

February 10, 2022

Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Se. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: **SB 5701** - City of Veneta supports EWEB Drinking Water Resiliency Funding Request

Co-Chairs Holvey and Girod:

The City of Veneta supports the Eugene Water and Electric Board's (EWEB's) request for state matching funds to address water resiliency projects.

Nearly ten years ago, the City of Veneta went all-in on a \$13 million, 24-inch wholesale water transmission pipeline to connect to EWEB to secure a future for our City's water supply. The City of Veneta now provides potable water to almost 1,800 residential and commercial water service connections using a combination of deep wells and wholesale finished water from EWEB.

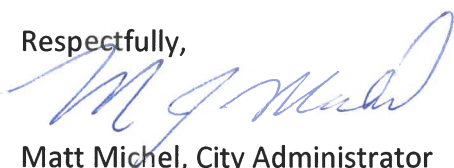
That remarkable construction feat, and the equally remarkable partnership between EWEB and Veneta that was forged with that project, continues today and into the future. EWEB's and Veneta's municipal water futures are tied together.

This confluence of municipal water destinies is why the City of Veneta supports EWEB's drinking water resiliency funding request. EWEB's sole source of drinking water is the McKenzie River. Recent events such as the September 2020 wildfires and harmful algae blooms have underscored the need for EWEB to diversify water sources as well as invest in McKenzie Watershed Restoration.

City of Veneta water ratepayers are already shouldering investments in McKenzie floodplain and riparian restoration and septic system replacements or repairs. State funding assistance will support efforts to secure our regional water supply, while helping keep rates affordable for Veneta water customers.

The City of Veneta supports EWEB's request for state matching funds to support water resiliency projects. Additional EWEB water resiliency benefits need to be made at a time our region and riparian areas are still recovering from a global pandemic and wildfire impacts.

Respectfully,



Matt Michel, City Administrator