

Inyo County Department of Public Works CSA-2 Sewer Improvements Project

Project Description

The proposed project is located in Aspendell, served by County Service Area #2 (CSA-2), west of Bishop, bordering Inyo National Forest and USFS campgrounds. The County manages the sewer collection system on behalf of the Aspendell residents. The proposed project will replace approximately 3,000 ft. of existing sewer main.

The sewer system was installed in the late 1960's and consisted of a gravity sewer collector that discharged to a communal septic tank, force main and leach field. By the early 1970's the system began to exhibit various problems. In the mid 1970's an engineering study found that the leach field was poorly designed and the collector system had problems related to poor construction, hydraulics and inflow and infiltration (I&I).

In 1977 the USFS was ordered by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to remove pit toilets located in nearby campgrounds to eliminate impacts to the water quality. In 1978 the USFS constructed a treatment facility to serve the campgrounds. At that time, CSA-2 abandoned the community septic and leach field system and connected the existing sewer collection system to the USFS system.

The sewer collection system is now more than 40 years old, near the end of its useful life. Several hundred feet of the main need replacement due to reoccurring blockages and continuing I&I. Blockages occur from inconsistency of pipe diameters, uneven grade and root intrusion, and have resulted in overflow and spillage.

Bishop Creek is downgrade from the sewer system, and runoff from a spill has the potential to contaminate the creek. Seeping mains also may affect ground water in wetland area near the creek and likely produce non-point source pollution.

I&I are increasing as the system degrades, and is impacting the treatment plant and increasing energy costs for treatment and reducing plant capacity, thereby resulting in rising costs charged to CSA-2. The USFS has complained about flow generated by the CSA-2 system.