

Oregon State Legislature
Joint Subcommittee on Capital Construction
900 Court Street
Salem, Oregon 97301



**Administrative
Offices**

May 8, 2025

RE: SB5531- Hermiston Aquifer Storage & Recovery Request

Co-Chairs Girod & Nosse, and Committee Members,

The City of Hermiston is very excited about embarking on our Aquifer Storage & Recovery (ASR) project, which will be a huge win for the Four-F's: Fish, Farmers, Factories, and Future Generations. We are asking for \$2 million to maximize the immediate benefits of this project to stimulate housing development by building 5,000 feet of new water main to connect our new ASR project to developable land within the southwest portion of our UGB.

Through a Public-Private-Partnership, work has already begun this Spring to drill the well itself for \$8M (image below). This will allow the community to begin storing an extra 100 million gallons of water per year for future use. That's equivalent to the water necessary to support 571 single family homes.

The benefit to the Four-F's comes from effectively time-shifting when this water is pulled from the Columbia River. The City has significant infrastructure capable of meeting peak summer demands which operates at only 20% capacity from October through March, when it is also less needed by fish, farmers, and factories. Therefore the ASR project will pump, treat, and store water during the winter time, thus allowing the city to meet summertime demand for future generations with zero additional summertime withdrawals.

Our request for \$2M to extend a new water main connecting the ASR project to the southwest portion of the city is identified on our 2018 Water System Master Plan, and should be generally considered "design ready."

Thank you for your consideration to help expand utility access to support at least 571 new housing units in eastern Oregon's largest city.

Sincerely,

Mark Morgan
Assistant City Manager

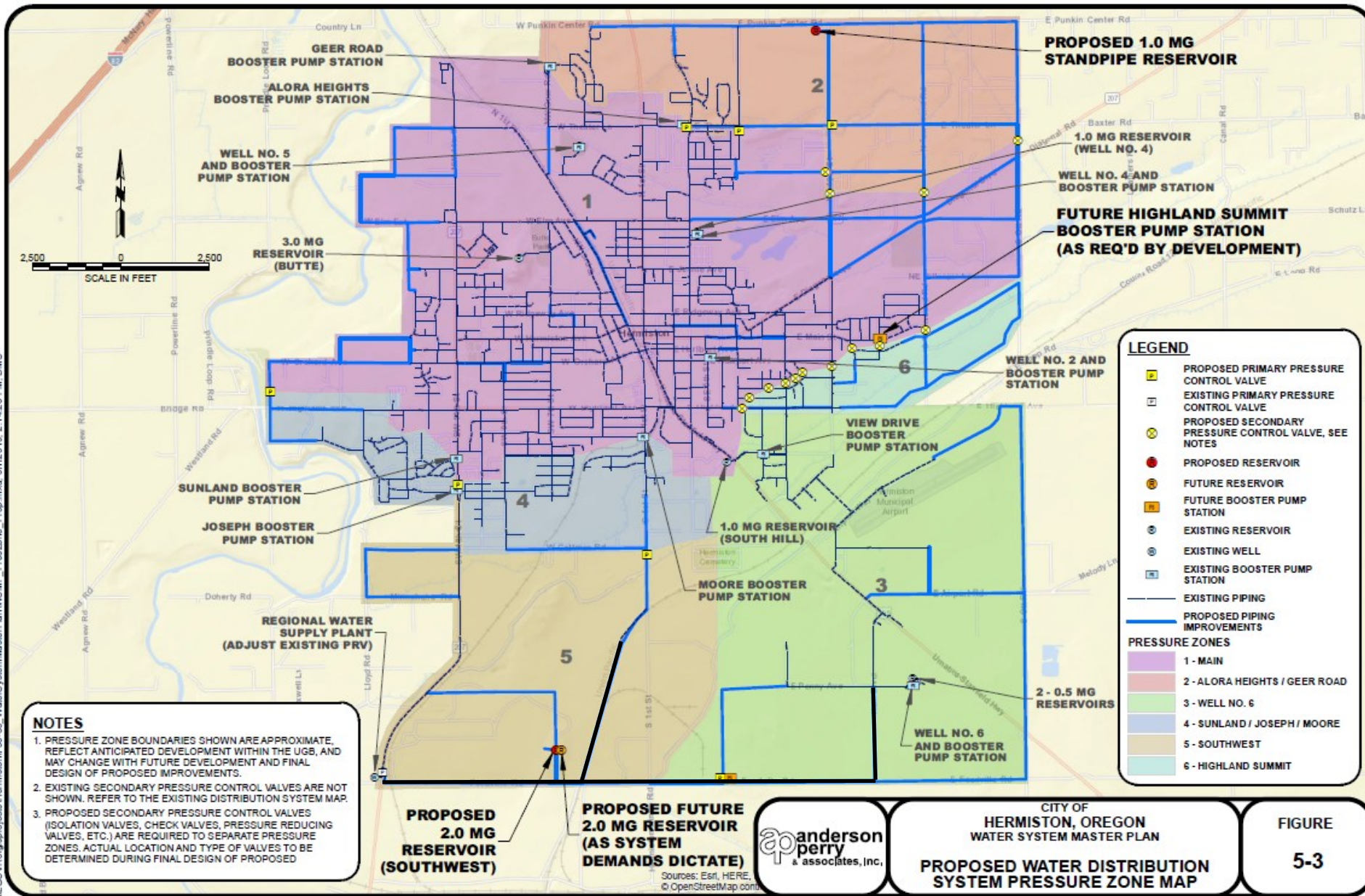
Encl: ASR Project Drilling Picture
2018 WSMP Proposed Water Distribution System Map
Map of Proposed 5,000' Water Main



ASR Well Site Construction: April 29, 2025

2018 Hermiston Water System Master Plan

Proposed Water Distribution System



2025 Oregon Legislature Water Caucus Capital Request

Hermiston Projects 1A & 1B Shown on WSMP

