



**TOWN OF PARADISE  
Council Agenda Summary  
Date: April 8, 2025**

**Agenda No. 1**

**ORIGINATED BY:** Marc Mattox, Public Works Director / Town Engineer

**REVIEWED BY:** Jim Goodwin, Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** Paradise Sewer Project Update

**COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED:**

1. None, written monthly update only.

**Background:**

This report is a monthly effort to provide additional opportunity for public engagement on the status and next steps of the Paradise Sewer Project.

**Analysis:**

The Town of Paradise is extremely grateful for the continued support and collaboration as it continues to pivot towards a local wastewater solution. The Paradise Sewer Project (Project) objectives remain as follows:

- Provide long-term, efficient, reliable treatment of wastewater in a cost-effective, environmentally beneficial manner to current and returning Town residents, in a manner acceptable to the RWQCB and other permitting agencies:
  - Accommodate regrowth while reducing further environmental degradation of groundwater and surface water from failing septic systems
  - Reduce the public health risk associated with failing septic systems
- Generate economic recovery by eliminating septic-related capacity limitations, as well as the general burden of on-site wastewater management for businesses:
  - Promote the return or arrival of essential community services and businesses by removing restrictions caused by on-site septic systems
- Provide for the ability to construct and maintain affordable housing, specifically multi-family housing:
  - Support centralizing affordable housing to Paradise's urban core, along major evacuation routes

In just over two months the Town has made great strides in laying out a swift process to advance the project forward. Critically, the Project Ad Hoc Committee comprised of Mayor Crowder and Councilmember Lange was formed with the following objective:

*Increase project momentum while keeping the public apprised of project progress to find a fundable, permissible, scalable wastewater collection and treatment solution.*

Below is a brief list of recent accomplishments and updates for the Project:

- In late February, the Town of Paradise mailed Community Meeting invitations to every parcel owner and site address within the original Paradise Sewer Project Sewer Service Area. This meeting, held on March 6, 2025, was well attended and communicated clear and urgent

support for the Paradise Sewer Project.

- An invitation to all Town of Paradise Onsite Wastewater Operators and wastewater industry professionals was issued to collect input and ideas for the best steps forward on the project. Vendor and individual meetings are forecasted to be completed in early April 2025.
- A new [www.paradisesewer.com](http://www.paradisesewer.com) website was launched reflecting project changes
- A survey was conducted of Community Meeting attendees as well as hosted on the new Project website, results shown below:
  - o Which area (of the two options shown on a map) would you prefer to be primarily served during the first phase of the Paradise Sewer Project?
    - Skyway and Downtown – 93
    - Clark Road – 27
  - o Recognizing that wastewater treatment plants can potentially have various community impacts, which plant location option would you prefer?
    - OUTSIDE of Paradise limits, serving FEWER parcels for the first phase of the Paradise Sewer Project - 32
    - NEAR OR WITHIN Paradise limits, serving MORE parcels for the first phase of the Paradise Sewer Project – 75
- Town of Paradise submitted a Letter of Interest to the United States Army Corps of Engineers 219 Program. This program has potential to access up to \$50M in funding for the project following key approvals and appropriations at the federal level. The Town has collected key letters of support for further advocacy efforts.
- Paradise Town Council is considering reallocating \$20M of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Infrastructure funds from roadway projects towards the Sewer Project. Formal consideration of this reallocation will occur at the Regular Town Council Meeting on April 8.
- The Project Ad Hoc Committee was expanded to begin a higher level of partnership and collaboration with Paradise Irrigation District. The District has authorized two Board Members and the District Manager to attend Ad Hoc Committee meetings to explore potential opportunities to streamline the project while leveraging respective expertise.

Key next steps and milestones are summarized below:

- Continue to engage and inform the broader community of the project status and direction.
- Advance funding efforts with the US Army Corps of Engineers as well as State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance.
- Reach a selected revised project description this summer with resources positioned to immediately commence environmental work ensuring minimal delays to overall project delivery.

As previously noted, the Town is immensely grateful for the unwavering project support. We are committed to hearing all perspective input and if at any point you would like to get in touch with us, please do not hesitate to contact me.