

WATER AND WASTEWATER – 2005

The League of Women Voters of Juneau supports area-wide water and sewer/wastewater systems in the City and Borough of Juneau that meet national and state standards. The City and Borough of Juneau must provide a water system with adequate quality and sufficient pressure for fire fighting. The City and Borough of Juneau should be vigilant in protecting designated watersheds. The City and Borough of Juneau wastewater and treatment plants must address public health and marine environment issues while complying with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation permitting process, monitoring, and operational requirements.

The League believes that:

1. City and Borough of Juneau (CBJ) planning documents, such as the Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Code, and Watershed Control Programs, should be reviewed and/or updated on a realistic and required schedule.
2. Designated watersheds should be protected as stated in the CBJ Comprehensive Plan.
3. The community should maintain an Urban Service Boundary (USB) which defines the limits within which the full range of urban services, such as water and wastewater, will be provided by CBJ. The CBJ wastewater lines and centralized treatment plants should be extended or expanded within the USB, completing urban service where CBJ water service already exists. Extensions or exemptions should be discouraged.
4. Future CBJ water system extensions should only be done in concert with a CBJ wastewater line extension and vice versa.
5. Water quality and water pressure, including adequate pressure for firefighting, are important for the health and safety of our citizens.
6. Further development that compromises existing water supplies beyond CBJ on-line source capacity should be restricted.
7. Any development, including private or city planned, needs to plan for wastewater disposal and long term maintenance of its system.
8. If the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) does not meet its obligations to monitor and address wastewater problems, CBJ must provide adequate oversight of wastewater discharges.
9. CBJ failed marine wastewater outfall systems should be corrected and functional before similar subdivision marine wastewater outfall systems are planned.
10. Criteria for decisions related to the extension of water and wastewater services should include:
 - a. public health first and foremost;
 - b. whether or not it falls within the USB and meets other CBJ established guidelines;
 - c. whether or not it meets ADEC standards;
 - d. population density;
 - e. a process for regular reports and monitoring.
11. CBJ water and wastewater systems should be funded through special assessments such as Local Improvement District (LID) funding passed by the property owners affected, general obligation bonds passed by the voters, annual Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funding, and/or grants and low interest loans from the State and Federal agencies.

12. Whenever the CBJ contemplates on any water or wastewater work, it must provide information regarding conditions which could affect water quality and quantity to:
 - a. all affected property owners,
 - b. the general public, and
 - c. all governmental agencies with jurisdiction over the proposed work.
13. The CBJ Public Works Advisory Committee should be continued.
14. For centralized plants and subdivision outfalls, all discharge reports should be posted on a public website (for example CBJ and/or ADEC websites).
15. CBJ should improve water and wastewater education so that individual owners can more readily respond to failed and compromised wells and wastewater systems on private property.
16. ADEC should improve monitoring and compliance efforts, as well as public education.

Effective: Feb. 19, 2005

Note: This position replaces the 2003 Water and Wastewater Position that was a combination of two outdated LWV Juneau positions: 1969 entitled Water and Sewer Program in the Greater Juneau Borough and 1980 entitled Water System.