

May 7, 2021

Senator Girod, Co-Chair
Representative Holvey, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Capital Construction
Oregon State Legislature

Co-Chair Girod, Co-Chair Holvey, and Members of the Subcommittee on Capital Construction:

On behalf of the City of Sandy, thank you for your continued support for our community's key priorities, and specifically, the city's critical wastewater system improvement project. This multi-year initiative, the largest in the City's history, represents our dedication to protecting our local watersheds while building sustainable infrastructure for the future residents of our area.

As you know, the City of Sandy is in a bind. In dry weather months all of Sandy's treated wastewater goes to our award-winning irrigation program. In wet weather, the tiny stream that receives our wastewater discharge is too small to meet growing demand, and our aging treatment plant can't keep up.

The City is working aggressively to address this challenge. Your support during the last biennium funded a critical study of alternatives and treatment opportunities, including constructing wetlands at the site of the former Roslyn Lake in order offset potential temperature impacts to a discharge of treated water to the Sandy River.

We are now moving forward with comprehensive systemwide improvements to bring the sewer system into compliance and provide enough capacity for the future. Design and construction is underway and will continue through 2026, at a total estimated cost of \$80 million. For a community of 12,000, that is a staggering burden. Sandy ratepayers have already seen their rates double, with further increases projected over the next several years.

To help meet this challenge, we have requested \$14.7 million in State funds that can be spent in design and construction costs for improvements that could be completed in the 2021-23 biennium. That includes upgrades to our existing treatment plant, repairs to our collection system, and planning and design for the proposed new treatment plant and discharge. State funding to cover these costs would make an immediate difference in addressing the sewer system's deficiencies and holding down the financial burden passed on to Sandy's ratepayers. It would also help offset the substantial debt the city is securing to finance the project.

Thank you again for your support in providing badly needed relief for Sandy ratepayers making this massive investment to achieve compliance, protect the environment, and ensure the community's sustainable growth.

Sincerely,

Mayor Stan Pulliam
Councilor Laurie Smallwood
Councilor Kathleen Walker
Councilor Rich Sheldon

Council President Jeremy Pietzold
Councilor Don Hokanson
Councilor Carl Exner