



Local News

Bisbee official says project ideas can help save money

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BISBEE - City officials have likely found a way to cut the cost of the wastewater treatment facility plant by \$4 million.

When the city received the bids for the treatment facility plant several months ago, the bid came in at a little more than \$24 million, \$4 million more than expected.

City officials and its contractor, Barnard Construction, began looking at ways to see if it could recoup the \$4 million.

Public Works Director Russ McConnell said the majority of the savings will be from the result of using fewer materials, including less steel, and fewer pumps and piping.

McConnell said the city officials reviewed several options before deciding to go forward with this plan.

This change order will go before the Bisbee City Council at its next regular meeting on March 15.

The city and its contractor also recently changed its plans on the Mule Gulch Lift Station.

This cost-saving idea of a little more than \$145,000 requires changing from the Brown and Caldwell plans to plans engineered by Pacific Advanced Civil Engineering

The savings will include resizing pumps, deleting bypass piping, using the primary clarifiers for emergency storage, repairing the influent manhole and splitter box and return piping for the primary clarifiers.

McConnell said all of the effluent from Old Bisbee, Saginaw, the Cochise County Jail and Warren will travel to the Mule Gulch Station before going to a gravity-based sewer line at Arizona Street and Cole Avenue.

The effluent will then be gravity fed into the treatment plant that is located in San Jose on Purdy Street.

Jonovich Companies Inc. and PACE looked at this option at the city's request, McConnell said.

The lift station will be a little smaller, but will have the same capacity that was in the original plans, he added. "It will be a higher (level) of discontamination," he said.

The public works director said there would be two sequencing batch reactors as part of a secondary treatment process that includes two basins that will alternate in treating the sewage.

McConnell said this is a tried and proven process that numerous communities have used.

When the treatment plant is completed, the existing three treatment plans will be shut down.

The lift station will be fully automated and will run on electricity with a back-up generator.

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