

June 22, 2026

Public Comment to the Bellevue Common Council

Mayor and Council Members.

I am speaking as a concerned Blaine County resident regarding the ongoing wastewater treatment plant failures and the lack of communication from the City about what is being done to address them.

For approximately three years, residents and businesses have been living with the consequences of a system that is clearly not functioning as intended. The odors coming from the wastewater facility can be overwhelming and are often noticeable miles away from the plant. For those who live and work closest to the facility, the impacts are even more significant and occur on a daily basis.

What is equally concerning is the lack of clear, consistent information being provided to the public. Residents deserve to know what repairs have been made, what repairs are planned, what funding has been secured, what the timeline for a permanent solution is, and what steps are being taken to prevent further impacts on neighboring properties and the environment.

In addition, many residents have heard that chemicals are being applied in an effort to control odors. If chemicals are being used, the public deserves to know what products are being applied, in what quantities, and whether any evaluation has been conducted regarding potential impacts to people, pets, livestock, wildlife, groundwater, surface water, and surrounding agricultural land. Transparency regarding these actions is essential to maintaining public trust.

We are asking for transparency and accountability.

Specifically, I ask that the City provide regular public updates regarding:

- * The current condition of the wastewater treatment system.
- * Planned repairs or replacement projects.
- * Project timelines and funding sources.
- * Any chemicals being used at the facility and their potential environmental impacts.
- * Environmental monitoring and regulatory compliance efforts.

In addition, I respectfully request that the City consider a moratorium on new development approvals that would add additional demand to the Bellevue sewer system until the existing wastewater infrastructure is repaired, upgraded, and demonstrated to be capable of handling current needs.

The City should not continue expanding the number of users connected to a system that has struggled to adequately serve the residents and businesses already relying upon it. Responsible growth requires responsible infrastructure.

The people affected by this issue simply want a functioning wastewater system, honest communication from our local government, and a clear plan for moving forward.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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