

Charlie Lake Sewer Collection System and Lagoon Upgrades – Frequently Asked Questions



1. Does every lot have to have a pump and tank?

- Yes – A tank is required to collect all of the solids from the sewage because the piping and the Charlie Lake lagoons are not designed to handle these solids.

2. My house/business is higher than the road so can I just connect by gravity?

- No – This is considered a low-pressure sewer system, so each pump is necessary to aid in the transmission of the sewage to the lift station and lagoon. Without each pump the system would not operate as designed.

3. What is the purpose of the proposed upgrades?

- Provide capacity for the next 15 to 20 years
- Provide a more reliable system during peak flow events
- Provide efficient treatment for future increased flows
- Eliminate sewer backups within the existing collection system

4. How much will the upgrades cost?

- Lagoon upgrade \$2.8 Million
- Collection system upgrade \$2.4 Million
- TOTAL **\$5.2 Million**

5. How much will the upgrades cost me?

- There will be no cost to the landowner for the proposed upgrades. The cost will be funded through grants by the PRRD as follows;
 - Federal Gas tax \$2 Million
 - Area C Fair Share Grant \$3.2 Million
 - TOTAL **\$5.2 Million**

6. When future areas or lots are added to the system, who pays for the service?

- For new all new parcels being added to the system, the developer will be required to pay for all development costs where applicable, and also pay a Development Cost Charge (DCC), for each new parcel.

7. Where does the money go from collected DCC fees

- All monies collected from DCC fees will be put into a reserve fund for future capacity upgrades to the system

8. What is being done by the PRRD to address public awareness on sewer system operations and maintenance?

- There will be a public education program developed in 2014 that will provide the public with information on operations of the Charlie Lake Sewer system.

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9. What happens if the project costs are higher than the estimate when the project gets tendered?

- The PRRD would re-evaluate whether additional funds would be available. Additionally, opportunities would be explored to phase the construction of the upgrades.

10. What happens if the project costs are lower than the estimate?

- Those funds would be reallocated to other projects within the PRRD area.

11. What is the homeowner responsible for?

- Homeowners are required to maintain all system components located on their private property including pumps, septic tanks, and service connections to the sewer main. None of the proposed upgrade work will effect household services.

12. What is the parcel tax?

- There will be a \$100-\$150 annual parcel tax applied to each lot in the Charlie Lake service area. This money will establish a Capital Reserves used for future capital works for replacement and upgrade of the existing system. These funds will not be used to subsidize additional capacity needed for new lots.

13. I own several lots within the service area – do I have to pay a parcel tax on each even if they do not have a building?

- Yes – each lot that has access to the sewer system will pay a parcel tax to ensure that that the capital reserves are maintained.

14. Will there still be a user fee?

- Yes. There will still be user fee, billed semi annually, for all buildings that are connected to the sewer system. This is used for current system operation, maintenance and repairs.

For answers to additional questions please contact Shannon Anderson at 1-800-670-7773