



City of Stevenson

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City Awarded \$4M Grant for Wastewater Collection System Upgrades

The US Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced the City of Stevenson is awarded a \$4,054,400 grant to fund much needed upgrades for its collection system, one component of the overall wastewater system upgrades scheduled to begin in 2021.

"We are grateful for the support of Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and their staff for their advocacy in securing this funding. This grant alone provides nearly one quarter of the total costs for the improvements needed to our wastewater system. These funds will go a long way in helping limit the financial burden on our businesses and community," said City Administrator Leana Kinley.

"Investment is critically needed to protect the City's wastewater system from flooding events and to facilitate economic growth by increasing capacity," Senator Cantwell wrote in a letter in support of the project in July 2019, "With grant funding, the City will be able to replace pump stations, increase the size of the wastewater infrastructure and provide protection to the city's wastewater treatment plant."

In an official statement, Senator Murray said "“This injection of federal funding to replace the City of Stevenson's old pump stations couldn't be more timely. While our communities are working hard on the frontlines to keep people safe and help workers and families navigate the health and economic impacts of the pandemic, it is critical that vital infrastructure improvements that can local spur economic growth don't get sidelined.”"

Mayor Scott Anderson added, "This really has been a team effort involving City staff, our federal representatives, state and local agencies, and several Stevenson businesses. Businesses benefiting by the upgraded lift stations were very helpful in their letters of support and I would like to thank Skamania Acupuncture, Skamania Lodge, and Backwoods Brewing Company for their ongoing support with this and other projects as we work to make Stevenson a welcoming environment for our local businesses."

This \$4M grant is matched by a \$873,000 low interest loan and \$70,600 grant from USDA. A final portion is funded from an existing loan through the Washington State Department of Ecology for a total project cost of \$5,068,000 to complete these collection system upgrades. The City is applying for funding of an additional \$9.9M in required wastewater system improvements in order to lift the moratorium on new commercial connections.

More information on the project can be found at <http://ci.stevenson.wa.us/cleanwater/>.