



Board of Commissioners

Andy Nichols, Commissioner
Position One

Kelley Minty, Commissioner
Position Two

Derrick DeGroot, Commissioner
Position Three

January 15, 2025

Oregon Legislature's Bipartisan, Bicameral Water Caucus
Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and Members of the Caucus

RE: Letter of Support for South Suburban Sanitary District's Project Request

Dear Co-Chair Helm, Co-Chair Owens, and Caucus Members,

Please accept this strong letter of support for the request submitted by the South Suburban Sanitary District's (SSSD) required upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant that serves approximately 23,000 citizens in our officially designated disadvantaged community.

The upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant are mandated by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) and are necessary to comply with new permit requirements that must be completed by October of 2026.

Cost estimates for these upgrades are approximately \$83 million. The District has saved millions of dollars in reserve funds that have been responsibly placed with Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP), and has \$10 million in reserves for matching funds. This, combined with other funds on hand, the District is seeking \$70.1 million to cover the balance of these mandated upgrades.

In addition to compliance with ODEQ's new permit requirements, these upgrades will provide significant public benefits as well as benefits to fish and wildlife as the water discharged will be much higher in quality when discharged into Lake Ewauna, the headwaters of the Klamath River.

The Klamath County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to stand with SSSD in their request and respectfully ask this Caucus to join us in that support by approving their financial request to help fund these mandated upgrades.

Respectfully,

Andy Nichols
Commissioner

Kelley Minty
Chair

Derrick DeGroot
Vice Chair

When you're here, you're home

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