



2135 South Ammon Road, Ammon, Idaho 83406

Dear Ammon Residents and Businesses,

I wrote to you in April of this year to inform you of the need for Ammon's sewer system to convert to a sewer district. This letter is to inform you of what is needed for this important change to happen.

In my prior letter I explained that approximately two decades ago Ammon, Shelley, Bonneville County, and Bingham County signed a joint powers agreement, and called their arrangement the Eastern Idaho Regional Waste Water Authority, or "EIRWWA." EIRWWA runs the sewer plant in Shelley which processes Ammon's sewer flow, which was built primarily with bonds from Ammon and Shelley. From its beginnings, the four entities agreed that EIRWWA would need to be a sewer district.

It is now time for EIRWWA to become a sewer district. In order for that to happen, the property owners in the proposed district boundaries will have to vote. That vote is planned to happen in May of 2022. However, in order for that vote to even happen, we first need to collect signatures from 10% of the property owners within the proposed district. These signatures will simply allow us to place the sewer district formation question on the ballot.

For this reason, I am reaching out to you, as a property owner in Ammon, to ask for your signature on the sewer district petition.

Why a sewer district?

1. A sewer district will be fairer for Ammon sewer customers than the present EIRWWA arrangement. The plant is needing capacity upgrades in the near future. As mentioned, the cities have bonding authority—the counties do not. Under the current EIRWWA arrangement, *if* future bonding was ever needed, city users would be footing the bill while county users would get a free ride. By contrast, a sewer district has bonding authority, meaning that sewer customers district-wide would be affected equitably by future sewer decisions.
2. A sewer district will give Ammon sewer customers more representation as to future sewer decisions. Currently, each entity has one representative on the EIRWWA board. Ammon has one vote, even though Ammon uses over 68% of the sewer flow. Shelley also has one vote, with approximately 26% of the remaining flow—totaling about 94% of the flow between the two cities. Bonneville County and Bingham County also have one vote each, but their flows only amount to approximately 6% combined. With a sewer district, Ammon will have three representatives, and Shelley would have two (with county areas combined with city representation).
3. Sewer district customers will be able to directly elect their representatives. Presently, each EIRWWA entity *appoints* its representative to the EIRWWA board. With a sewer district, sewer customers will be able to *directly elect* all five board members, making them directly responsive to the people.
4. A sewer district can more efficiently fund its long-term operations. As mentioned, Ammon and Shelley both initially bonded for the sewer district nearly 15 years ago with minimal county participation. A sewer district has the ability to take on both bonds, consolidate and potentially refinance for future needs.
5. A sewer district will mean better operations for the system. Having one organization running sewer operations throughout a district will provide for a more cohesive decision-making board where all parties

are equally impacted. This will bring efficiencies and better operations than the current joint powers agreement arrangement between four separate entities but only two which are materially impacted.

6. The State of Idaho has ordered EIRWWA to proceed to a sewer district. Last year, the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, or “DEQ,” ordered EIRWWA to proceed to a sewer district.

How will a sewer district financially impact me? The ballot question will simply ask if you are in favor of converting EIRWWA into a sewer district—a change which is primarily structural in nature. The vote in May of 2022 is NOT a vote for a bond, nor is it a vote to increase taxes or sewer fees.

That being said, the long-term financial impact to Ammon residents will potentially be greater if a sewer district is not formed. As explained above, without a sewer district any future expansion needs would fall on the backs of city residents, leaving county sewer customers out of the equation. A district more equitably addresses the needs of the sewer plant across all sewer district customers, whether they live in the city or county.

What will happen next? As mentioned above, in order for Ammon customers to be able to vote on the sewer district we first need to gather signatures from 10% of proposed district customers. I urge you to sign the petition, as this change to a sewer district will benefit Ammon. Petitions will be circulating through town over the next few months. We also have the petitions at the Ammon City Building for you to sign.

In addition, we will be hosting the following Q&A sessions at the Ammon City Hall at 2135 S. Ammon Road, for you to talk to city officials about this change and to sign the petitions:

- Tuesday, September 21, 2021, from 10 am to 1 pm
- Wednesday, September 22, 2021, from 6 pm to 9 pm
- Tuesday, October 5, 2021, from 6 pm to 9 pm
- Wednesday, October 6, 2021, from 10 am to 1 pm

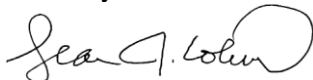
You can also attend these sessions remotely if you are unable to attend in person, by using the following Zoom login information:

Meeting ID: 208 612 4000

Password: 26666

For more information about this transition, please visit the website <http://bit.ly/EIRWWA> or contact the City at 208-612-4000. Please also feel free to reach out to me at scoletti@cityofammon.us or the City Administrator at maustin@cityofammon.us. You are also welcome to join us at the next City Council meeting, which happens each first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Thank you again for being a part of this important discussion about the future of the City of Ammon.

Sincerely,



Sean J. Coletti, Mayor