



**North Santiam
Sewer Authority**

northsantiamsewer@gmail.com

northsantiamsewer.net

P.O. Box 256
444 S 1st Ave
Mill City, OR 97360

**NSSA Work Session Agenda
September 18, 2023, at 6 PM**

Hybrid

Gates Fire Station

140 E Sorbin St, Gates, OR 97346

Meeting ID: 934 1474 8822

Passcode: 454959

[https://zoom.us/j/934
14748822?pwd=MjJkM3VyY21YS1BDK2doVEplZ25uUT09](https://zoom.us/j/93414748822?pwd=MjJkM3VyY21YS1BDK2doVEplZ25uUT09)

Project Overview

The Oregon legislature has allocated \$50 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to construct wastewater improvements in the North Santiam Canyon, including a joint sewer system between Gates and Mill City. This project includes a new sewer collection system in Gates that will transport wastewater to Mill City, and a new wastewater treatment plant in Mill City to serve both communities.

Surveying and field work is expected to begin in the summer of 2024. Gates sewer connections will become possible in 2026 or 2027.



DRAFT

Marion County Public Works

5155 Silverton Road NE

Salem, OR 97305

(503) 585-5147

Building@co.marion.or.us

co.marion.or.us/PW

North Santiam Canyon Sewer Project

Information for Gates
Property Owners

Project Timeline

(Dates are subject to change)

2022

The Oregon legislature allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the construction of wastewater improvements in the Canyon.

2023 - 2024

Engineering design, permitting, and construction plan development.

2025 - 2026

Construction of a new Mill City wastewater plant and sewer main from Gates to Mill City. Construction of new sewer mains in Gates.

Mid/Late 2026

Gates sewer connections will become possible as the new wastewater treatment plant and sewer main between Gates and Mill City come online.



What should I do with my septic system?

For the protection of our water resources, privately-owned septic systems must continue to operate until the new sewer system becomes operational in 2026.

Repairs to existing (or previously-permitted systems) may have less stringent permitting requirements. Contact the Building Inspection department in order to address these on a case-by-case basis.



Marion County Building Inspection
Building@co.marion.or.us
(503) 585-5147

Frequently Asked Questions

► Why is the Mill City sewer plant being replaced?

The existing plant is over capacity and lacks the necessary treatment to meet current permitting requirements for the North Santiam River basin. The new wastewater treatment plant will provide enough treatment to meet Mill City's needs plus offer sewer services to Gates.

► What will my monthly sewer bill look like?

A rate study is underway to determine what future sewer rates may look like. Sewer rates will be based on the projected cost to operate and maintain the new sewer system. Initial rate estimates are expected in 2024. The good news is that construction of the new sewer system is grant-funded; rate payers will not be expected to pay for the cost of building the new sewer system.

► When is construction going to happen?

Construction is expected to begin in 2025, including construction of sewer mains within Gates. The new sewer system is expected to begin operation in 2026 or early 2027, which is subject to change as design and permitting progress.

► Where can I get more information?

General project information can be found on the North Santiam Sewer Authority website at northsantiamsewer.net.



North Santiam Sewer Authority: Staffer Scope of Work		
Key Priorities	Est. Hours Per Week	Notes
Operational plan		
1 Draft operational plan	2 hours	Set up the action steps and decisions the NSSA shall take to establish the active management, ownership, and operational structure of the NSSA projects (due 12/31/23)
2 [insert more detailed tasks]		
Financial policies		
1 Draft financial policies and set up necessary financial instruments	5 hours/until adopted	Set up financial policies and instruments necessary to function as a financially independent organization (due 12/31/22)
2 [insert more detailed tasks]		
Grantwriting		
1 Seek grant opportunity for organizational development		
2 Write and submit initial application by 12/21/22	4 hours	To support the development of the organization and operations (due 12/21/22)
3 Seek out and apply for at least 1 grant or other funding mechanism each year through 2025		
Communications		
1 Expand and finalize NSSA communications plan, i.e., Public Outreach Strategy	1 hour	Establish methods and timelines the NSSA will undertake to communicate with impacted City governments, citizens, and businesses (due 6/30/23)
2 Maintain public NSSA website with project updates and meeting announcements	1.5	
3 Monthly verbal updates to Marion County	1	Shall include status of NSSA development and next steps
4 Quarterly written updates to the County	0.5	Shall include status of NSSA development and financial reporting of the use of funds from this agreement