

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Bay Acres Community Sewer Project

### Why is the City of Douglas offering this service to Bay Acres residents?

The City received a grant from BECC/NADBank to expand its wastewater treatment plant. USDA identified Bay Acres as a community in need of sewer service and recognized the opportunity in the expansion of the capacity of the Douglas wastewater treatment plant and granted funding to the City that would connect Bay Acres community residents to the newly expanded plant.

### How much do I have to pay to get this service?

If you are within the eligible area in the Bay Acres community and you sign up for the service before February 28, 2019, you will not have to pay anything to hookup to the sewer system. Homeowners will save \$2,100 in impact fees and all associated connection costs. After the connection is made residential areas will pay \$32.02 per month for the service and commercial areas will pay \$52.03 per month.

### What do I need to do to get sewer service in my home?

If you live in the Bay Acres community, you will need to verify that your address and parcel number is within the eligible area to receive the free service with this grant. Maps of showing eligible areas can be found online at [www.douglasaz.gov/293](http://www.douglasaz.gov/293). The homeowners will also need to sign a user agreement that you agree to pay for the service to the city on a monthly basis. The homeowner must also sign a right of way easement that allows the construction company access to your property to construct the lines all the way to the home.

### Where can I sign the user agreement and right of way easement?

Starting November 26, 2018 the City will begin its efforts to contact Bay Acres area residents about the project and to sign the agreements. City officials will be knocking on doors requesting to sign agreements, may send out documents by mail and we will also be available at **City Hall at 425 E. 10<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Public Works department. You may also call at 520-417-7329 for more info.**

### What happens if I don't sign the user agreement or right of way easement?

If you do not sign up by February 28, 2019 there will be significant costs that include impact fees and connection costs if you decided to connect to the City sewer service at a later date. Additionally, if your septic system fails, Cochise County will no longer allow your system to be upgraded or replaced as required by state law.

### What are the benefits of signing up for City Sewer service?

Aside from the flooding issues this project will solve, Bay Acres community residents will receive safe and clean water provided by the City. This project will also include property restoration after sewer is installed, improving local streets, providing a safer and cleaner environment for you, your families and neighbors. You will also no longer be responsible in cleaning and maintaining a septic system.

### What if my lot is empty without house or trailer?

If there is no home constructed on your lot before February 28, 2019, you will not be connected to sewer. If the empty lot is within the eligible area, you will be provided sewer service up to the property line, however, costs to connect to sewer such as impact fees and connection costs will apply if choosing to construct at a later date.

### What if I already upgraded my septic system and do not wish to connect to City sewer?

If you do not connect to the City sewer before February 28, 2019, you will not be eligible for free connection offered by the grant. Even if your septic is currently being maintained properly, the County will no longer allow for any future upgrades and the homeowner at that point will be forced to connect to City sewer and incur the associated costs.

### Can I sign the user agreement and right of way easement if I am not the property owner?

No, only the property owner has authorization to sign. If the property owner is deceased, we require a death certificate and will.

### Will the City increase the monthly sewer fee after I sign the user agreement?

No, the City will charge \$32.02 for residential service and \$52.03 for commercial service. Like any utility, the City reviews its rates periodically, however, it looks at the entire system cost as a whole and does not segregate by different areas of service.