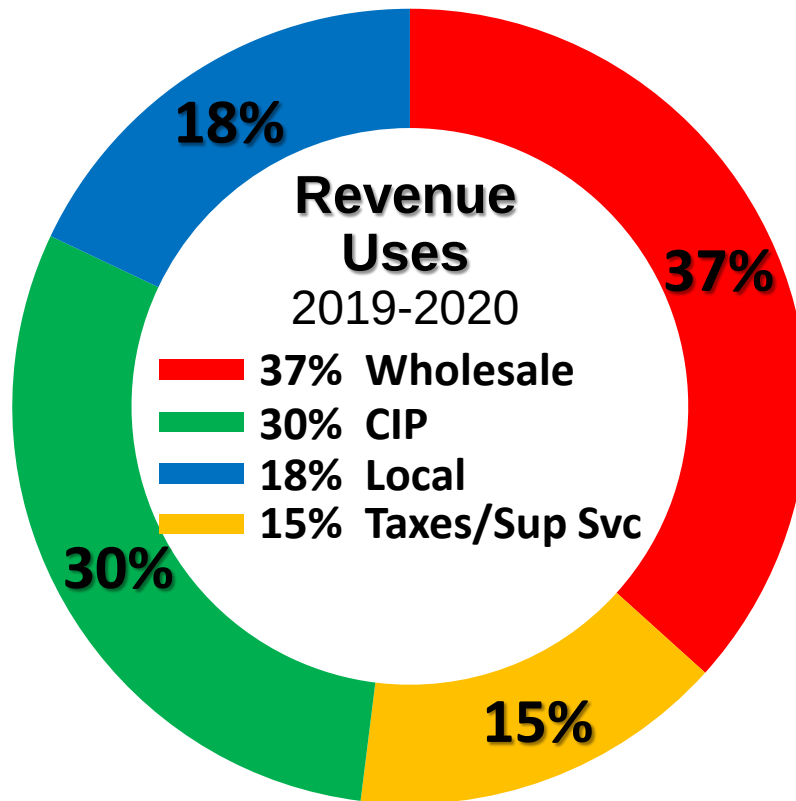
- Enterprise function
- Financially self-supporting
- Out of sight, out of mind
- Services are not scalable
- Fixed costs
- Long-term operating horizon
- Competitive rates

Rates are primary source of revenue



Uses of Revenues

Uses Driven by Wholesale & CIP Costs



Cost Drivers

- Whole sale costs increases
- System failure
- New regulations
- Inflation
- Growth
- Customer expectations & demographics
- Catastrophic events



Financial Policies - Rate Management

Governing Policies for Rates & Rate Levels

- Long term financial planning
- Sufficient to meet current and future expenses
- Gradual and uniform rates
- Wholesale costs passed through
- Equitably recover costs
- Use of savings/one-time revenues



Financial Policies – Reserves Management

Operating Reserves	Asset Replacement Reserves	Capital Renewal & Replacement Reserves
 Working Capital Operating Contingency Plant Emergencies	 Equipment Vehicles Major Software Systems	 Infrastructure i.e. Sewer Lake Lines Water Reservoirs
Minimum & Target Levels	Future Replacement	Intergenerational Equity

Rate Stability & Minimize Service Disruptions



Financial Policies – Reserves Management

2020 Budgeted Year End Reserves (\$M)

	Operating Reserves	Asset Replacement Reserves	Renewal and Replacement Acct
Water	\$10.9	\$4.5	\$23.3
Sewer	\$5.2	\$3.3	\$80.2
Storm	\$1.8	\$4.2	\$70.5
Total	\$17.9	\$12.0	\$174.0

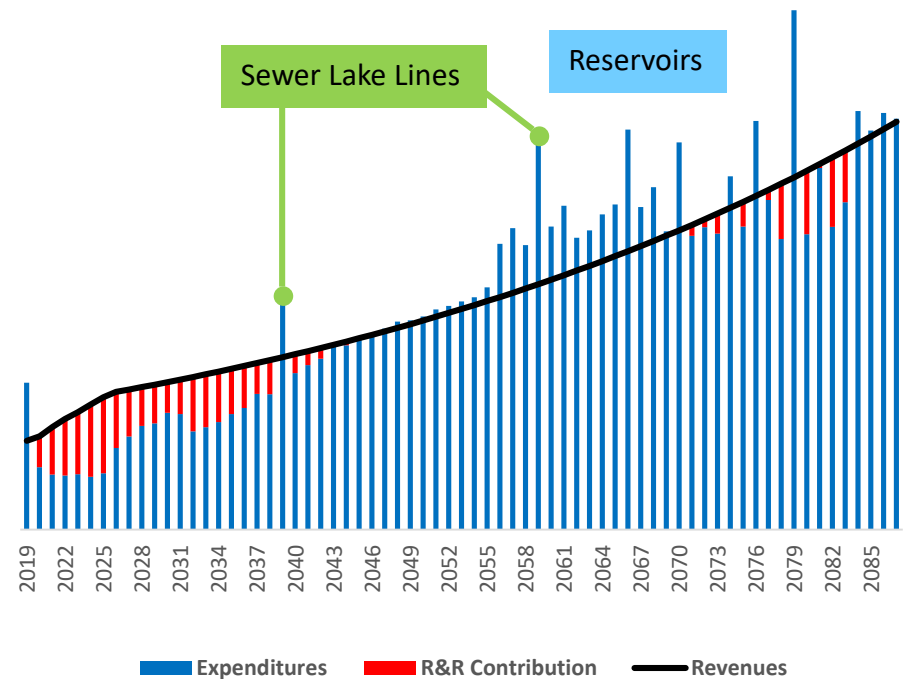


Financial Policies – Capital Investments

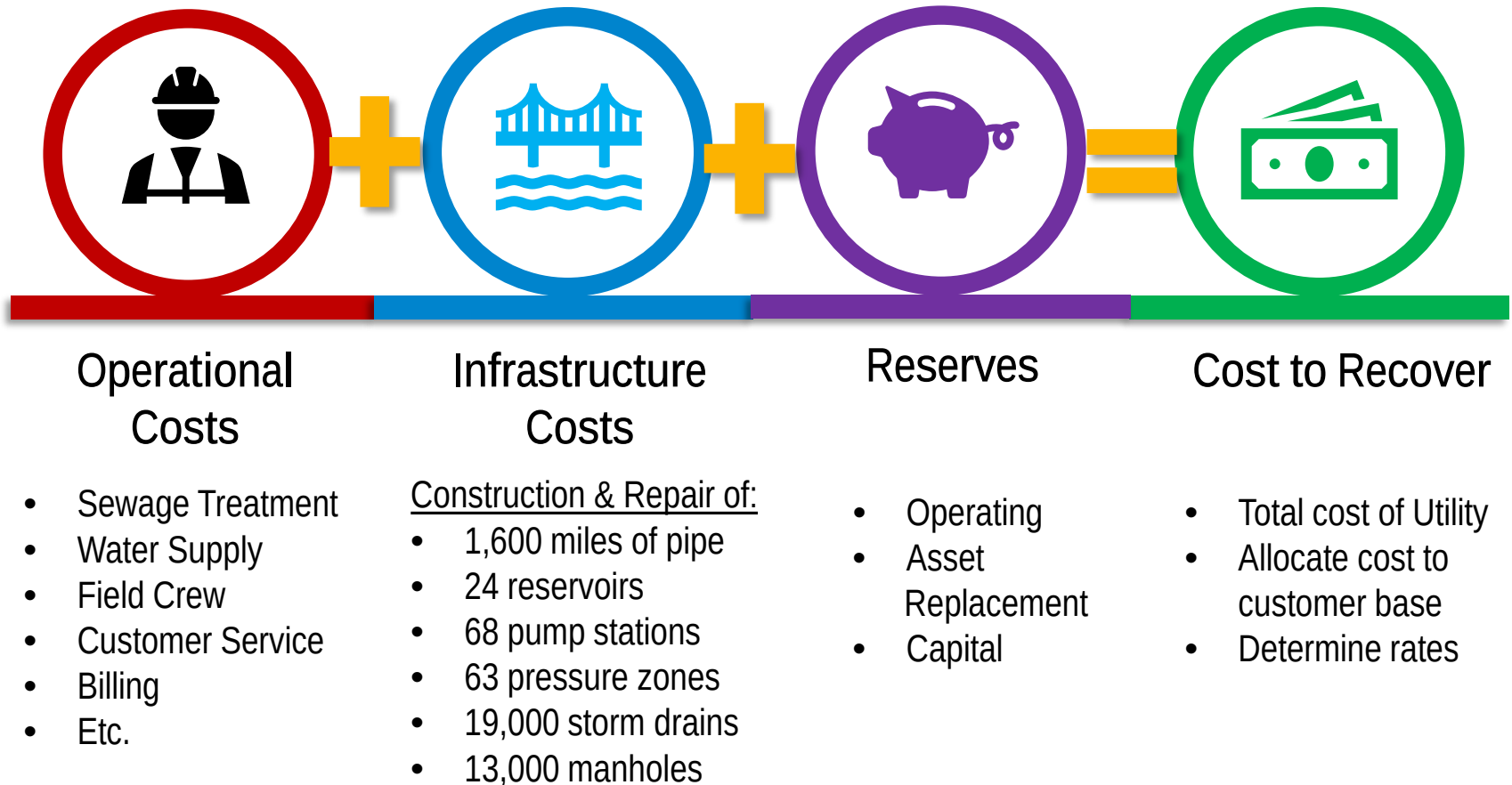
Governing Policies

- Take care of aging infrastructure
- Long-term planning
- Renewal & Replacement (R&R) Account – est. 1995
- Intergenerational Equity
- Avoid rate spikes
- Debt for changed circumstances

75 Year Renewal & Replacement Funding All Funds



Rate Making – What to Recover



Rate Making – How to Recover

Governing Policies for Rate Structure

- **Cost-of-Service**
- **Full Cost Recovery**
- **Rate Equity**
 - *Between customer classes*
 - *Between generations that use system*
- **Rate Uniformity**
- **Rate Assistance**
- **Other Policy Objectives**



Competitive Utility Rates

Water, Sewer, and Storm & Surface Water Utilities 2019 Combined Monthly Bill Comparison

Residential	Multi-Family	Commercial
\$247.92 Seattle	\$2,920 Seattle	\$24,734 Seattle
\$191.80 Mercer Island	\$2,482 Mercer Island	\$22,090 Mercer Island
\$176.40 Bellevue	\$2,238 Kirkland	\$19,568 Kirkland
\$173.21 Kirkland	\$2,211 Issaquah	\$19,158 Bellevue
\$144.69 Issaquah	\$2,080 Redmond	\$18,551 Issaquah
\$132.33 Renton	\$2,046 Bellevue	\$15,984 Redmond
\$114.96 Redmond	\$1,591 Renton	\$14,575 Renton

Source: All rate information was obtained from municipality websites



