



April 23, 2021

TO: The Honorable Fred Girod, Co-Chair
The Honorable Paul Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction

FROM: Dolly Matteucci, Superintendent
Oregon State Hospital
Oregon Health Authority

SUBJECT: SB 5505, Capital Improvements

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and members of the committee; I am Dolly Matteucci, the Superintendent at the Oregon State Hospital (OSH). I am writing today to outline the purposes and benefits of the capital improvements requested by the Oregon Health Authority for the hospital, which are proposed in SB 5505.

OSH has identified three critical capital improvement projects, which would, respectively, provide:

- A safe and secure environment for patient care in the case of loss or contamination of city water, such as in the 2018 cyanotoxin event.
- Expanded staff space.
- Enhanced patient treatment capability by repurposing existing space.

The OSH Salem Campus is the primary state psychiatric facility serving some of Oregon's most vulnerable populations. It has capacity for 592 patients, resulting in a minimum of 725 people on campus during any one shift, with potential for over 1,600 staff, visitors, and/or vendors. As evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be prepared to adapt to emergency situations that impact the health and safety of a population that is essentially restricted to a single confined area.

OSH is almost an entirely self-contained facility. It has backup generators to provide electricity during a power outage event, and a backup propane system for heating and cooking in case of loss of natural gas. However, this has only one single point of connection to city water, fed through a 1950s era 10-inch steel underground pipe. This leaves the hospital vulnerable to a complete loss of water for drinking and sanitation, which could result in significant medical and sanitary concerns. Construction of a well water treatment facility and potable water storage tanks would create



self-sufficiency and ensure a safe water supply in the event of a disruption in city water for any reason. Estimated cost: \$4,380,000.

The hospital has a shortage of administrative and program staff space within the secure perimeter where treatment staff can be close to patients. Current conditions require the placement of staff and programs in non-ADA compliant cottages. OSH has identified an opportunity to infill an existing location within the secure perimeter that would add 2,700 square feet to accommodate 32 staff, by constructing a second floor within an area that currently has extra “ceiling” space. This space will afford more timely and efficient contact between staff and patients by those who must be on property to deliver care. Estimated cost: \$1,643,386.

The hospital also has identified a need to repurpose the existing therapy tub rooms on units that are no longer used. OSH proposes to remodel the existing 24 tub rooms to create additional treatment space for staff to interact with patients. As with the proposal above, this project would create substantial useable space, and a safe and ADA compliant environment for patients and staff, without the expense of constructing all-new buildings. Estimated cost: \$500,000.

I would be pleased to answer any other questions you may have about these projects or the Oregon State Hospital in general. Thank you for the opportunity to share this information.