



130 Nicholson Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
P: 406-257-5861
E: info@evergreenwaterdistrict.com

February 22, 2024

Re: Septic Tank Pumping Services (2-Year Contract)
Flathead County Water District No. 1 - Evergreen

Bids for the Septic Tank Pumping Service (2-Year Contract) were received and publicly opened on Thursday, February 1, 2024, at 3:00pm (local MT time). At the time of bid opening, one (1) bid was received from A-1 Sanitation. At the time of bid opening, the bid prices were read aloud along with a verification that the bid form was completed as required and any required documentation was submitted with the bid. The bid was determined to be responsive at the time of the bid opening and A-1 Sanitation was determined to be the lowest, responsive bidder with a total bid cost of \$581,360.00.

After considering the bid by A-1 Sanitation along with Staff recommendations at its February 21, 2024 Board meeting, the Board of Directors rejected the sole bid and directed the staff to consider other possible options for the required septic pumping services (ref. Resolution 2024-04).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeff Walla".

Jeff Walla
District Engineer

Encl: Board Resolution 2024-04



Evergreen
Water & Sewer
DISTRICT 1

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RESOLUTION 2024-04

CONSIDERING THE BID OF A-1 SANITATION FOR SEPTIC TANK PUMPING SERVICES

Whereas, the District has contracted with septic tank pumpers with licensed disposal facilities to pump more than 1500 septic tanks owned by the District; and

Whereas, the District issued an Invitation to Bid on January 9, 2024, for Septic Tank Pumping Services; and

Whereas, the District proceeded with the required advertisements of the Invitation to Bid in the Daily Interlake in Flathead County on January 10, 2024, and January 28, 2024, with posting on the District's website; and

Whereas, the District received only one bid form submittal from A-1 Sanitation by the deadline of 3:00 p.m. on February 1, 2024, which was deemed to have been timely submitted and to have met the minimum requirements; and

Whereas, in Fiscal Year 2023 (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023), the District had previously been paying pumpers, including A-1 Sanitation, an average of \$269 for pumping a 1,000 gallon tank with additional surcharges, as appropriate; and

Whereas, the bid by A-1 Sanitation proposed, among other prices, an increase to \$956 per 1,000 gallon tank (more than a 250% increase) with additional surcharges, as appropriate; and

Whereas, an increase of the magnitude contained in the A-1 Sanitation bid would have significant rate impacts for the District's sewer customers and could result in potential surcharges to septic tank customers, including lower-income customers of the District; and

Whereas, after careful consideration, the District Staff is recommending that the Board reject the Bid submitted, which is allowed under the Bid Invitation that provides: "The right is reserved to reject any or all proposals received . . ."; and

Whereas, after careful consideration, the District Staff is recommending that all possible options for septic tank pumping be considered to provide the District with services that are reliable, economical, and promote public health and safety; and

Whereas, the District remains committed to its support of Flathead County's proposed Septage Treatment Plant, which the Board has supported in Resolution 2023-13 to provide alternative septage disposal for the benefit of the District's customers and ratepayers as well as other residents of Flathead County.

Resolution 2024-04

Concerning the Bid of A-1 Sanitation for Septic Tank Pumping Services

February 21, 2024


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors approves the recommendations of the District Staff, formally rejects the Bid for Septic Tank Pumping Services submitted by A-1 Sanitation on February 1, 2024, and directs the District Staff to consider all possible options for required services; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board formally requests Flathead County to expedite the Septage Treatment Plant project for the benefit of the District's customers and ratepayers as previously detailed in Resolution 2023-13, which is attached to this Resolution, and directs District Staff to send this Resolution to the Flathead County Commissioners.

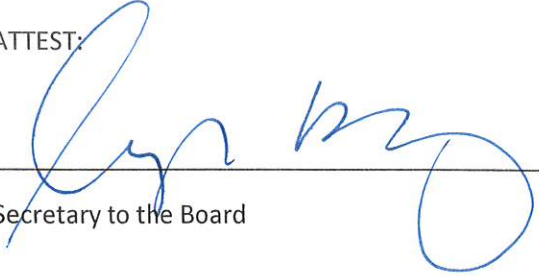
Dated: February 21, 2024

FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #1 - EVERGREEN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

By: _____


B.J. Lupton,
President

ATTEST:



Secretary to the Board

Attachment: Resolution 2023-13



Evergreen
Water & Sewer
DISTRICT 1

RESOLUTION 2023- 13

SUPPORT FOR THE

PROPOSED FLATHEAD COUNTY SEPTAGE TREATMENT PLANT AND COMPOSTING FACILITY

Whereas, the Board of Directors of the Flathead County Water District #1 - Evergreen ("District") has been following very closely the County's initiative to build a Septage Treatment Plant and Composting Facility ("Project") in the Flathead Valley using ARPA funding; and

Whereas, on July 12, 2023, B.J. Lupton, Vice-President, sent a letter of support for the Project to the Flathead County Commissioners; and

Whereas, at various Flathead County Commission meetings, General Manager, Cindy Murray, has provided significant supportive testimony on behalf of the District Staff; and

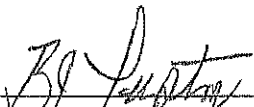
Whereas, the District Staff has developed "Talking Points" to provide background and support for this Project, which are attached to this Resolution as Exhibit "A"; and

Whereas, considering the great value this Project will have for the District and the extreme urgency to complete the Project due to deadlines for the use of ARPA funding.

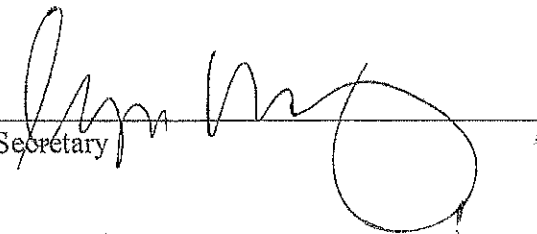
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors urges the Flathead County Commission to take all appropriate action to encourage and push this Project forward to completion at the earliest possible time.

Signed August 16, 2023

FLATHEAD COUNTY WATER DISTRICT #1 – EVERGREEN

By: 

Title: PRESIDENT

Attest: 
Secretary



Evergreen
Water & Sewer
DISTRICT 1

**SUPPORT FOR THE FLATHEAD COUNTY SEPTAGE TREATMENT FACILITY
TALKING POINTS**

COUNTY

Septage is pumped waste from septic tanks, porta-potties, and Vacor trucks that are used to clean or repair sewer facilities of municipalities, HOA's, and districts such as Evergreen.

Environmental regulations are increasingly focused on land applications and soon may mandate that all septage be treated in a facility.

The County has been given federal and state funds to acquire property and to build a septage treatment plant. The County will purchase a suitable location for this facility considering many factors.

Time is of the essence due to the deadlines for use of the ARPA funding.

The County's plant will serve the entire valley and treat sludge produced by all the wastewater treatment plants in Kallispell, Whitefish, and Columbia Falls, reducing the impacts on the landfill.

The plant will turn septage and sludge into compost that is safe to use on lawns and flower gardens. Septage is a win-win for everyone.

DISTRICT

Currently the District contract with two providers who pump the tanks and then land-apply the septage at a licensed dumpsite in the Valley.

The District owns 1500 septic tanks that generate septage. That is nearly 2/3rds of the Evergreen's sewer system making the District the largest septage producing utility in the Flathead Valley.

Annual septage generated by the District from septic tank pumping alone is approximately 350,000 gallons per year.

For the usage and reliable operation of the sewer system, the District needs a septage treatment plant.

Building a plant just for the District would severely increase sewer rates for Evergreen customers. A county-wide solution for septage treatment is also the best solution for the District.

The District will continue to use local providers for the septage pumping when it is feasible and cost effective so the septage treatment plant will not put tank pumpers out of business.

OTHER SUPPORTERS

Environmental groups such as the Flathead Lakers and many other community stakeholders support this project.

The Flathead Basin Commission, which focuses on protection of the water resources in the Valley, supports the project and has provided additional grant funding to the County.