

# LAKESIDE COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

## WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADE PROJECT

April 2024 Newsletter

### WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

The Lakeside County Water and Sewer District (LCWSD) Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project includes **two phases**.

- 💧 The **first phase** includes construction of a new **screening and grit removal facility** which will be constructed at the LCWSD's existing wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) site to screen raw septage and remove inorganic materials such as plastics and grit. Additionally, a new Septage Receiving and Treatment Facility (SRTF) will include a **septage unloading site** where septage pumped from septic tanks within Flathead County can be disposed. The septage facility will not be operational until Phase II is completed.
- 💧 A **second phase** will include construction of a **specialized wastewater treatment facility** that will treat LCWSD's normal wastewater flows along with septage. This facility will provide higher levels of treatment using the latest technologies compared to what is provided today by the current treatment. Relatively, the septage will be a small proportion of wastewater received by LCWSD daily.

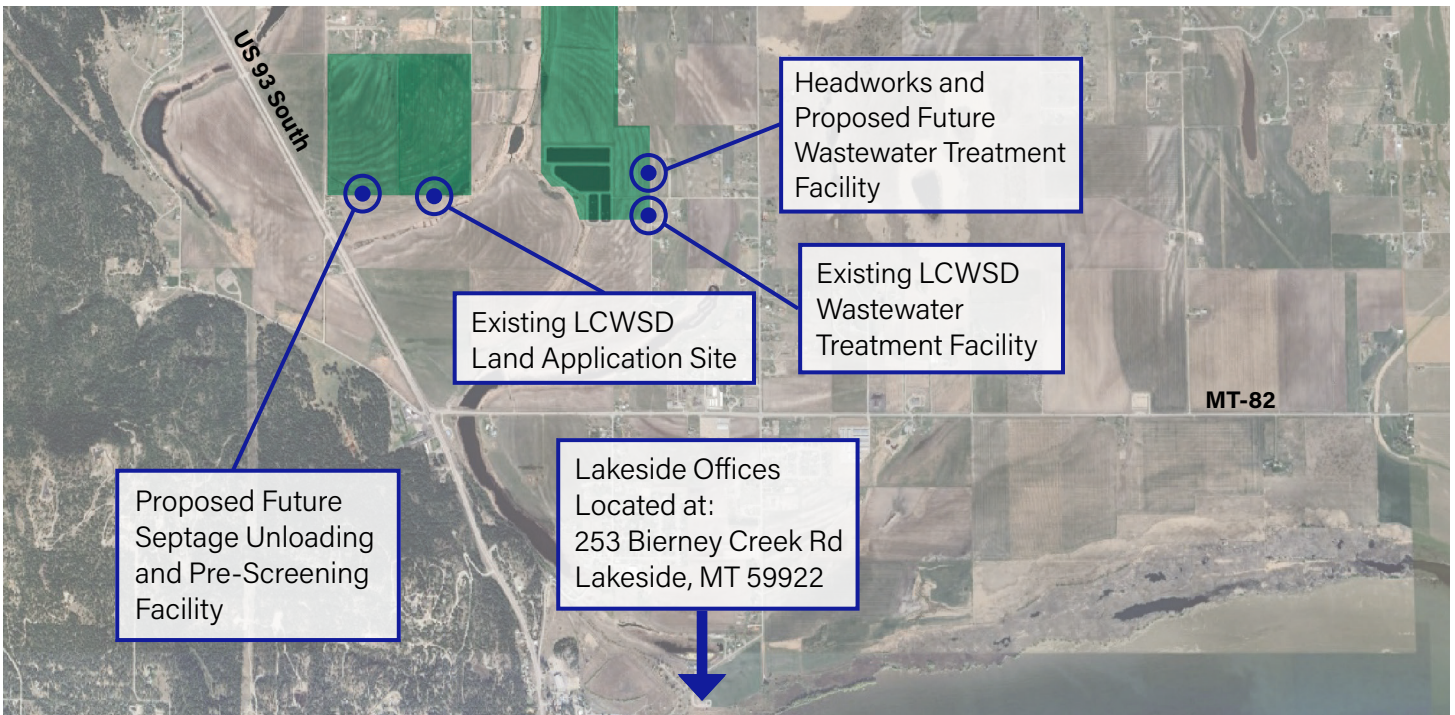
### WHY IS THIS PROJECT NEEDED?

After nearly 40 years of service, the original LCWSD wastewater treatment system is nearing the end of its useful life and has very little capacity to accept additional wastewater from ongoing growth and development in the area. Additionally, material from onsite wastewater treatment systems (commonly called septic systems) must be pumped regularly, and limited options are currently available for treatment and disposal within Flathead County. A **single combined facility** is the most efficient, economical solution to treat septage generated within the County while simultaneously increasing municipal wastewater treatment capacity for the LCWSD.

This project is needed to serve current residents and businesses and **accommodate anticipated future residential and commercial growth** expected in the coming years within Flathead County and the LCWSD boundaries. Upgraded and expanded wastewater treatment capacity will responsibly serve the regional community while continuing to **protect Flathead Lake and the surrounding natural environment**.

### WHERE IS THE PROJECT LOCATED?

The new Septage Receiving and Treatment Facility (SRTF) will be located west of the existing LCWSD wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) on property owned by the District.



## WHO ARE THE PROJECT PARTNERS?

LCWSD is leading development of the WWTF project. Under an Interlocal Agreement signed on **March 19, 2024**, Flathead County will pay LCWSD to design, construct, operate, and maintain the new SRTF<sup>2</sup>, which is an addition to the project the District was previously planning. Robert Peccia & Associates (RPA) is the engineering firm contracted to provide design services to LCWSD.



## CONTACTS



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## HOW MUCH WILL THE NEW FACILITIES COST? WHO IS PROVIDING THE FUNDING?

The total project (both phases) is estimated to cost \$26-\$30 million to design and construct.

Flathead County has received grant funding from multiple sources, including the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Additional grant funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Western Montana Conservation Commission (WMCC) is pending. Under the terms of the **March 19, 2024** Interlocal Agreement, Flathead County will make periodic payments to LCWSD as design and construction is completed. LCWSD has also received funding that will be used for the project.

## WHAT IS THE ANTICIPATED PROJECT TIMELINE?



## WHO IS OVERSEEING THE PROJECT?

LCWSD is required to provide quarterly progress reports to Flathead County outlining the expenditure of funds.

Additionally, LCWSD is required to obtain all necessary project permits, including a Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) discharge permit. No septage will be received at the LCWSD facility until the project design is approved by DEQ and construction of the Phase I and Phase II facilities has been completed. If LCWSD fails to obtain necessary permits, Flathead County may provide written notice of default and seek reimbursement of project funds.

To submit comments, access project documents, review Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and learn more about the project, please visit: [rpa-hln.com/lcwssd](https://rpa-hln.com/lcwssd)

<sup>1</sup>Source: Flathead County Regional Septage Treatment Facility website, <https://flathead.mt.gov/department-directory/commissioners-office/project-and-engineering/septage-treatment>, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), accessed April 2024.

<sup>2</sup>Source: Flathead County Regional Septage Treatment Facility website, <https://flathead.mt.gov/department-directory/commissioners-office/project-and-engineering/septage-treatment>, Lakeside County Water and Sewer District Interlocal Agreement - March 19, 2024, accessed April 2024.