

Crescent Sanitary District has been in the construction phase of a community wastewater treatment facility. During construction the Gilchrist Sewer Company approached the Crescent Sanitary District(CSD) about hooking their sewer collection system to the CSD treatment facility. The Gilchrist Sewer District treatment ponds are failing and polluting the Little Deschutes River. The ODEQ has instructed the company to fix their ponds or have CSD treat their effluent. In order to fix their ponds they would need to raise their sewer rates beyond what their citizens can afford. The least expensive fix is to construct new lines that reverse their effluent to the CSD treatment ponds. The cost is approximately \$850,000.00 to do this. The CSD has taken on this cost and is now completing the construction. This extra cost will now fall on the CSD and we will have to raise our rates to an amount that will be difficult for our customers to absorb. We are a community that has a large number of retirees on fixed income. We would like to use lottery bond money to pay back the loan we have taken from the ODEQ for this construction. This would allow us to not raise our sewer rates. Our District's construction was effected by the Covid-19 pandemic which caused us to delay collecting revenue by about 10 months. This has resulted in our operating budget being below projected revenues. It will be difficult to pay for this extra expense without raising the sewer rates. Thank you for your consideration in this important economic and environmental issue. Chuck Lawrence, CSD Project Manager