

Representative Hai Pham, DMD
House District 36



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 5th, 2023

Dear Co-Chair Steiner, Co-Chair Sanchez and Members of the Joint Committee On Ways and Means,

I am writing today to share my **strong support of the City of Beaverton's [South Cooper Mountain Purple Pipe Project](#)**.

We have an urgent need in our state to invest in more water conservation and drought relief projects to preserve our precious water resources for future generations.

The City of Beaverton's Purple Pipe Project would do just that. The City has been working on a new system to conserve potable water to use for irrigation in the South Cooper Mountain area. The City's drinking water is primarily sourced from the Tualatin River and groundwater wells, so this project aims to preserve water from the river by using treated stormwater runoff to irrigate parks, school grounds and other green spaces.

This includes the construction of a stormwater reuse treatment plant, a first-of-its-kind in Oregon, Sterling Park pump station, and purple pipe distribution system. The project will use captured and treated stormwater to provide seasonal outdoor irrigation of landscaping, residential yards, public green spaces, and schoolyards, in addition to releasing approximately 12 million gallons (MG) into Upper Summer Creek to replenish summertime stream flow and lower stream temperature as part of a grant agreement with the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD).

The purple pipe distribution system is expected to supply 39 MG of outdoor irrigation demand annually after the full system build-out. The captured stormwater will be treated and stored in an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) well with native groundwater that does not meet drinking water standards. Construction of the storm-water reuse treatment plant and Sterling Park pump station is expected to be finished by the end of 2023.

The distribution system is being installed in coordination with development projects on South Cooper Mountain, which are expected to be completed by 2025. All phases of the project have already received needed permits, approvals, and bids to start construction.

This project will bring in \$862,500 from the state Oregon Water Resources Department Grant, and \$7,419,800 in federal funds from the Water Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA) Loan.

The funding request of \$2.5 million this session (one-time general funds or bonding) will cover the remaining balance of the project and advance an innovative water conservation project that can be replicated across the state. This [funding request](#) was also added to the drought study investments in [HB 3124](#) as an innovative water management program to consider investing in, thanks to the leadership and attention of Rep. Ken Helm and Rep. Mark Owens.

I strongly urge the Committee's support and funding of the Purple Pipe Project this session. Let's ensure our state remains innovative and invests proactively in water projects as we prepare for the future.

Sincerely,

Representative Hai Pham, DMD