

Santiam Water Control District



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May 16, 2017

To: Co-Chair Senator Fred Girod, Co-Chair Representative Paul Holvey, and Members of the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 5530

Dear Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Committee:

The Santiam Water Control District (SWCD) would like to submit our request for \$1.2 million dollars of State funding to complete the Mill Creek Corporate Center (MCCC) irrigation conversion and efficiency project. The project will convert the districts open ditch irrigation delivery system to a highly efficient pumped and piped delivery system servicing approximately 1400 acres, most of which are state owned lands. The project includes the construction of a new intake screen, pump station, a small storage tank and approximately 19,000 feet of underground irrigation delivery piping. The pump station will include three 80 horsepower pumps with variable frequency drives. The station will be automatically controlled to match pump output with user demand.

In 2001 House Bill 2923 (section 26) directed the Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services and Dept. of Corrections to develop a plan for the sale of 349-400 acres of state property to create the Mill Creek Corporate Center (MCCC). Subsequently SWCD ditches and canals that fed water to all the grounds were eliminated. The lack of a fully functional irrigation system leaves the landowners purchasing far more expensive drinking water and still contractually obligated to pay for irrigation water rights. The District has been working with Oregon Dept. of Administrative Services and Oregon State Dept. of Corrections to develop a project that would allow the district to deliver water to all lands that have a contract for delivery but which the delivery system was eliminated as part of the legislative direction.

We now have 30% design drawings and an engineer's estimate to construct a replacement delivery system at a total cost of 3.2 million dollars. The timing is now critical, we have secured 1 million dollars and have grant applications requesting an additional 1 million. We are requesting 1.2 million dollars directly from the legislature to assist in rectifying the issue caused by the body itself.

Thank You for your consideration on this critical issue,

Brent Stevenson

District Manager

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