

Submitter: Ryan Nolan  
On Behalf Of: City of Rogue River  
Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On Capital Construction  
Measure, Appointment or SB5701  
Topic:

RE: SB 5701 – Request to Add the Rogue River Water Supply & Fire Protection Improvement Project

Co-Chairs Girod, Nosse, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the City of Rogue River, I respectfully request your support for including the Rogue River Water Supply and Fire Protection Improvement Project in the Capital Project Funding Bill, in the amount of \$3,142,985.

Rogue River is a small but strategically important community whose needs are both urgent and well-defined. Our current water system is aging, undersized, and no longer capable of meeting modern operational or fire-protection standards. The City has thoroughly scoped and prepared for the construction of a new 1-million-gallon concrete reservoir and city-wide fire-protection upgrades, including additional hydrants and improved system pressures. This is the City's top capital priority, selected because it will deliver immediate and measurable public-safety benefits, position our community for responsible housing growth, and remedy long-standing infrastructure gaps.

While many communities are seeking state partnership for water and resilience projects, Rogue River stands out for three key reasons:

1. Clear, Documented Need and High Vulnerability – The 2020 Alameda Fire exposed the vulnerability of small cities like ours with limited storage and constrained hydrant coverage. Our assessments identified critical deficiencies that affect life-safety and wildfire response capabilities.
2. Exceptional Fiscal Stewardship and Readiness – Rogue River has a strong record of conservative budgeting and successful management of outside funds. Planning and scoping work are complete, meaning state dollars can be deployed immediately.
3. High Impact for a Community with Limited Local Means – Rogue River is home to a disproportionately senior and low-income population. State partnership would directly strengthen emergency preparedness for residents who are among the most economically vulnerable in Oregon.

This project will significantly enhance public safety, emergency response capacity, and community resilience for decades to come. It will bring our system into alignment with modern fire standards and support future residential development.

For these reasons, I urge your support for this essential project and respectfully request its inclusion in SB 5701. Thank you for your continued service to Oregon's communities and for your consideration of this high-impact investment in Rogue River's safety and future.

Sincerely,

Ryan Nolan  
City Administrator, City of Rogue River