



City of Nampa Public Works Department

November 30, 2011

Dear Resident,

You may have heard through local news coverage that the City of Nampa is anticipating new federal regulations for the treatment of wastewater. Water that goes into the treatment plant is from residential toilets, dishwashers, washing machines and also from local industries. What leaves the plant is clean recycled water.

The City is working with a large citizens advisory group to explore what is best for the community of Nampa when meeting these new regulations. Several options are being considered and more investigation is still needed to determine the costs and benefits of each option.

You may be asking, "I don't live in the city, so how does this affect me? Why am I getting this letter?" Simply put, City staff and project consultants are investigating an option called infiltration in your area. Over the next several months, the City will be talking with property owners about conducting soil tests on their property south of Lake Lowell, between Skyline Road and 12th Avenue.

Infiltration is a process of applying the clean recycled water to land. Water slowly seeps through the ground and helps recharge the aquifer below. This method of treating wastewater is successfully used in a number of western states.

A pipe system would need to be built for land application. The clean recycled water would travel from Nampa's treatment plant, through the pipes into a number of basins and ponds. The basins and ponds would allow the water to slowly filter through the soil into the groundwater.

There are several factors that need investigation to determine if infiltration should continue to be considered. For infiltration to be successful, the land must be free of basalt, have deep groundwater and gradual slopes. The soil must act as a filter, allowing the water to seep through, and there must be enough land area to accommodate the amount of water being applied by the City. Unfortunately, there are no areas within the City limits that meet these criteria.

An engineering management team has identified areas in Canyon County that appear to have the needed qualities. Our next step is to conduct soil analysis at these locations. For this analysis process, the City is working with several property owners south of Lake Lowell, between Skyline Road and 12th Avenue. *(more important information on back)*

It is important to note, the City has not made any decisions. Further investigations will help make a final decision. City and project staff will keep you informed as the process moves forward. This is a very open process that will involve everyone.

Enclosed with this letter you will find commonly asked questions and answers. You are also invited to an evening public meeting to learn more and ask questions of City staff and the project management team. **The public meeting will be held:**

- **Tuesday, December 13th**
6:00 to 8:00 p.m. (Formal presentations will begin at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.)
Sunny Ridge Elementary School
506 Fletcher Drive, Nampa

The City would like to hear from you if you think your property could be a possible site for infiltration. Please contact Robert Anderst at (208) 440-6565 or attend the public meeting on December 13th.

More information is available on our website www.cityofnampa.us/wastewater/. If you have additional questions contact Karla Nelson at the Nampa Public Works Department, (208) 468-5523, nelsonk@cityofnampa.us

Thank you for allowing City staff and its consultants to share this information with you. We hope to see you at the upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,



Michael Fuss, P.E.
Nampa Public Works Director