



*Evergreen*  
**Water & Sewer**  
**DISTRICT 1**

Flathead County Water District No.1  
130 Nicholson Drive  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
P: 406-257-5861  
E: [info@evergreenwaterdistrict.com](mailto:info@evergreenwaterdistrict.com)

**FAQ**

**EVERGREEN WATER & SEWER DISTRICT**

**WASTE WATER TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES STUDY**

**August 21, 2024**

**Main Points**

1. The Evergreen Water & Sewer District is committed to providing safe, reliable, and cost-effective drinking water and wastewater collection services.
2. Our community is growing. Evergreen Water & Sewer District is the largest combined district in the state. For us to ensure safe, reliable, and cost-effective services for Evergreen customers and future generations, we must consider possible alternatives for wastewater treatment.
3. The District has received several grants from the State of Montana to do the study and expects it to be concluded in the next 24 months.
4. There will be opportunities for customer and stakeholder input as the study progresses.

**Study Specifications**

5. The Evergreen Water & Sewer District has issued a Request for Qualifications for a study by an engineering firm to be selected of alternatives to wastewater treatment for current and future District sewer customers. The study will consider numerous factors, including costs and feasibility.
6. The study will examine options for alternative treatment of wastewater, including a possible regional wastewater treatment plant that could serve areas in proximity to Evergreen.
7. The study will also consider renewable energy options for any proposed new plant.

**Current Operations & Regional Considerations**

8. Currently, the City of Kalispell treats all of the District's wastewater from its sewer collection system. The City agreement expires in 2035 but can be renewed.

9. The District's agreement with the City contains a volume cap and a defined service boundary that can only be modified by City Council approval.
10. Wastewater treatment costs and surcharges from the City are approximately 40% of the District's total Operations & Maintenance Budget for its Sewer Utility.
11. Requests to expand the District's boundaries to accommodate growth have not been allowed by the City.
12. In addition to wastewater treatment, the District requires disposal/treatment for septage that is pumped from more than 1,500 septic tanks owned and operated by the District.
13. The septage from tank pumping is currently disposed of in permitted land application sites owned by private septic tank pumpers in Flathead County. The City of Kalispell does not accept any District septage at its wastewater treatment plant.
14. Currently all of the valley corridor around Evergreen, including the Glacier International Airport, is served by septic systems. The Flathead Basin Commission has identified public health and environmental concerns about water quality associated with current and future septic tanks in areas that are in close proximity to the Flathead River.

## **Summary**

Cindy Murray, General Manager, expressed optimism about the study, stating "We want to consider all alternatives for treatment, including continuing as a customer of Kalispell. But we can't ignore the growth pressures and need for a public sewer system in areas outside the boundary allowed by the City that could be served by the District. We're going to have to consider options that best suit the needs of our current and future customers and the environment to support the vitality of Evergreen. We understand that community stakeholders and customers want their input to be considered and we look forward to those discussions as this study progresses."