



**Minden Gardnerville Sanitation District
District Manager's Report
March 2009**

1. EDU allocations: 15.2 EDU's were allocated during the month of January.
2. Digester Expansion Project: The digester project is progressing significantly with no outstanding issues at this time.
3. Douglas County jail: On the upcoming agenda is a request for plan review and tentative EDU (31.8) allocations for the expansion of the Douglas County Jail. One issue I have brought up with the design engineer is the lack of a "grinder" within the sewer system within the jail facilities. We experience periodic plugging of the line coming out of the current facility due to inmates flushing clothing, sheets, and other materials down the lines. This in turn is problematic for MGSD, as the line gets plugged and we experience issues within the plant itself. The design engineer stated that they were going to request that the grinder not be required, due to associated costs. I toured the Carson City jail facility and saw what they use to alleviate the problem.
4. Budget Meeting: In the past, we have held the tentative budget hearing during the April Board meeting. I would like the Board's consideration in holding a special meeting separate from the regular Board meeting as the meetings can sometimes be quite lengthy when held on a regular meeting date.
5. Equipment Repair: The grinder system on the influent flume failed and is in need of replacement. The original unit was installed in the early 90's and has proven to be virtually trouble free with the exception of periodic replacement of the cutter blades, which needs to be performed at the factory. According to the factory, the life expectancy of this unit is typically 3 – 4 years, in which after that time it needs to be sent in for maintenance of the cutter blades. However, due to the age of this equipment, it has become necessary to replace the entire unit. Due to the replacement costs of \$15,000, I'm informing the Board of the cost before ordering a replacement. We also had a water line break overnight in the grit removal facility which filled the entire lower area up with water, submerging the two pumps along with other electrical equipment. While the pumps have been repaired, the two gas detectors in the building were damaged and are in need of replacement. While we have in the past had a company repair and calibrate the sensors; I am looking into the

possibility of having MGSD personnel trained to calibrate the sensors ourselves.

6. Weed Abatement: At the February meeting I stated I would look into the purchase of weed spraying equipment to alleviate having Douglas County spray for us. Unfortunately, the weeds are already starting to appear and we should not wait until the new budget to purchase a sprayer. In the current budget for 08-09, we have allocated approximately \$10,000 for a utility vehicle which we decided not to purchase. In lieu of the utility vehicle I would like to purchase a sprayer so we can stay ahead of the weeds before they become bothersome. A sprayer that should be sufficient to spray the entire MGSD premises can be purchased for approximately \$3500.00 plus the price of chemicals. As we have spent on average approximately \$5000.00 per year on spraying, it would be a beneficial investment.

Frank T. Johnson
District Manager