



Summit City Wastewater Feasibility Study

Frequently Asked Questions

- What is the Summit City Wastewater Feasibility Study?

A large portion of the western side of the City of Shasta Lake (City), known as the Summit City area, is not currently served by the existing wastewater collection system. Due to the age, known problems, and restrictive county and state regulations for repairing and replacing existing septic systems, the City has determined that a feasibility study for converting the project area from septic to sewer is warranted. The City has received Regional Early Action Planning (REAP) grant funding in order to complete this study.

The City has contracted with PACE Engineering, Inc. (PACE) to complete the study, which would investigate the existing need, determine the level of community support, identify environmental constraints, and develop project alternatives for constructing a sewer system in the Summit City area.

- Is the City constructing a sewer system in the Summit City area?

Currently, there is no project to construct. The goal of this study is to develop feasible project alternatives that the City Council may choose to proceed with based on the community's needs and desires.

- Why is the City studying this now?

The City became aware of an unprecedented grant program that benefits communities in need by converting on-site septic systems to a municipal wastewater collection system. The City has obtained separate grant funding for this feasibility study to analyze a potential septic to sewer project in the Summit City area and will pursue grant funds for the construction of a sewer system if directed by the City Council.

- How will the City determine project need?

PACE investigated extending sewer to the Summit City area in 1997. Water quality testing and surveys conducted in 1997 determined that septic systems were failing in the area but could not quantify the problem. Grant funding opportunities in 1997 were not as favorable, and a sewer was not constructed. PACE will evaluate existing conditions in the Summit City area to determine if there are issues related to water quality and public health. Methods to achieve this include water quality testing, questionnaires, and community meetings.

- What is the typical lifespan of a septic system?

A septic system, if properly maintained, can last 30 to 50 years.

- What is the typical cost to replace a septic system?

The replacement cost for a typical septic system ranges from \$20,000 to \$50,000. However, some lots in the Summit City area may be too small to install a replacement septic system.

- Will the water quality testing results be available to the public?

Yes. The results will be presented at the Community Meeting in May, and results will be posted at the Summit City Post Office, Drive-in-Market, and the City's project website, <https://cityofshastalake.org/1247/Summit-City-Wastewater-Feasibility-Study>.

- Where can I obtain a copy of the survey to fill out?

The survey is posted on the City's project website, <https://cityofshastalake.org/1247/Summit-City-Wastewater-Feasibility-Study>, and hard copies are located at City Hall and the Summit City Post Office.

- What is the schedule for this study?

The study will be occurring through 2023 and will finish with a presentation to City Council in December 2023. The detailed schedule for this study, including upcoming project events, is posted to the City's project website, <https://cityofshastalake.org/1247/Summit-City-Wastewater-Feasibility-Study>.

- Is the City going to connect all residents to sewer?

The feasibility study will identify options for extending sewer to all residents and develop project alternatives that are tailored to the community's needs and support. Ultimately, the City Council will be responsible for determining if a project will move forward and what the project limits will be.

- Does the City's wastewater treatment plant have enough capacity to handle wastewater from Summit City?

The feasibility study will determine the existing capacity and potential future needs of the wastewater treatment plant as a result of each potential project alternative. Current funding will pay for required improvements to the WWTP.

- Will the available grant funding pay for any needed improvements or capacity upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant?

Yes, the project will pay for any improvements to serve the septic-to-sewer project, including capacity improvements at the wastewater treatment plant.

- Will the City raise property taxes or other taxes to pay for the sewer?

No. This feasibility study does not include construction of City infrastructure; however, if the City Council chooses to pursue the construction of a municipal wastewater collection system in the Summit City area, current funding would cover all costs associated with construction. The State of California has set aside \$650 million in grant funds for septic-to-sewer projects.

- Will I be required to pay a sewer connection fee?

No. Connection fees will be paid by the grant.

- Will the grant funding pay for work required on private property, including the new sewer lateral, connection to dwelling/business plumbing, and abandoning existing septic tanks?

Yes, the project will pay for these improvements and restore private property to pre-project conditions at no cost to the property owner.

- If I connect to the new sewer system, will I be required to pay a monthly sewer bill?

Yes. All those who connect to the new sewer system will be required to pay a monthly sewer bill. The monthly sewer bill will be in accordance with the City's rate structure, which gets updated periodically. The rate will be the same for all residents. Currently (as of March 2023), the residential monthly sewer rate is \$75.17, with scheduled increases in July 2023 and 2024.

- Will I be required to connect to the sewer if constructed on my street?

This will be decided by the City Council. The City's Municipal Code, Section 13.16.310, requires property owners to connect to sewers if the public sewer is located in the street or alley and the sewer is within 100 feet of the property line. Additionally, if a septic system fails, the property owner would not be granted a permit from the County to replace a septic tank if there is a sanitary sewer line within 200 feet of the property. The property owner would be required to pay all capacity and connection fees in effect at the time of connection.

- Will there be a public vote for constructing the sewer system?

No. Moving forward with a project will be decided by the City Council. Citizens are encouraged to complete the survey, attend public meetings, and contact council members to make their opinions heard in support or opposition to a project.

- If the City Council chooses to direct City staff to apply for the grant, when is the anticipated timeline that sewer would be hooked up in Summit City?

Sewers would be constructed in the Summit City area approximately four to five years after the City directs City staff to apply for the grant. This schedule is based on similar project timelines with this grant funding program.

- Where can I get additional information on this project?

More information on this project can be found on the City's project website, <https://cityofshastalake.org/1247/Summit-City-Wastewater-Feasibility-Study>

If you have any questions or comments regarding this FAQ, please contact Shelby Millingar, City of Shasta Lake Associate Civil Engineer, at 530-275-7469.