

Gleneden Sanitary District Wastewater Treatment Project Timeline

This timeline summarizes the major milestones in Gleneden Sanitary District's efforts to secure a long-term wastewater treatment solution following the City of Depoe Bay's notice terminating the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA).

1968–1998: Building a Regional Partnership

- 1968 – Gleneden Sanitary District (GSD) is established.
- 1973 – GSD and the City of Depoe Bay enter into the first Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) for a shared wastewater treatment system.
- 1976 – GSD's collection system becomes operational and begins sending wastewater to Depoe Bay.
- 1991 – A new IGA establishes cost-sharing based on actual wastewater flows and creates a joint advisory committee.
- 1998 – The current IGA is adopted using an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) cost-sharing formula while retaining the five-year termination clause.

2018–2021: Planning for the Future

- 2018 – Engineering studies evaluate independent treatment, regional partnerships, Lincoln City capacity, and continued service with Depoe Bay.
- 2021 – Civil West Engineering begins Phase II feasibility work to identify treatment plant sites.

2022: Termination Notice

- March 2022 – Depoe Bay issues formal notice terminating the IGA.
- GSD immediately begins reconciliation efforts, meets with DEQ and Lincoln County officials, and continues engineering and feasibility planning.

2023–2024: Site Evaluation

- GSD submits its Wastewater Facility Plan to DEQ.
- Extensive coordination occurs with DEQ, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, Lincoln County, and other agencies.
- The preferred Fogarty Creek site is ultimately eliminated because of environmental and permitting constraints.
- Oregon Consensus facilitates reconciliation efforts.
- June 2024 – Depoe Bay City Council declines further reconciliation.
- GSD shifts planning to the preferred Airport Site.

2025–Present: Moving Forward

- Planning continues with Lincoln County, land use attorneys, airport representatives, Surfrider, and property owners.
- The Airport Site and Wallace Street outfall are selected as the preferred alternative.
- Land appraisal and acquisition efforts begin.
- GSD submits an interim agreement proposal and provides Depoe Bay with a project status update.
- Willamette Partnership completes a preliminary Mid-Coast Sanitary Authority methodology.
- Depoe Bay City Council votes not to proceed with the regional authority feasibility study.
- GSD enters into a preliminary purchase agreement for property behind the Gleneden Beach Airport.

Current Status (2026)

- GSD is awaiting Lincoln County approval of a Property Line Adjustment before completing the land purchase.
- The District continues engineering, permitting, land use, environmental review, and funding activities while maintaining uninterrupted sewer service.

Next Steps

- Complete property acquisition
- Goal 4 Land Use Exception
- Preliminary Engineering Report
- Final Facility Planning
- Design and permitting
- Construction funding
- Construct the wastewater treatment facility