
City of Mill City

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House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery

Hwrec.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide important feedback from the perspective of those directly affected by the 2020 Oregon wildfires.

Mill City was extremely lucky in that the large majority of our community was spared the devastation those in other communities experienced. That said, Mill City did lose one thriving business and over 20 residences.

Because Mill City remained nearly wholly intact after the wildfires, we were able to provide needed meeting space and staff assistance to the many agencies and residents navigating through the aftermath. Since then, Mill City has become the focal point for development due to our having available land and working infrastructure. With the influx of development Mill City's aging sewer system has been a main point of concern, as the system built to accommodate 20 years of growth, is nearing the 30-year mark and is very close to/at capacity limitations set under our DEQ NPDES permit.

For Mill City, there continue to be ripples caused by the losses surrounding us. With growth comes needed infrastructure and support services. Mill City estimates that we could see up to 300 new housing units within the next three to five years. Our infrastructure, specifically sewer, can not accommodate this growth. Additionally, the North Santiam Canyon is lucky to have a brand new Jr/Sr High School. However, the elementary school is insufficient for the current student numbers and will require expansion to accommodate new students brought in by the new housing.

Mill City sees the following as ongoing needs and areas of concern:

- Infrastructure – Sewer Capacity
- Infrastructure – Water Upgrades (NE Quadrant)
- Infrastructure – Street Upgrades (NE Quadrant)
- Housing – Overall Lack; Low/Mod (Workforce Housing)
- School Capacity - \$10 Million +/- Elementary School Addition (6+ Classrooms)
- Fire Buffer – Purchase Land to Secure

While we are now beyond two years since these wildfires, the impact continues to follow us and those who experienced them. The Committee on Wildfire Recovery serves an important role in Oregon's recovery from a horrific tragedy. We believe that the House Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery continues to be a valid and necessary Committee as it will be many years before affected communities see a return to normalcy.

We sincerely thank you for all you have done and hopefully continue to do for wildfire survivors.

Respectfully,



Timothy L. Kirsch, Mayor
City of Mill City

Located in the Scenic North Santiam Canyon

The City of Mill City is an equal opportunity provider.