

# BACA GRANDE WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

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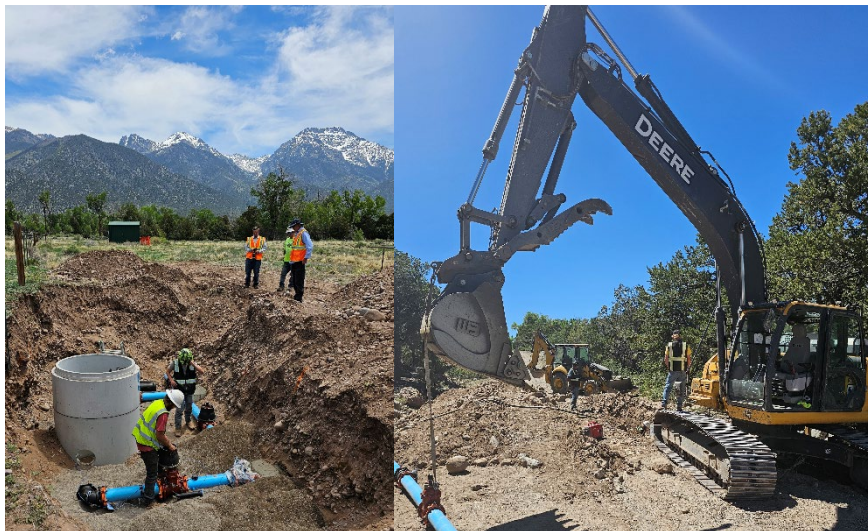
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CORPORATION  
AND POLITICAL  
SUBDIVISION OF  
THE STATE OF  
COLORADO



Summer / 2024 / ISSUE 3

## Welcome

Welcome to the June edition of the Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District Newsletter! We're excited to bring you updates on important developments, upcoming events, and tips to help you make the most of our services.



## IN THIS ISSUE

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### NEW HOURS!

We have new office hours  
Mon-Thurs 8:00-5:30PM  
Closed Friday

BGWSW WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT HISTORY

OPERATIONS PROJECTS  
& DISTRICT CAPITAL  
IMPROVEMENTS

GRANTS &  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR  
THE DISTRICT!

## New Office Hours

Dear Customers, we would like to inform you of our new office hours which will be effective as of June 17, 2024. The office will now be closed on Fridays, and in order to better serve our customers, office hours will be extended Monday through Thursday.

**Your feedback is very valuable to us, and we encourage you to share any comments, questions, or concerns by calling us at 719-256-4310 or emailing us at [info@bacawater.com](mailto:info@bacawater.com).**

**NEW OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The office will be closed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, and for lunch between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. Effective as of June 17th, 2024.**

**Emergency Contact:** For after-hours emergencies, you can reach us at 719-256-4310. An operator will be on-call to respond promptly to any emergencies.

### Bill Payments Options after Business Hours:

- **Pay Online with Xpress Bill Pay:** Our online bill payment option saves you time and gives you more flexibility in how you pay your bill. If you have an Internet connection and an e-mail address, you can now pay your bill online. It's fast, it's easy, and you no longer have to write a check each month or find a stamp when it's time to send in your payment.
- **Overnight Payment Box:** You can drop off your payment at the office anytime. There is a drive-up payment box in the parking lot at the District office located at 57 Baca Grant Way S, Chalet I.
- **By Phone:** You can also pay by phone with either a credit/debit card or E-check. Just call our Interactive Voice Response Line 24hrs a day, 7 days a week at 888-504-0548.

### Conservation Corner

Water conservation is essential, especially in our arid region. As we head into the warmer months, consider implementing water-saving practices such as fixing leaks, using drought-resistant landscaping, and being mindful of your water consumption.

## Billing and Customer Service

For your convenience, we offer various payment options and online account access. If you have any billing inquiries or need assistance, our customer service team is here to help. Reach out to us at [info@bacawater.com](mailto:info@bacawater.com) or call our office at 719-256-4310.

Check our [website](#) for updated news.

### Monthly BOD Meetings

We value your input! Join us for our Board of Directors community meetings to discuss current and future projects, share your thoughts, and learn more about the district's initiatives. Your participation is crucial in shaping the future of our water and sanitation services.

Regular meetings of the BGWSD Board of Directors are typically held on the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 AM, via Zoom Only. All meetings are open to the public.

Agendas are available on [www.bacawater.com](http://www.bacawater.com) website 24 hours prior to each meeting. If you wish to be included on the monthly Board Meeting Agenda email distribution list, please send a request to [info@bacawater.com](mailto:info@bacawater.com). In case of a water or sewer emergency, please call 719-256-4310.

## Projects and Capital Improvements

The District is currently installing two distribution system meters to help us identify the areas with the highest water loss. This project was made possible by a grant from Saguache County.

The District will be conducting several annual summer projects throughout the District including: fire hydrant maintenance, gate valve maintenance, cleaning and inspection of the sewer collection system and other various excavation projects. For more information please contact the District.

## Wastewater Treatment a Brief

### History Written by Gary Potter

The District's wastewater treatment began in 1971 with the construction of two facilities, Wastewater Treatment Plant #1 and #2. Plant #1, located near Casita Park, served the Mobile Home Estates Subdivision, while Plant #2, at the current District office site, served the Chalet 1 area. In 1974, Plant #3 was built to serve Chalet 2, but remained unused for years due to a lack of houses.

In the early 1980s, the District expanded its infrastructure, replacing Plants #1 and #2 with lagoon systems and adding two more: the Stables Lagoon and the Cottonwood Lagoon. By this time, the District had five small treatment systems, which operated until 2004.

In the early 2000s, the District centralized its treatment systems into the Aspen Institute Wastewater Treatment Facility (AIWWTF), completed in 2004. An agreement in 2002 with the Town of Crestone led to the treatment of the town's wastewater at AIWWTF. In 2013, the Mobile Home Estates Lagoon was replaced with a pump station transporting wastewater to AIWWTF. Since then, AIWWTF has served the Baca Chalets 1, 2, and 3, Mobile Home Estates, and Crestone.

Currently, AIWWTF faces challenges such as new regulatory limits, capacity issues, aging infrastructure, and safety concerns. The District is exploring options to build a new facility or upgrade the existing one, considering the financial impacts on constituents. Efforts are focused on securing funding and making informed, transparent decisions for the community's wastewater treatment future.

To read the full article please click on the link below:

<https://bacawater.specialdistrict.org/bgwsd-wastewater-treatment-a-brief-history>

## The Importance of Proper Flushing

Flushing inappropriate items can cause blockages and sewer backups.

Despite being labeled "flushable," wipes can still clog pipes and jam pumps. Only flush human waste and toilet paper. Dispose of other items like feminine hygiene products, cotton swabs, dental floss, and paper towels in the trash.

Remember, the toilet is not a trash can.

## Employment Opportunities

Baca Grande Water and Sanitation District is accepting applications to fill 2 fulltime seasonal positions for a Utility Maintenance Worker.

This position is limited to 480 hours or approximately 12 weeks at 40 hours per week.

Pay is \$18.00 per hour.

Applications can also be picked up at 57 Baca Grant Way S, Crestone, CO 81131 or downloaded here:

### [Job Application.pdf](#)

Submit a completed application to:  
[HR@bacawater.com](mailto:HR@bacawater.com)



## GRANTS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISTRICT!

### Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment Drinking Water Revolving Fund

- This design and engineering grant was applied for in 2023, and will provide funding for the engineering of a back-up water source by connecting Mobile Home Estates Well to the larger water system that feeds the Chalets. The grant was recently approved in May 2024, and is structured as a principal forgiveness loan agreement. The grant will cover up to 80 percent of the project cost.

### United States Department of Agriculture

- The grant was intended to be used for the construction of a new wastewater treatment facility.

### Community Project Funding – Office of Lauren Boebert

- This grant was applied for in 2024 and will be used to help with water loss prevention. This funding request was approved by Lauren Boebert’s office, and they will now request federal funds.

### Bureau of Reclamation

- WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants  
This grant was applied for in 2024, and will be used to replace old and inaccurate residential water meters throughout the District.

## Help Us Help You! Keep in Touch

- Please give the district office at least 48 hours’ notice of any turn ON/OFF non-emergency requests.
  - If you rent or lease your home, please provide the District with a [Tenant form](#), which can be found on the District website.
- EMERGENCIES!**
- If you have a water or sewer emergency always call the district’s main office number at **719-256-4310** and an Operator will be dispatched to help you. Calls received outside normal working hours will be answered by the district’s answering service.

### FAQ’s

- How do I change mailing address?  
You can email the new address to [office@bacawater.com](mailto:office@bacawater.com)  
  
You can also write a note to us at: PO Box 520, Crestone, CO 81131 or give us a call at 719-256-4310.
- When is a due date for water and sewer bill? Monthly water and sewer fees are due on the last day of the month. A late fee will be assessed on the 15th of the following month if payment is not received.
- What are the minimum fees for water and sewer?
  - \* Water is \$48.13 per month for 4,000 gallons
  - \* Sewer is \$40.73 per month
  - Minimum fees apply regardless of connected services being on or off..
- Is my water safe to drink?  
Yes! The water that you receive from the Baca Grande Water & Sanitation District is very safe to drink. Our certified operators constantly monitor and test your drinking water. For additional information check our water quality reports at [bacawater.com](http://bacawater.com)

### Meet BGWSD Team

Board of Directors	District Staff
<b>Vivia Lawson</b> President	<b>Diego Martinez</b> District Manager
<b>Rick Hart</b> Vice President	<b>Gary Potter</b> Director of Utilities
<b>Mike Smith</b> Treasurer	<b>Natalie DeBon</b> Administrative Services Manager
<b>David Karas</b> Secretary	<b>Johann McKee</b> Administrative Assistant
<b>John Loll</b> Director	<b>Greg Hess</b> Administrative Utility Assistant
	<b>Tim Allen</b> Utility Maintenance Operator
	<b>Bryan Howard</b> Utility Maintenance Operator
	<b>Mark Elliott</b> Utility Maintenance Operator
	<b>Cooper Goodhart</b> Utility Maintenance Operator
	<b>Chad Tate</b> Utility Maintenance Operator