



## Sewer Solution for Ascension Parish

### What is the Proposal?

Ascension Parish is proposing a sewer solution that saves taxpayers millions of dollars, results in millions in franchise fees NWI will pay to the Parish, and requires no investment by the Parish.

Ascension Parish is proposing to sell the Parish's sewer assets and customers to National Water Infrastructure (NWI), which will build a modern consolidated sewer system serving the unincorporated areas of Ascension Parish.

**Sale of East Bank Sewer Assets to NWI:** Transfers Parish-owned sewer treatment package plants, pipes on the east bank, excluding the corporate limits of the City of Gonzales and the Town of Sorrento, to NWI, and obligates NWI to build and operate the new consolidated system.

**\$9 Million Cash Payment to the Parish:** NWI will pay the parish a one-time cash payment of \$9.26 million based on the appraised value of the sewer assets, although the final purchase price is subject to approval by the LA Public Service Commission (LPSC).

**\$500,000 Paid Annually to Parish in Franchise Fees:** NWI will pay the Parish an annual franchise fee starting at approximately \$500,000 a year — an amount that will likely increase as new customers are added to the system.

**\$15 Million +/- Currently in the Utilities Fund:** Frees up funds that the Parish has dedicated to sewer construction, making it available for other pressing priorities.

**\$3+ Million Saved Annually in Parish Budget:** Over the last 9 years, the Parish has spent more than \$42 million subsidizing sewer for fewer than 2,000 customers with tax dollars that could have been used towards other priorities.

**\$200 Million Investment in the Parish:** NWI will invest \$200 million in Ascension Parish to build a modern, consolidated sewer system and create hundreds of construction jobs.

**Construction Obligation and Timeline:** The agreement commits NWI to build and operate a state-of-the-art sewer treatment plant within 60 months with no investment required by the parish.

**Regulation by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC):** Any rate increase will be subject to approval by LPSC — ensuring fair and reasonable rates for all. LPSC is the same regulatory framework that oversees electric, water, gas, and communications utilities in Ascension Parish, as well as all parishes in the state.

**Eliminates Subsidies:** Residents of Gonzales, Sorrento, and Donaldsonville, or those with individual septic tanks, will not be impacted with rate changes, and will no longer be subsidizing parish sewer customers.

**\$350,000+ Annual Savings by the School System:** Schools will no longer need to operate and maintain their own sewer systems resulting in thousands of dollars in annual savings that could be redirected toward the classroom and other educational needs.

**\$1+ Million in Savings for Oak Grove Primary:** The Oak Grove Primary School Treatment System will become property of NWI — who will then make all necessary upgrades at no cost to the school.

**Reduced Flooding, Drainage and Maintenance Costs:** By reducing the amount of sewer water in our ditches, Parish flooding and sewer overflows will be reduced, and maintenance costs to continuously clean out drainage ditches will be significantly reduced.

**3 Million Gallons per Day of Sewer Water Removed from our Waterways:** A consolidated system will significantly decrease the amount of sewer runoff in ditches, front yards and Parish waterways. Sewer will flow to the new plant to be treated and discharged into the Mississippi River.

**Decommissioned Sewer Plant:** Noisy and odorous sewer treatment plants in our neighborhoods will be transformed to valuable community greenspace.

**Enhance Our Economy:** Supports existing and future business operations in Ascension Parish, creating new jobs and boosting the local economy.

**No Individual Sewer System Mandates:** Residents with individual treatment systems would not be required to tie into the consolidated system or pay a monthly rate, and would no longer be subsidizing sewer for parish customers.

## Potential “Worst-Case” Earnings/Savings for Duration of 20-Year Franchise Agreement

- **ZERO** Dollars Invested by Ascension Parish Taxpayers
- **\$10 Million** Initial Payment for Assets (Conservative Estimate to create “Worst Case”)
- **\$15 Million** in Utilities Fund Saved
- **\$3 Million Annually** in Subsidies x 20 Years = \$60 Million
- **\$500,000 Annually** in Franchise Fees (Not including New Customers) x 20 Years = \$10 Million

**\$95 Million Saved and Earned for the Taxpayers that can be applied to transportation, drainage, recreation and other priority improvements.**

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