May 5, 2023

Ways & Means Committee
Oregon State Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: SB 5506—City of Beaverton South Cooper Mountain Non-Potable Water Funding Request

Dear Co-Chairs Steiner and Sanchez, and Members of the committee:

The City of Beaverton appreciates the opportunity to request funding for the South Cooper Mountain Non-Potable Water project (aka Beaverton Purple Pipe Project.) This project, a *first of its kind in Oregon*, can supply treated stormwater and native ground water for irrigating green spaces in a new development, offsetting the demand for potable water during peak season.

The Beaverton Purple Pipe Project includes the construction of the Sterling Park storm water treatment facility (stormwater reuse), Sterling Park pump station and purple pipe distribution system. When fully built out, the Sterling Park storm water treatment facility is expected to supply 39 million gallons (MG) of cleaned storm water for irrigation use annually via the purple pipe distribution system. The Sterling Park storm water treatment facility/pump station portion of the project has a funding gap of $2.5 million, due to inflation and pandemic-related supply chain issues. State funding will provide last dollars in (approximately 13% of the project cost) and reduce impact on ratepayers.

During winter months, the stormwater from local basins will be collected, treated, and stored in an aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) well with native groundwater that does not meet drinking water standards due to its aesthetics (it's too "hard"). During summer months, when the water demand is high, the treated stormwater and native ground water will be pumped from the aquifer to irrigate the South Cooper Mountain area via the purple pipe distribution system. Through negotiated developer agreements, all new development on South Cooper Mountain will be connected to the system with the possibility of future expansion to the greater Cooper Mountain area.

The purple pipe program, alongside Beaverton's existing ASR system, will supplement water supplies from the Tualatin and Willamette Rivers by drawing on water supplies that don't require the same level of treatment and transmission infrastructure. The reduced demand for potable water will not only reduce the energy use by the city to distribute water over long distances (approximately 20 miles from the treatment facility) complementing the City's Climate Change initiatives, but it will also take less water from the Tualatin and Willamette

Rivers, leaving more water for fish and aquatic life, resident enjoyment, and surrounding agencies, there by conserving a precious regional resource.

In addition to the immediate benefit of reduced potable water demand, the project will also release approximately 12 (MG) of treated stormwater into Upper Summer Creek to replenish summertime streamflow and lower stream temperature as part of a grant agreement with the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). Climate change will increase stream temperatures and reduce stream flows in Oregon, which will impact availability of water for human consumption as well as habitat for important aquatic species like salmonids. As part of the OWRD grant, the City will measure and report on the total volume of stormwater injected underground, and the total volume of groundwater recovered for distribution and release monthly.

Finally, treated stormwater provides a secondary local water source if the City's primary water supply is disrupted following an earthquake or other disaster. If Beaverton's main potable water supply is interrupted, Beaverton would be able to access non-potable water and treat it for emergency purposes.

This innovative Beaverton program will create a blueprint for future stormwater use projects across the state—in which water resources are thoughtfully conserved, the impact of development on natural environments is lessened, and municipal water systems are a part of the solution.

The City of Beaverton urges your support within SB 5506 for the last dollars in on the Sterling Park storm water treatment facility/pump station portion of the innovative Purple Pipe project.

Sincerely,

L Beaty

Lacey Beaty
Mayor