



Gleneden Sanitary District

PO Box 96

Gleneden Beach, OR 97388

541-764-2475

Wastewater Treatment Facilities Fact Sheet May 2023

Timeline

1. **March 1, 2022:** The Depoe Bay City Council voted to terminate the 46-year-old agreement with the Gleneden Sanitary District (GSD) for wastewater treatment. The termination takes effect in five years. Depoe Bay stated that they are concerned about the capacity of their system and moving GSD off of wastewater treatment will extend the life of their treatment facilities.
2. **March 14, 2022:** The attorney representing GSD sent a letter to the Depoe Bay attorney detailing GSD's concerns regarding the termination.
3. **April 6, 2022:** GSD received a response from the Depoe Bay attorney stating the district had no standing to contest the termination.
4. **May 2022 - December 2022:** Over a period of several months in 2022, the GSD board made efforts to communicate with the Depoe Bay City Council but no discussions occurred.
5. **January 2023:** the GSD Board sent a letter to the Depoe Bay City Council requesting a meeting to discuss the following:
 - a. Re-establishing a positive working relationship
 - b. Understanding both agencies perspectives and needs
 - c. Developing a joint process and timeline for making recommendations to both agencies
6. **February 21, 2023:** GSD board members attended a joint meeting with the Depoe Bay City Council. However, the Council made clear that they were not interested in a joint working relationship with GSD to address the issues. Without Depoe Bay's participation in a negotiation, the board could not move forward.
7. **March 2023:** GSD received a final draft plan for a new wastewater treatment plant. The plan was developed over a multi-year period by Civil West Engineering Services and pre-dates the Depoe Bay Termination. The plan was submitted to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for their review and GSD is awaiting their response. A copy of the plan is available to view at <https://www.glenedensanitary.com/wastewater-treatment-facility-plan/>
8. **April 2023:** GSD board members attended a town hall in Newport held by the state Ways and Means Committee and requested \$3.5 million in seed funding to create construction documents and purchase land in anticipation of having to build a new plant



Gleneden Sanitary District

PO Box 96

Gleneden Beach, OR 97388

541-764-2475

Frequently Asked Questions

- 1. What happens when the five-year termination is up in 2027?** GSD will not have a new plant constructed and ready to operate by the 2027 deadline. Depoe Bay can't shut off GSD customers but Depoe Bay will be able to raise rates significantly once the agreement is terminated. GSD has no idea what Depoe Bay will charge GSD customers. They can continue to do this until GSD has constructed a new plant.
- 2. Why didn't GSD find another wastewater district to work with?** GSD contacted all districts locally that might be partners but none of them had the capacity or willingness to work with GSD.
- 3. How much is a new wastewater treatment facility plant going to cost?** Current estimates are that it will cost between \$35 million and \$40 million if construction begins before 2027. There is additional information in the executive summary in the plan.
- 4. How much will my rates go up with a new wastewater treatment plant?** This will depend on how much GSD is able to finance through grant dollars and other non-reimbursable funding sources. Rates will increase similarly whether GSD builds a new plant or stays with Depoe Bay after the termination period. GSD continues to pursue both state and federal infrastructure dollars to help defray construction costs and keep rate increases as low as possible.
- 5. What happens next?** GSD is meeting with neighborhood groups and HOAs in the district to raise awareness about the facility plan and the potential need to build a new plant. GSD is also waiting for comments on the facility plan from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Once those are received, GSD will begin meetings with various financing agencies in the state, pursue infrastructure grants and loans, evaluate the need for a local election measure, and determine what other financing options are available. Public meetings will continue throughout the process to keep district customers informed.
- 6. Where can I get more information?** You can find the most up-to-date information on the Gleneden Sanitary District website at www.glenedensanitary.com. District board meetings are also open to the public and are held at 4:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month at the district office located at:

6595 Gleneden Beach Loop
Gleneden Beach, OR 97388
(541) 764-2475