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The following is a summary of questions and answers for topics raised at the District's Collection Workshop held on August 21, 2024. The workshop featured Tristian Bounds from REGEN, Carrie Poytress from Stantec, and Facilitator Geoff Green. To watch the workshop in its entirety visit our website ([click here](#)).

Gravity-fed collection

Could the gravity lines be sized to prevent or limit growth or additional ADUs on properties?

The District would size the gravity system to support the number and figures in the Basis of Design Document ([click here](#)). The calculations included some ADUs. The details of how the calculations were made can be found in the document.

Does the Gravity estimate include removal of existing septic tanks?

No. In many cases, the existing tank will be abandoned in place by punching holes in the bottom of the existing tanks and filling the tank with gravel or other suitable substances.

Effluent collection

Is the Effluent system metered and if so, is there a tiered cost system that will be in effect?

The system is not metered in the classic sense. But, there would be different cost tiers implemented depending on use. For example, residential homes will pay less than commercial parcels. Similarly, hotels will pay more than office spaces.

Didn't I hear that some parcels do not have the space for Effluent system tanks?

This was previously a concern. However, REGEN examined the small and constrained lots in our community and confirmed that Effluent tanks can be properly situated on every parcel.

REGEN presented four different approaches to using Effluent sewers, with large cost differences. It seems like Option B (all Effluent) is the most comparable with Gravity systems. Is this true?

Yes. While not 100% an apples-to-apples comparison, the Effluent Option B costs of \$21,637,095 can reasonably be compared to the Gravity costs of \$27,938,000. They are comparable because both estimates use only one collection approach and cover all the parcels in the District. Thus, Effluent for the entire District is estimated to be \$6.3 million less for initial construction than Gravity.

It looks like Option C (hybrid Effluent) is more expensive than just doing Gravity. Is that true? Yes. Effluent Option C (\$29,798,728), which includes gravity, effluent, and advanced on-site systems is roughly \$1.9 million more expensive than Gravity.

Does the existing septic tank remain on my property continue to operate or is it replaced?

With Effluent systems, there is a tank. If your existing septic tank is relatively new, it can probably be retrofitted for use with an Effluent system. Older tanks will have to be replaced. Prior to implementation, each tank will need to be evaluated by the District to determine whether or not it can be reused.

With an Effluent sewer, can tanks be placed in the public right of way?

Unlikely. Early responses from the County are that they would not allow the District to place tanks in public rights of way such as along roadsides. Based on REGEN's examination, we believe there is sufficient room on every parcel for an Effluent tank.

Will the Effluent tank be put where my septic tank is placed or will it be in a different spot?

On most parcels, the Effluent tank will be placed where your septic tank currently sits. However, in some cases, the Effluent tank may not be in the same location as your septic tank due to required setbacks from drinking water mains (25 foot minimum).

Are there continued restrictions on what I can do in my yard with an Effluent system? For instance, I was not able to install a pool due to my leach lines.

Yes, there would be continued restrictions and you would not be able to build over the top of your Effluent tank. If your proposed pool was not over the top of your tank, it is possible that you may be able to build it, as your leach lines would go away or be unused (depending on your particular situation).

Does the pump on an Effluent tank make noise?

Yes, but it is pretty quiet. You might hear the occasional "click" when the pump kicks on.

Do Effluent tanks smell?

Odors from Effluent tanks are contained, like your septic tank. If the tank is opened, it does smell. But, tanks will only be open during pumping and some maintenance activities.

Are there additional costs for an Effluent system over a Gravity system?

Both systems have required maintenance approaches and associated costs. Effluent systems require an electrical connection at your home and must be regularly pumped (similar to your existing septic tank). Heavier use will result in higher maintenance costs for individual property owners. Gravity systems have essentially zero maintenance on your property, but require more maintenance on the community collection lines.

Who will own the equipment on my property if we go with an Effluent system?

That determination has not been made. Some owners would like the District to own the systems and others would rather own and maintain the systems themselves. We do know that we would need to negotiate access on your property if the system is owned by the District.

General Wastewater or Collection (or other areas)

Where can I view the slides presented at the Collections Workshop?

They are posted on the District's website, under Special Meetings ([click here](#)).

Do we know how much wastewater we need to process daily?

Yes. The daily flows and related calculations are different for Effluent and Gravity systems, with Effluent resulting in lower daily flows. The full calculations can be found on the District's Studies and Reports page ([click here](#)). The Effluent calculations can be [found here](#) and Gravity calculations [found here](#).

Is there a date for decision on Collection?

No. We need to learn more about Treatment and Disposal before we make a final decision on Collection. We expect to make a preliminary decision on all three (Collection, Treatment, and Disposal) in early 2025.

Can you use a trenchless system to lay down pipe for Effluent and Gravity systems?

Yes. If we use an Effluent system, it is likely that all pipes will be installed using a trenchless approach. With Gravity, we will use trenchless where it makes sense and where it is cheaper than digging trenches.

A show of hands requesting which way people were “leaning” between choosing a Gravity system or an Effluent system.

By a large majority, those present were leaning towards Gravity collection.

General Questions

Can wastewater be sent uphill from a pump station?

Yes. Moving wastewater uphill is a primary function of a pump station.

If we have a pump station at the southern end of the District and we treat locally, are there any restrictions or considerations we should understand with respect to where the treatment facility is located?

Treatment will be discussed more at a future workshop. However, as noted, a pump station would allow a treatment facility to be located anywhere.

Who is responsible for zoning and approving construction in Los Olivos?

The County of Santa Barbara has this responsibility. Because Los Olivos is not an incorporated city, all zoning and zoning enforcement is the County’s responsibility.

Will the District seek grants for construction?

Yes.

Will the District seek grants for construction that include water reuse?

Yes.

For new advanced on-site treatment, can existing leach lines be used?

It depends on the size, capacity, and state of the existing leach lines. If they are in good shape, they can be reused. The decision about whether existing leach lines can be reused is made by County Environmental Health, not the District.

Can property owners who are not residents of Los Olivos vote?

Yes. The Proposition 218 benefit assessment election is a vote of all property owners, regardless of whether they reside in the district, not registered voters. Renters who live in Los Olivos cannot vote in the Proposition 218 election. If you want to learn more about Proposition 218, we encourage you to watch the video of the presentation on August 14, 2024 ([click here](#)) or read the State of California Legislative Analyst’s Office overview ([click here](#)).