

FERNDALE

EDI: WATER TREATMENT PLANT

DOUGLAS DEEP WELL

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

7.23.24



FERNDALE

- Ferndale is an optimistic and reliable growth partner
- A leading small city in planning and development in WA
- One of most rapidly densifying cities
- Central location and developable lands make Ferndale an obvious choice for future growth
- Strategic EDI funding enables continuous momentum



EDI HISTORY

- 2007: Centennial Riverwalk (\$1.2m, 20-year loan)
- 2022: Pandemic era/EDI
 - Emergency Intertie: \$325,000 20-year loan, \$525,000 grant
 - Metalworks Skatepark: \$200,000 grant
 - Church Road Pumpstation: \$250,000 grant



CURRENT REQUEST

- Preparing for Growth: Water Treatment Plant and Well Expansion
- \$3 million total
 - \$2 million loan, \$1 million grant (EDI Board preference)



CURRENT REQUEST

- Water Treatment Plant: Expand existing plant, completes conversion from river to well water
 - Includes 100% Reverse Osmosis Treatment
 - Included in Comprehensive Plan, CEDS
 - Current plant and treatment process supports existing population





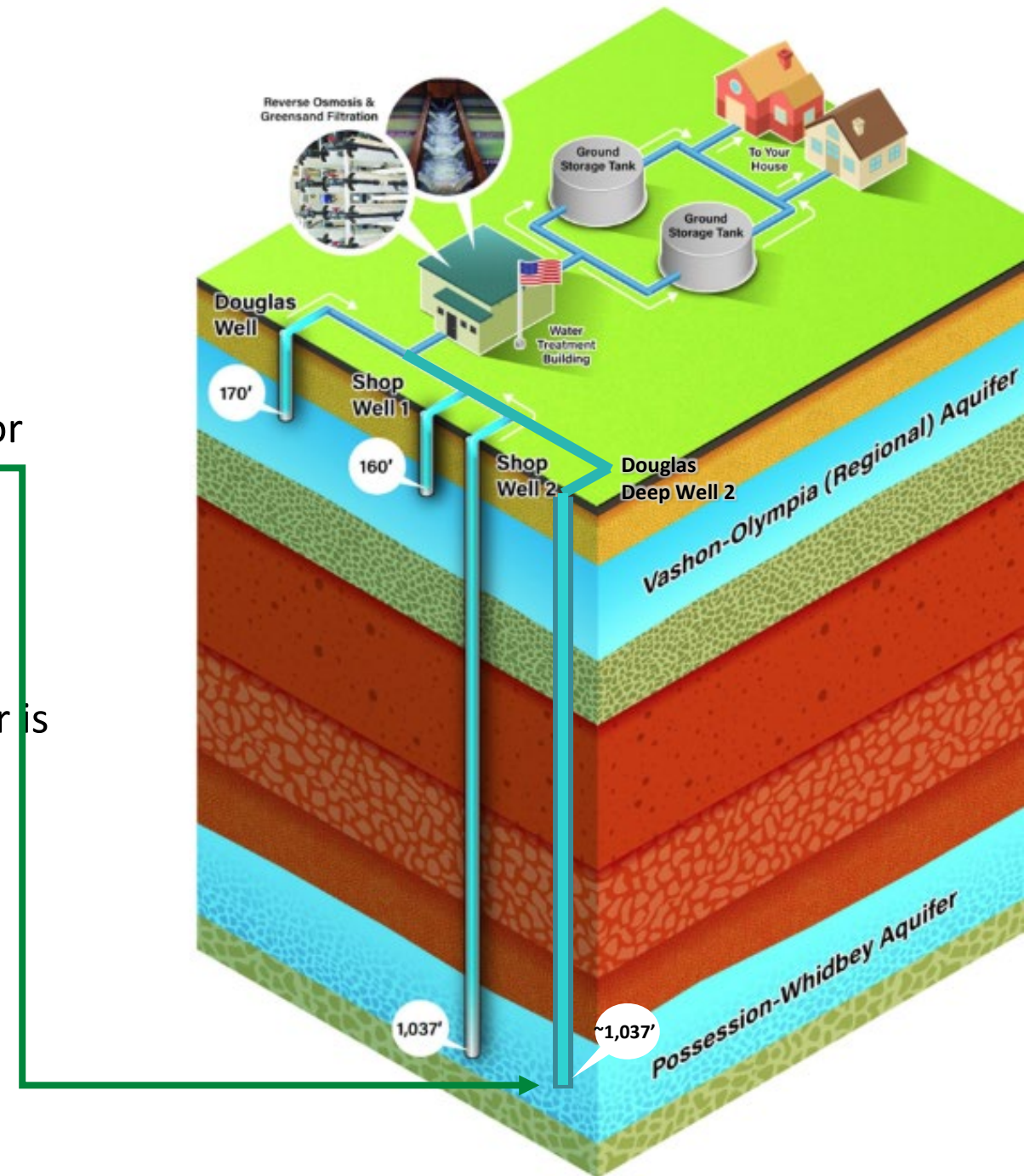
CONTEXT FOR REQUEST

- Upgrades and expansion to City water resources are necessary to support future growth
 - City growth has been rapid, consistent, and according to plan



CURRENT REQUEST

- Douglas Deep Well 2: Provides necessary support for existing Deep Well
- ~2018: Deep aquifer discovered, well drilled
 - City water rights portfolio expanded, all permits are in place
 - Deep aquifer connection to Nooksack River is very limited
 - Well will provide reliable water to meet growth demand
 - Water rights are sufficient to support projected growth



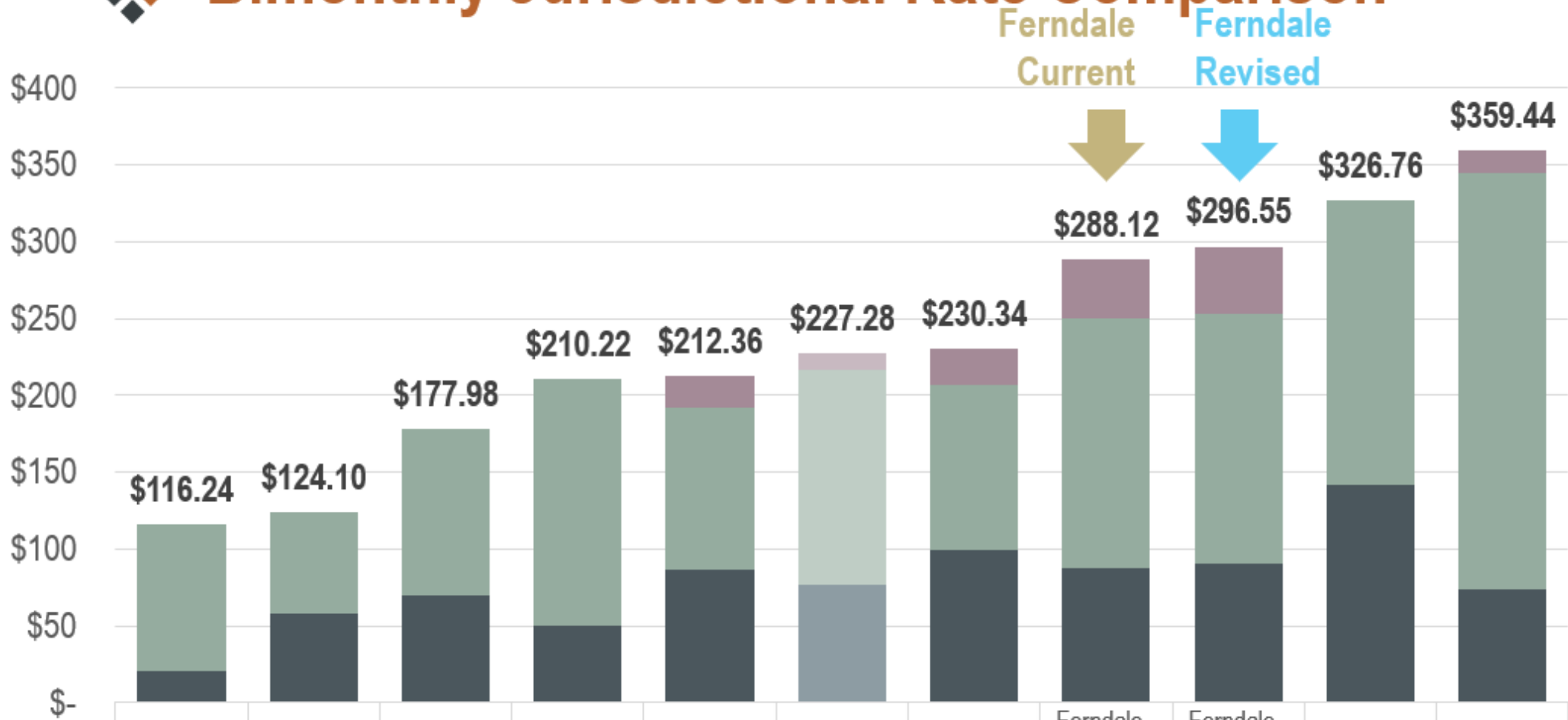
CONTEXT FOR REQUEST

- ~2011: Transition from river to well water
- 2011-2016: Current water projects identified in long-range plans
- 2019: Third party rate study completed
 - 2020: Water and Sewer rates increase by ~50%
- 2022: Sewer Treatment Plant completed (~\$30m – rate funded)
- 2023: Storm rates increase by 14%
- 2024: Ferndale High School completed (~\$100m; School Levy)





Bimonthly Jurisdictional Rate Comparison



	Sumas	Birch Bay	Nooksack	Everson	Lynden	Current Average	Bellingham	Ferndale - Current (2023)	Ferndale - Proposed (2024)	Lake Whatcom	Blaine
Storm	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$20.32	\$10.76	\$23.70	\$38.34	\$43.71	\$-	\$14.52
Sewer	\$95.44	\$66.50	\$107.86	\$160.00	\$105.68	\$140.06	\$107.08	\$162.24	\$162.24	\$184.80	\$270.94
Water	\$20.80	\$57.60	\$70.12	\$50.22	\$86.36	\$76.46	\$99.56	\$87.54	\$90.60	\$141.96	\$73.98
Total	\$116.24	\$124.10	\$177.98	\$210.22	\$212.36	\$227.28	\$230.34	\$288.12	\$296.55	\$326.76	\$359.44

CONTEXT FOR REQUEST

- Current Water Projects were anticipated in water rates, but..
 - Inflation, supply chain, unique well and design requirements increased costs above projections
- Ferndale has not regularly used EDI to support infrastructure projects
- Ferndale rate payers and taxpayers have stepped up to fund infrastructure projects

CONCLUSIONS

- Economic Development is not possible without water
- Projects will provide a durable resource and confidence in Ferndale's ability to grow
- Ferndale's continued growth is significant for the region
- Ferndale taxpayers and rate payers have invested heavily in growth
- EDI funding is important to Ferndale: it validates our investments and supports our growth vision