

Written testimony on Oregon American Rescue Plan Priorities

1. Infrastructure Repair and Improvements:

St. Paul, like many cities, has an aging infrastructure. In each of our last five City budgets, the City prioritized infrastructure repairs; maintenance, and upgrades received high priority, with each affected City department receiving increased funding. However, our city has a very small population of 440 people, and about 170 households and 10 businesses to bear the burden of paying for infrastructure system repair that is projected to cost \$2.8- 3 million. We are requesting state matching funds for \$1.5 million that will be used for the following infrastructure investments we need to make:

Water System:

1. New source of water: The City needs a new source of municipal drinking water and upgrades and repairs to its water treatment and filtration system to maintain water service to our citizens and to improve water quality. The water distribution system, which in some areas of the City dates back to the 1920's, requires an increasing amount of valve and meter replacement, maintenance and repair. The cost to do this replacement/repair is estimated to be \$150,000-\$160,000. Fire flow in some areas of the City is so low that our fire trucks have to drive to the river to fill up. This affects insurance rates for all affected property owners and public safety. The City has received \$92,000 in the ARPA direct allocation, but this amount is a drop in the bucket needed to pay for the system improvements required. We have an engineering report that indicates a cost of \$688,000 to create a connection to an existing well at the Rodeo Grounds. If we take a loan to pay for this project, it will require a 20% increase in water rates. This will have a disproportionate impact on our residents who have suffered job layoffs due to the COVID crisis.

2. Water storage: The city is currently maxed out on water storage in the summer months. Water usage was up to 192,000 gpd, but our storage reservoir only holds 100,000 gallons. We need a) an additional reservoir, b) a 500,000 storage tank, c) booster pumps, d) a transmission line from the Water treatment plant to the storage tank and e) piping to connect to the existing system. The estimated total cost is \$800,000 to \$1,000,000.

Wastewater System:

1. The City's wastewater treatment plant has been under a compliance order from the Oregon DEQ which requires cleaning of the wastewater lagoon system and leak repair. Lagoon A work has been completed but we have additional leak repair required for all of our sewer piping. The repair requires video camera assessment, cleaning and repair of over 200,000 feet of sewer piping. The budgeted cost for this repair is \$5.60/foot or \$1,120,000.

2. In addition, we need to install over \$20,000 of irrigation pipe to manage the lagoon levels during rainy periods.

3. Finally, we have projected maintenance requirements for our two lift stations that total \$30,000. As with many cities and towns, our maintenance and repair budgets have been deferred for many years, and now the actual functionality of our systems is at risk.

in total our water and sewer infrastructure repair costs will be approximately \$2,878,000 over the next 3-5 years. We appreciate any additional funds you can provide that will help make these needed repairs.

Martin Waldo, Mayor
Cherry Haas, Treasurer
City of St Paul, Oregon