



Sarah White  
Executive Director  
345 Westfield Street, #304  
Silverton, OR 97381  
503.509.4797  
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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of the City of Silverton who has submitted a funding request for the construction of a new Water Treatment Plant (WTP) to serve the City of Silverton and its residents. Sheltering Silverton is a non-profit homeless services organization that operates a low-barrier emergency shelter for people who are displaced in our community. The City of Silverton has been an integral partner in the running up of comprehensive homeless services and shelter for the Silverton area. The City has been an invaluable partner, providing land and capital support for our facility along with frequent assistance in our shared goal of ending unsheltered homelessness in Silverton.

The new WTP scope includes construction of a 4 MGD Trident package-style facility and upgrades to the high-level pump station with a generator to ensure treatment and supply during emergencies. The capacity of the new WTP will enhance reliability and redundancy for existing demand while positioning the City to meet future water demands for residential, commercial, industrial, and public sectors. The City has completed the engineering and design and, subject to putting together a funding package, anticipates bidding the project later in 2025 or early 2026.

The City of Silverton has tens of millions of dollars of other necessary water infrastructure upgrades and enhancements, including supply sources (Abiqua Dam Intake), storage facilities (Edison Water Storage Tank), and distribution lines (Silver Creek Crossing), among others. The City is committed to delivering these projects effectively and efficiently and is willing to absorb as much cost as possible, although the City is already pushing up against the utility rate affordability threshold, as defined by the State.

The City is proactively updating its Comprehensive Plan to solidify the community's vision for the next twenty years of growth, and then will begin updating its Development Code, continuing to evaluate and implement efficiency measures for thoughtful infill, and conducting an Urban Growth Boundary sufficiency report looking to expansion. While the City and community value our small-town feel, we also recognize the need for smart growth in supporting our housing deficiencies and affordability crisis. The new WTP is a critical infrastructure investment to ensure the City can accommodate a growing mix of additional housing types. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,

Sarah White  
Executive Director, Sheltering Silverton  
[sarah@shelteringsilverton.org](mailto:sarah@shelteringsilverton.org)