

The Ordinance creating The Gerlach General Improvement District occurred in 1976 when the Gerlach Improvement Association was dissolved. The Gerlach GID is a local government entity subject to NRS 318.

The Gerlach GID is governed by an elected Board of Trustees consisting of five members. The GGID employees four people. The Public Works Supervisor is Russell Bierle who has been with the District since 2022. He is the certified operator for both the water and wastewater systems as well as the Radiation Safety Officer since the town utilizes an ion exchange water treatment plant.

There are two part time employees Russell supervises, the transfer station attendant and the Public Works Technician.

Susan Jackson is the Office Manager and responsible for all administrative activities.

The PWS and PWTechnician are both enrolled in PERS and contributions are made monthly.

Water for the system is supplied by two springs. The facilities consist of approximately 19 miles of pipeline, an ion exchange treatment plant, and two water storage tanks.

The GGID has 156 water hookups and services approximately 120 residents year-round. Residents are billed monthly for water, sewer and disposal. The water charge is based on meter size for the first 10,000 gallons of usage with additional charges for tiers above 10,000 gallons. All occupied properties in town have water meters. Vacant properties, without water meters, are charged system obligation fees. Currently, there are 25 properties being charge system obligation fees.

Sewer and disposal are billed at the residential, commercial and multiplex rates. Bulk trash is billed separately. Sewer is not metered.

Residents haul their garbage to the town's transfer station which is serviced by Waste Management on a biweekly basis.

The town has two parks, a senior center and community center. The town is exploring funding to replace the foundation on the historic water tower located in one of the parks.

The town of Gerlach experiences a huge influx of people from all over the world who come to the Black Rock Desert for the annual Burning Man Festival. The GGID is the primary source of water for this event.

In 2001, The Gerlach GID received approximately 80% of the funding for installation of water meters and the water treatment facility from the State of Nevada through the Board for Financing Water Projects (AB 198 Grant Program). Funding provided by this Board amounted to \$840,911. Additional funding was received from Washoe County and NDEP. Construction began in 2005. Total cost of the project was \$1,045,908.

The GGID is required to maintain reserve accounts for the water meters and treatment plant to replace these facilities when they become obsolete. These funds are held in the Nevada State Treasurer's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP). The GGID contributes monthly to these accounts and assures adequate reserves maintained.

In 2009, the GGID borrowed \$470,000, at an interest rate of 4.25%, from the USDA to reline the town's sewer ponds. An annual payment of \$24,703, made in monthly installments, services this debt. The town made a principal payment of \$50,000 in 2018 and a principal payment of \$40,000 in 2020. This loan will be fully repaid in 2029.

The GGID contributes to three LGIP reserve accounts as required under the USDA agreement. The accounts are for the sewer pump, short lived assets and capital improvements. Contributions are sent monthly to the State Treasurer's office to fund these reserves.

The GGID was given a principal forgiveness loan in the amount of \$127,350 from the State Revolving Fund to replace the sewer main in 2014. This line goes under the railroad tracks which resulted in a partial collapse causing stoppage in the winter.

In 2015, a principal forgiveness loan from the State Revolving Fund in the amount of \$434,640 was issued to the GGID to replace the service saddle clamps which were failing due to the alkali soil. This project was completed in 2016.

The town had utilized an old redwood water storage tank for untreated water. This tank leaked and was cited during the Sanitary Survey as needing to be replaced. In 2018, the State Revolving fund issued a principal forgiveness loan in the amount of \$374,775 so the GGID could replace this tank and construct a 105,000 gallon steel raw water storage tank.

The town has been developing a renewable microgrid project in partnership with Washoe County and NV Energy, among others. Team Climate Resilient Gerlach was a winner of the US Department of Energy's 2023 Energizing Rural Communities Prize, which produced a conceptual microgrid design from UNR and an energy footprint study. Armed with these, GGID and our partners continue to pursue funding to move incrementally toward realizing local, sustainable energy production.

The GGID has funding supplied by NDEP and CDBG to expand wastewater capacity. Total cost of this project is projected at \$958,000. Preliminary engineering and environmental review will be completed over the next 18 months with project completion scheduled for 2027.

GGID is expecting to proceed in 2025 with the Garden Spring restoration project, also funded by SRF. This \$670,600 project is fully funded by a principal forgiveness loan and aims to restore output from one of two springs that supply water to the GGID treatment plant.