



City of Stayton

Department of Administration

362 N. Third Avenue • Stayton, OR 97383

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February 13, 2026

Re: State Funding Request – Stayton / Sublimity Emergency Water Intertie

Dear Co-Chairs and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Stayton, I respectfully request your support for a **\$1.9 million capital appropriation** to design and construct a regional emergency drinking water intertie between the City of Stayton and the City of Sublimity.

Stayton serves as the primary service hub for the mid-Santiam Canyon region. Our community provides drinking water, wastewater treatment, healthcare access, education, employment, and commercial services relied upon by residents throughout eastern Marion County. **The reliability of Stayton's infrastructure therefore directly affects not only our more than 8,000 residents but also neighboring communities that depend on Stayton's facilities and services every day.**

This request is driven by a documented and unavoidable risk associated with federal operations at Detroit Dam. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers planned deep drawdown operations at Detroit Lake significantly increase turbidity levels in the North Santiam River — the sole drinking water source for Stayton. Our slow-sand filtration system performs exceptionally well under normal watershed conditions, but it is not designed to withstand sustained high-turbidity loading.

Attempting to continue operating the facility under prolonged extreme turbidity conditions presents a significant risk of physical damage to the treatment process and distribution system. Filter media fouling, biological upset, sediment intrusion, and disinfection failure could render the plant inoperable and introduce contaminated water into storage and pipelines. Once sediments and contamination enter the distribution system, restoration is not a short-term repair — it can require flushing, cleaning, disinfection, component replacement, and potentially reconstruction of major system elements.

In such a scenario, Stayton would not simply experience a temporary outage; the city could lose the functional integrity of its entire potable water system. The resulting downtime could be indefinite, and reconstruction costs could reach tens of millions of dollars, far exceeding the City's financial capacity.

The consequences extend beyond drinking water service.

If Stayton loses potable water production, the city will also lose the ability to operate its wastewater treatment plant. The wastewater system depends on reliable potable water supply for process control, sanitation, equipment protection, and regulatory compliance. A prolonged outage would therefore halt wastewater treatment operations.

THE CITY OF STAYTON IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND SERVICE PROVIDER

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This is critically important because Stayton provides wastewater treatment service to the City of Sublimity under an intergovernmental agreement. A failure of Stayton's water treatment facility would therefore create a cascading infrastructure failure affecting both communities — eliminating potable water service in Stayton while simultaneously disabling wastewater treatment capacity serving residents and businesses in both Stayton and Sublimity. Both communities would immediately face public health risk and regulatory non-compliance conditions.

The proposed intertie provides a practical and immediate resilience solution. By connecting our systems, Stayton would be able to temporarily receive treated drinking water from Sublimity during extreme turbidity events or treatment outages. This redundancy protects public health, preserves wastewater treatment capability for both cities, and ensures continuity of essential regional services.

Importantly, this intertie creates a **regional benefit**. It establishes mutual emergency support capability between two public water systems, strengthening infrastructure resilience across the Santiam Canyon service area. By contrast, alternative remedies — such as major treatment plant reconstruction or advanced clarification facilities — would cost more than \$15M–\$20M and would protect only Stayton's plant without providing redundancy or emergency capability for neighboring communities. Those options solve a local facility limitation, whereas the intertie solves a regional public safety problem.

Importantly, this project is not the result of local infrastructure neglect. Stayton has consistently invested in maintaining and operating its water system responsibly. The need for this intertie arises directly from operational changes to a federally managed dam system that small communities do not have the financial capacity to independently mitigate. State partnership is therefore essential to protect public health, environmental compliance, and regional economic stability.

This project represents proactive risk mitigation, regional cooperation, and responsible stewardship of public infrastructure. It ensures that communities downstream of Detroit Dam remain safe and functional despite changing watershed conditions beyond local control.

For these reasons, the City of Stayton respectfully requests your support for this critical capital funding request.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important regional public safety and environmental protection project.

Sincerely,



Brian Quigley

Mayor, City of Stayton

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