



*Evergreen*  
**Water & Sewer**  
DISTRICT 1 ©

130 Nicholson Drive  
Kalispell, MT 59901  
P: 406-257-5861  
E: [info@evergreenwaterdistrict.com](mailto:info@evergreenwaterdistrict.com)

July 12, 2023

By email and regular mail transmission

Flathead County Commissioners  
Honorable Brad Able, Chairman,  
Honorable Randy Brodehl,  
Honorable Pam Holmquist

800 South Main St.  
Kalispell, Montana 59901

Dear Commissioners:

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. At various Commission meetings, our General Manager, Cindy Murray, has provided significant supportive testimony on behalf of the District Board and Staff.

As we consider the great value this Project will have to not only the District, but most of our citizens, we recognize that there is an extreme urgency due to deadlines for the use of ARPA funding. In recognition of the value of this Project, coupled with the urgency of the ARPA timing, I write to urge the Commission to take all appropriate action to encourage and push this Project forward to completion at your earliest possible time. As an attachment, you will find 'talking points' our Staff and I have developed which provide background and support for the Project. At our next Board of Directors meeting on August 16th I intend to propose a resolution of support.

In the meantime, various Board members have expressed a desire to visit with each of you concerning this Project. We look forward to these conversations. The Staff and I stand ready to provide any other information and support that would be

helpful. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your leadership of our Flathead County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. J. Lupton". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

B. J. Lupton, Vice President  
Flathead County Water District #1 - Evergreen

# **SUPPORT FOR THE FLATHEAD COUNTY SEPTAGE TREATMENT FACILITY**

## **TALKING POINTS**

### **COUNTY**

Septage is pumped waste from septic tanks, porta-potties, and Vactor 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 can treat sludge produced by all the wastewater treatment plants in Kalispell, 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 1600 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.