



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 5, 2025

Sub-Committee on Capital Construction Projects
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

I am writing in support of the City of Silverton's request for assistance in funding the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to serve the city and its residents for the foreseeable future. The project involves the replacement of the City's existing WTP, which was constructed in 1957. This WTP can only treat 1.5 million gallons per day (MGD) and has far surpassed its useful life. The City of Silverton constructed a WTP in 1980 that can treat 2.5 MGD which is also due for replacement consideration. There are capacity constraints during peak summer water demands.

The new WTP scope includes construction of a 4 MGD Trident package-style facility and upgrades to the high-level pump station with a generator to ensure treatment and supply during emergencies. The capacity of the new WTP will enhance reliability and redundancy for existing demand while positioning the City to meet future water demands for residential, commercial, industrial, and public sectors. The City has completed the engineering and design and, subject to putting together a funding package, anticipates bidding the project later in 2025 or early 2026.

The City of Silverton has tens of millions of dollars of other necessary water infrastructure upgrades and enhancements, including supply sources (Abiqua Dam Intake), storage facilities (Edison Water Storage Tank), and distribution lines (Silver Creek Crossing), among others. The City is committed to delivering these projects effectively and efficiently and is willing to absorb as much cost as possible, although the City is already pushing up against the utility rate affordability threshold, as defined by the State.

The City is proactively updating its Comprehensive Plan to solidify the community's vision for the next twenty years of growth, and then will begin updating its Development Code, continuing to evaluate and implement efficiency measures for thoughtful infill, and conducting an Urban Growth Boundary sufficiency

report looking to expansion. While the City and community value our small-town feel, we also recognize the need for smart growth in supporting our housing deficiencies and affordability crisis. The new WTP is a critical infrastructure investment to ensure the City can accommodate a growing mix of additional housing types. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely;



Rick Lewis

State Representative

Oregon House District 18