



CITY OF DONALD

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May 4, 2023

Oregon Ways and Means Committee
900 Court Street, N.E.
Salem, OR 97301

Re: City of Donald: Wastewater Facility Funding Need

Dear Ways and Means Committee Chair,

I am reaching out to the Committee in an effort to provide testimony in support of SB5506 and garner support for the infrastructure needs and funding challenges in the City of Donald. There is a crucial need to pursue options for increasing the capacity of our wastewater system to meet permit requirements along with current and future demands. Expansion of Donald's wastewater system is critical for the safety, livability, and health of our community. We are unable to construct this project without funding assistance.

The existing Donald Wastewater Treatment Plant has reached its design capacity for lagoon storage and land irrigation. The planned wastewater facilities project will expand storage volume by constructing an additional lagoon, and will increase land irrigation capacity by constructing facilities to transport treated wastewater to a local nursery for irrigation. It will also enable the city to avoid placing a moratorium on pending growth of both housing and industry. By increasing design capacity, this project will protect water quality and public health by allowing the facility to continue meeting its permit limits.

A successful project will expand the wastewater system capacity to serve both new and existing customers, improve reliability with new equipment, reduce the burden on operators with fully automated systems, and improve energy and pumping efficiency. Construction of a new pump station and force main will provide a new location for land application of treated effluent. In combination, these new facilities will allow the city to accept increased wastewater flows without violating its permit and funding is needed to make this obligation happen.

Additional needs for Donald are reflected the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which includes over \$500,000 of additional sanitary sewer projects, \$150,000+ of stormwater system improvements, approximately \$900,000 in water system capital improvements, and over \$840,000 in transportation projects. As is evident, the need overburdens our limited resources and assistance would certainly help us move forward in providing these necessary improvements.

In conclusion the wastewater facility expansion project takes top priority for the Donald City Council.

We are positioned to advance this project once resources allow and stand fully committed to its successful completion. Successful completion of this project will secure a modern, safe, and reliable infrastructure system that will safely support the existing population, population growth, and economic development for the next 20 years.

I and the Donald City Council thank you for your service to Oregon and for your consideration of our infrastructure need. We would be honored to have your support and/or an opportunity to discuss any or all of these needs further.

Sincerely,
Eric Underwood
City Manager