

City Engineer Memo

To: Mayor Susan McBryant

CC: City Council Members

From: Tom Hellen, City Engineer

Date: 12/20/2007

Re: Wastewater Treatment Plant Information

The purpose of this memo is to provide information regarding the use and capacity of the Woodside Wastewater Treatment Plant in light of the recent requests for service outside the city limits. This is a complicated issue with a number of unknowns but I will do my best to explain.

We are currently working on the Wastewater Master Plan update. Similar to the Transportation Master Plan this is a 20 year plan addressing population growth, existing systems conditions and future alternatives. A draft of the 1st Technical Memorandum has been submitted and provides the future growth projections and the planning criteria. Of note is their projection that the current plant will reach its 1.6 MGD capacity in 2024. This is based upon a growth rate of 4.5%, a mid-range value.

Currently the average daily flow to the plant is 630,000 gallons. This is 39% of the 1.6 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) rated capacity. With an estimated current population of 8,500 we are at 70% of the design population of 12,300.

The treatment plant design information also points out a change when the flow exceeds 1 MGD. At that point chemical addition becomes necessary to maintain our discharge limits. In addition, what is not known is any changes in our discharge permit necessitating additional measures to maintain our process. The Big Wood River has been designated as the State's only "Significant Resource Water", is on the list of impaired waters (Section 303(d)) and is in the middle of a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Level) implementation study. Both phosphorus and temperature limits could possibly be tightened as the TMDL implementation plan moves forward. Such a limit would put a maximum amount on our total phosphorus daily discharge irrespective of our treatment plant flows and would require higher levels of treatment. This will definitely have an impact upon us both operationally and financially.

In addition to concerns regarding the treatment plant we also need to remember that the collection system would be impacted. The main sewer trunk line from Bullion St. south along the river to the pump station by Heagle Park is adequate at this time to handle the flows. However, Old Cutters and Peregrine Ranch will add

to this line. Combine that with additional flows out of Croy Canyon and my concerns over pipeline and pump station capacity increase. While it will always be the council's determination of who to allow to connect into the wastewater system and policy can be set to control connections that policy could always change in the future. Any design for a sewer trunk line out of Croy Canyon needs to consider the ultimate development of Croy Canyon. With sufficient development out Croy Canyon another trunk line to the treatment plant should be considered. In that light any future connection in Croy Canyon should be required to provide additional funds for this trunk line.

In conclusion, there is not a simple answer to the question of what is our wastewater treatment plant capacity. Because of the unknowns in both population growth rates and future regulatory requirements I would recommend that caution be exercised in any policy put forth on allowing areas outside the city to connect. I would also look to the funds made available by these connections as a means to alleviate the citizens of Hailey from bearing the full burden of necessary additions to the plant.