

For Immediate Release

### **City of Whitefish Deviation Request Approved by DEQ**

[Whitefish, MT – 8/7/2019] The City of Whitefish has regained permission to allow future subdivisions from the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). This authorization to subdivide comes via a deviation request that will allow the City to operate the Water Treatment Plant at rates exceeding the firm capacity of 3.0 MGD.

“This approval is important for the City because it will allow Whitefish to continue to grow in a sustainable and responsible manner as we work towards increasing our water capacity,” stated City Public Works Director Craig Workman.

The request was based on a detailed analysis submitted by the City that supports the ability to add 1,500 additional equivalent residential units (ERUs) with the current capacity of the water plant. The analysis also determined that 1,037 unconnected ERUs have been previously platted in the City, which could be connected to the water system by right based on current zoning. Therefore, DEQ will allow the City to create a maximum of 463 new ERUs while the City works on several water capacity expansion projects. The City is anticipating that additional water capacity will be available in 2021, at which time the deviation will no longer be required.

Questions about the deviation request may be directed to the Public Works Department ([jemmenegger@cityofwhitefish.org](mailto:jemmenegger@cityofwhitefish.org), or 863-2460).