

Gerlach General Improvement District, Nevada

Loan: \$ 470,000.00
Grant: \$ 321,360.00
Applicant: \$ 72,000.00

Loan: \$
Grant: \$

Total **Sewer**: \$ 863,360.00

Total **Water**: \$

Congressman: Dean Heller, 2nd

Senators: Harry Reid
John Ensign

Outline of Need:

The small community of Gerlach was requested by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection to address needed changes to the waste stabilization ponds which serve the 190 residents in the town. During the summer months the small town's population swells to 12,000, which cause daily flows to peak due to increase commercial activity at the local hotels, and cafes. The stabilization ponds function adequately, however do not have an engineered liner which is needed for groundwater protection. In order to obtain a renewal discharge permit from the State of Nevada the district needed to comply with the needed improvements requested by the State. The District obtained an engineering study which outlined the needed improvements, costs, and suggested funding sources.

The Gerlach General Improvement District voted to proceed with obtaining funding to address the concerning of the State Department of Environmental Protection.

How Rural Development Helped:

The consulting engineer contacted USDA Rural Development and requested the Agency attend a board meeting to discuss funding options. Cheryl Couch and Michelle Kelly of our Carson City offices met with the Gerlach General Improvement District to strategize on funding for the project. The General Improvement District Board of Directors was unsure if they would be able to obtain funding for the project, and were receiving increasing pressure from the State of Nevada to address the needed system improvements which consisted of; lining of two of the four stabilization ponds with a synthetic liner, improvements to the headworks which includes the installation of isolation valves and the replacement of the lift station and controls. Rural Development was able to present a funding package to the community which fully covered the entire costs of facility improvements.

The Results:

When this project is complete, the Town of Gerlach will have a wastewater collection and treatment system which meets the requirements of the Clean Water Act, and protects the groundwater in the area from potential contamination.



Tree Planting at Community Garden for 2008 Earth Day Event in Gerlach NV