



Date: September 15, 2026

Department: Public Works- Wastewater

Presenter: Craig Leseberg, Public Works Director

Subject: Lift Station Mobile Generator Connection Improvements

Purpose:

To authorize staff to proceed with electrical and related site upgrades to the Town's lift stations so they can be connected to and operated by the Town's existing mobile generator in the event of an extended power outage.

Background:

The Town's wastewater collection system depends on lift stations where gravity flow is not available. During a power outage, an inoperable lift station may lose storage capacity and create the risk of sewage backups, sanitary sewer overflows, property damage, and environmental impacts.

The Town owns a mobile generator that can be moved between locations during an emergency. The lift stations must have compatible electrical connections and transfer equipment before the generator can be connected and operated safely. This project would evaluate the applicable lift stations and complete the necessary electrical and site work.

Work may include connection receptacles, approved transfer equipment, disconnects, conduit, wiring, protective devices, mounting improvements, labeling, and testing. Requirements will depend on each station's electrical service and compatibility with the generator. Qualified contractors will complete the work in accordance with applicable requirements. Staff will also establish deployment procedures and priorities for rotating the generator among lift stations during an extended outage.

Alternatives:

Option A - Authorize Staff to Proceed with Lift Station Generator-Connection Upgrades

- Benefits include: Allows the existing mobile generator to support lift-station operations during extended outages; reduces the risk of sewage backups or overflows; improves emergency response; and uses equipment the Town already owns.

- Challenges include: Requires electrical and possible site modifications at multiple locations. Final costs may vary based on existing electrical conditions, generator compatibility, and contractor findings.

Option B - Complete Upgrades in Phases

- Benefits include: Allows the Town to prioritize the most critical lift stations and complete additional locations as funding permits.
- Challenges include: Some lift stations would remain unable to connect to the mobile generator until later phases are completed, leaving continued outage risk at those locations.

Option C – No Action

- Benefits include: Avoids the immediate project expenditure.
- Challenges include: Lift stations may remain without a practical backup-power connection during an extended outage, increasing the risk of service interruption, sewage backups, sanitary sewer overflows, emergency pumping costs, and environmental impacts.

Fiscal Impact:

Project costs may include generator connection equipment, transfer devices, wiring, protective devices, mounting, contractor labor, permitting, labeling, and testing. Updated pricing will be obtained before work proceeds.

- The Town budgeted \$45,000 for this project. A quote received from a qualified electrician last fall was within the approved budget; however, updated pricing will be required because electrical material and labor costs can change rapidly.
- Staff will prioritize the lift station upgrades to keep the project within the approved \$45,000 budget. If updated pricing indicates the project will exceed that amount, staff will return to Council for further direction before proceeding with the overage.

Proposed Upgrade	Estimated Cost
Generator Modifications	\$4,880
On the Run Lift Station	\$2,680
RV Park Lift Station	\$13,400
Green Turf Lift Station	\$1,915
Flying Saddle Lift Station	\$10,065
Targhee Village Lift Station	\$2,760
Melvins Lift Station	\$4,400
Total Estimated Project Cost	\$40,100
Approved Project Budget	\$45,000

Estimated Remaining Budget	\$4,900
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Costs are approximate and subject to updated electrical material and labor pricing.

Strategic or Community Impact:

Connecting the Town's existing mobile generator to the lift stations will strengthen wastewater-system resilience and reduce the risk of backups or sanitary sewer overflows during an extended outage. Standardized connection points and operating procedures will also improve staff safety and emergency-response efficiency.

Key Questions:

Does Council support upgrading the lift stations so they can connect to the Town's existing mobile generator?

Should staff be authorized to prioritize the most critical lift stations within the \$45,000 budget and return to Council if an overage is anticipated?

Suggested Motion:

I move to authorize Town staff to complete the electrical and related site upgrades necessary to connect the Town's lift stations to the existing mobile generator during an extended power outage, for a total project cost not to exceed \$45,000; to prioritize locations as necessary to remain within budget; and to return to Council before proceeding if an overage is anticipated.