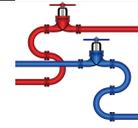


# Gallatin Gateway Water & Sewer District

Serving Gallatin Gateway since 2009

## Sewer Connections



Summer 2014

**Protecting public health by providing affordable, regulatory-compliant wastewater services to the Gallatin Gateway community.**

### Board of Directors:

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### Customer Service:

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### Board of Directors Selects SBR Sewer Treatment Technology & Vendor

At a public meeting held on April 15, 2014, the District's Board of Directors adopted a resolution directing the District's engineers to proceed with a project design incorporating a SBR treatment system manufactured by Xylem, Inc. SBR stands for "Sequencing Batch Reactor", and is a type of wastewater treatment system in which a "batch" of wastewater goes through a series of steps designed to remove pollutants. The end result is cleaned water that is discharged to the ground just like a conventional drainfield. The soil then provides additional purification of the treated water. The Board made the decision after reviewing 9 proposals from 8 suppliers in response to the District's request for qualifications. The proposals represented a wide variety of technologies including 3 SBR systems, 3 Level II systems, and 3 other wastewater treatment systems (2 biorotors and a MBBR). While Level II systems are quite effective at removing nitrogen from raw wastewater, SBR systems remove nitrogen as well as being technologically flexible to remove other nutrients. Because the community has expressed concern about unsightly wastewater ponds or lagoons, the Board made sure that none of the technologies considered would require open ponds.

The exhaustive selection process included a pre-screening followed by selection of the 4 best proposals. The Board considered proposals from the engineer's selection of the top 2 vendors for level II and top 2 SBR systems. Analysis included the initial capital investment, as well as the on-going operation and maintenance (O&M) costs for each type of system. Due to our grant structure, O&M costs have a greater impact on our initial rates than capital costs. At the time the District's Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was completed in 2010, the O&M costs associated with the SBR type system were predicted to cause our initial rates to be too high for the community to support. The 2014 vendor selection process, however, provided new information to the Board; namely, the reliability and level of automation for the new SBR technologies have dramatically reduced the operating costs and skill levels required to operate a SBR system. With this new information in hand, the Board toured multiple facilities, contacted references, always with cost and reliability in mind. The Board reached the conclusion that SBR technology has rapidly improved in both automation and reliability since the PER was written in 2010, and the much reduced O&M costs

has put this advanced technology within reach for the District's users. The Board also noted that an SBR system allows for higher daily flows to accommodate future growth, before a costly system upgrade would be needed. "I'm very pleased that SBR treatment technologies now appear to be affordable for Gallatin Gateway", said the District's General Manager Matt Donnelly. "The goal is to solve the District's health and environmental issues in a way that makes the solution affordable for the community. The Board has always put cost and rates at the forefront of every decision, and this was no different."

The Board cited a number of reasons for choosing the Xylem Sanitaire ICEAS SBR system as the vendor and product of choice, including its efficiency of design resulting in lower consumption of energy and chemicals, as well as Xylem's placement of over 1,000 systems worldwide. More information on the system and the vendor can be found at [www.xyleminc.com](http://www.xyleminc.com).

#### Project News and Updates

*Lawsuit:* In September 2013, Gateway Village, LLC, filed a petition with the Montana 18<sup>th</sup> Judicial District court asking for judicial review of the discharge permit issued by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality ("MDEQ") to the GGWSD ("the District"). Attorneys for Gateway Village, MDEQ and the District have filed written arguments in support and in opposition to the petition. A hearing on the petition is scheduled for August 18, 2014 in Bozeman before District Judge John Brown. Once the matter is submitted to the District Court for decision at the conclusion of the hearing, it is anticipated the Court will make a decision in 30 to 60 days.

*CDBG Grant:* Gallatin County has hired an engineering firm to complete an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the District's sewer project. The EA is one of the steps to be completed before CDBG grant funds can be released. Gallatin County will be paying the costs associated with the development of the

EA, which should be completed in about 90 days, followed by a 60-day public comment period. The CDBG grant is just one piece of the overall funding package. This particular grant is aimed at helping the District's low-to-moderate-income residents by making the rates and assessments more affordable.

Got hungry livestock? GGWSD is seeking assistance from local livestock to graze down vegetation on the future home of its treatment site in Gallatin Gateway. For more information on this please contact Ted Border at [tborder@gatewaywsd.com](mailto:tborder@gatewaywsd.com).

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The Board and Staff of GGWSD wish to thank the residents of Gallatin Gateway for their continued support of its mission to bring a community wastewater system to our community. The current proximity of individual wells to private septic systems presents a threat to human health and safety, and has made new construction or replacement of failed septic systems extremely difficult, due to state and county septic regulations. Many residents have commented to Board members that not only will the sewer system increase their property values, but it will enable them to remodel their homes, upgrade bathrooms, and once again have safe drinking water.

The District's timeline for construction will be clearer once the outcome of the litigation is determined.

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\$6.00/month Benefited lot charge invoice is enclosed. This charge is applied on all platted lots in the District. It is not the same as a "sewer bill". Only properties with sewer connections will be charged for sewer service once it arrives. We are invoicing this \$6 charge quarterly at \$18 per quarter, per platted lot.

If you would like to receive your invoice & communications by email, please email your request to [customerservice@gatewaywsd.com](mailto:customerservice@gatewaywsd.com).