

NEWS RELEASE
GOVERNOR STEVE BULLOCK
STATE OF MONTANA

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**Governor Announces \$1.2M Loan for City of Plentywood to
Renovate Wastewater System**

Governor Bullock announced a \$1.2 million loan to the City of Plentywood to make critical improvements to its aging wastewater treatment plant. The city's 2-cell sewage lagoon system was constructed in the 1950s and has reached its maximum storage capacity.

"Like many communities in Eastern Montana, Plentywood faces challenges keeping pace with growth and development brought on by the Bakken oil boom," Bullock said. "This loan will create jobs, provide critical public health improvements and connect folks living in new apartment and housing projects with the city wastewater system."

The city will use the \$1.2 million State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan to remove more than 8,600 tons of sludge, which will greatly expand the capacity of the lagoons. Once the lagoon project is complete, the City will replace up to 9,000 feet of clay tile sewer mains, which have degraded over the years and do not function at full capacity. Construction of the new system began in September.

The city will borrow \$1,237,300 for 20 years at 3 percent and also receive \$300,000 of loan forgiveness to fund the project.

"We're probably going to have 30 more households connect to our system by the end of December, including a 20-unit apartment building," said Plentywood City Commissioner John Kemp. "Demand for apartments is high right now. We're only 80 miles from Williston, N.D., and it's not uncommon for people to come here in search of affordable housing."

Communities across Montana are currently taking advantage of the state's reduced borrowing costs and restructuring their SRF loans to save even more. As of August of this year, a total of 39 cities and towns have saved more than \$35 million through the program.

The SRF loan program is administered by Department of Natural Resources and Conservation and the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). These loans are meant to enable Montana communities to upgrade or expand critical drinking or wastewater treatment facilities at the lowest possible cost. More information on SRF program is available at the Montana DNRC website: <http://dnrc.mt.gov> or at (406) 444-6689.

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