



Update to Board of County Commissioners

To: Board of County Commissioners
RE: Oak Lodge Water Services legislative request to WES/Clackamas
Date: 01-09-2024

Requested Action from the BCC

PGA is requesting whether or how best to support Oak Lodge Water Services legislative request.

<p>Summary</p>	<p>Oak Lodge Water Services (OLWS) is seeking \$5 million in state legislative funding to contribute to a \$110 million capital improvement project. Their project is intended to meet regulatory requirements and will provide improved water treatment, resulting in cleaner discharge into the Willamette River.</p> <p>OLWS provides wastewater, drinking water, and watershed protection services for a community of nearly 29,000 ratepayers spanning from Milwaukie to Gladstone. The OLWS Board raised the blended rate for these services roughly 27% last year and has committed to double-digit rate increases in the years ahead, a clear sign of their commitment to a responsible capital improvement plan. Indeed, the vast majority of the project funding will be financed through ratepayer funds. State funding of \$5 million will help to offset the financial impact on vulnerable ratepayers.</p> <p>Oak Lodge Water has directly requested WES/Clackamas County to support their legislative efforts.</p> <p>No funds are being requested of WES or Clackamas County.</p>
<p>Department Reviews and Comments</p>	<p>WES – OLWS provides service to a neighboring district, and through close partnership with WES, OLWS’s success to deliver good, reliable, and legal treatment services generates positive public trust for local infrastructure. Their success reflects well on WES, and Clackamas County. Likewise, legislative support for water treatment facilities, especially for regulatory improvements, generates good awareness of the cost of infrastructure with legislators and the impact of state and federal regulations.</p> <p>PGA – This will be a priority request for legislators that share a district with OLWS. Supporting OLWS will not interfere with County priorities.</p>
<p>Staff Recommendation</p>	<p>PGA recommends Clackamas County, in partnership with the WES District, support Oak Lodge Water Services legislative efforts.</p>
<p>Timeline</p>	<p>Oak Lodge Water Services are working now with their legislators to generate support. The more support they can build ahead of the legislative session, the better their odds of success.</p>