



January 28, 2026

Subject: Burns I&I Memo

To Representative Mark Owens,

Existing System Deficiencies (Current Conditions):

- The City of Burns' sanitary sewer system experiences significant inflow and infiltration (I&I), which places excess hydraulic load on downstream infrastructure and treatment facilities. The system is over capacity by approximately 61.18 million gallons per year, which has only been intensified by the 2025 flood.
- The 2024 Inflow & Infiltration Study documented system-wide deficiencies, including:
 - Elevated infiltration through cracked pipes and defective joints
 - Sedimentation and debris accumulation within sewer mains
- Following the flooding in 2025, the sewer system is currently being inspected by CCTV for deficiency and being cleaned. Once high priority areas are identified in the report the city will begin plans for corrective actions.
- These conditions were exacerbated by flooding in 2025, which further stressed an already vulnerable system and increased infiltration pathways.

Evidence from the I&I Study:

- CCTV inspection identified multiple high-priority segments with active infiltration, joint separation, cracking, and poor pipe condition.
- The study confirmed that infiltration is a major contributor to excessive flows, particularly from the flood conditions of 2025 and general storm conditions, rather than increased customer usage.
- Based on inspection results and flow data, approximately 16,000 linear feet of sewer main were identified as candidates for replacement or rehabilitation to meaningfully reduce I&I and improve system resilience to future flooding.

Consequences if Deficiencies Are Not Addressed:

- Continued I&I will result in:
 - Elevated flows to the sewer lagoons, increasing the risk of regulatory noncompliance, especially during flood events.
 - Ongoing operational and maintenance challenges, including frequent cleaning and inspection
 - Increased risk of sanitary sewer overflows during wet-weather events
- The City is currently operating under a Mutual Agreement and Order with Oregon DEQ, which requires measurable action to reduce lagoon levels and system inflows.
- The MAO requires completion of three priority sewer replacement projects between 2027 and 2028, each tied to a defined pipeline segment, pipe size, and reporting deadline to DEQ.
- By April 1, 2027, the City is required to complete replacement of approximately 3,750 linear feet of 8-inch sewer main on Foley Drive and submit a status report to DEQ by May 1, 2027.

- By December 31, 2027, the City is required to replace approximately 3,400 linear feet of sewer main on West Pierce Street and West Fillmore Street, including upsizing from 6-inch to 8-inch pipe, and submit a status report to DEQ by January 31, 2028.
- By December 31, 2028, the City is required to replace approximately 2,700 linear feet of sewer main on North Egan Avenue and submit a status report to DEQ by January 31, 2029.

Proposed Mitigation:

- The proposed project would replace approximately 11,000 linear feet of sewer main, targeting the highest-priority segments identified in the study.
- Replacement of these segments is expected to:
 - Significantly reduce groundwater infiltration
 - Improve system reliability and hydraulic performance
 - Support long-term compliance with DEQ requirements
 - Improve system resilience to future flood events
- The estimated cost for system replacement identified in the study is approximately \$7.0 million by 2029, with the current project representing a critical first phase.

Lift Station Coordination

- Separately, the Triangle Lift Station, which was damaged during the 2025 flooding, is in the design phase for replacement.
- While this project addresses a discrete failure point, it does not resolve upstream I&I issues that were exacerbated by the flooding.