

Jefferson County
Board of Commissioners
Agenda Request

To: Board of Commissioners
Philip Morley, County Administrator

From: Frank Gifford, Public Works Director *FG*

Agenda Date: July 16, 2012

Subject: Letter to Honorable Norm Dicks, U.S. House of Representatives; Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate; Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate; regarding 2013 level of funding in Appropriations Bill for water programs.

Statement of Issue:

The attached correspondence identifies the need to maintain 2012 levels of funding for Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Cuts are proposed in the 2013 appropriations bill but infrastructure needs are great nationwide. Water quality programs are a potential source of construction funding for the Port Hadlock Wastewater System.

Analysis/Strategic Goals/Pro's & Con's:

The action is consistent with our fundraising strategy for the wastewater facility.

Fiscal Impact/Cost Benefit Analysis:

Clean Water funds are administered at the state level through Department of Ecology, who provides grant/loan packages for projects. Ecology's Water Quality Assistance program is targeted as a potential source of funding in the sewer project's finance plan.

Recommendation:

Email signed letters to our congressional representatives via legislative assistants:

Murray: Shawn_Bills@murray.senate.gov

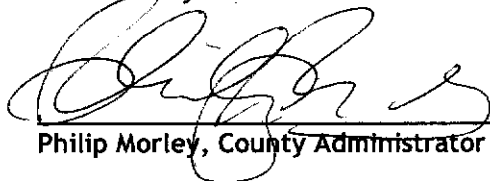
Cantwell: Carl_Seip@cantwell.senate.gov

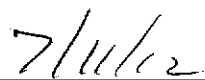
Dicks: Ryan.Shaures@mail.house.gov

Department Contact:

Joel Peterson, 385-9173

Reviewed By:


Philip Morley, County Administrator


Date

July 16, 2012

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
311 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Request Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to be Maintained at FY 2012 Levels

Dear Senator Cantwell:

We respectfully request that you help to maintain funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. As you know, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are a vital resource for our community and countless others around the country. We respect the difficult task you face this year to meet obligations to cut funding, but request that you protect this important program which provides many economic benefits.

The Port Hadlock Wastewater System Project received State and Tribal Assistance Grant funds in 2010. These funds have enabled us to contract for final design. In addition to helping our county meet regulations under the Clean Water Act, the Port Hadlock Wastewater System Project will boost our economy. The project will not only create many new jobs, but it will also allow us to meet the pent up demand for growth in the housing, retail and light industry sectors. In order to meet these goals, Jefferson County is working diligently to develop the resources necessary to carry out this project.

As you may be aware, the needs of Jefferson County are similar to those of other communities throughout Washington and around the country. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the nation's clean water infrastructure needs alone could top \$400 billion within the next 20 years, or roughly twice the amount currently being spent on clean water infrastructure by all levels of government. Additionally, the American Water Works Association reported in February that the U.S. currently needs \$1 trillion for clean water and drinking water infrastructure systems. The federal government will need to continue to play an important role as communities across the country work to meet environmental regulations and provide their residents clean water.

We respectfully ask that you work with your colleagues to raise the proposed funding level to meet FY2012 levels. The current proposed cut of 36% poses a serious threat to the progress of building water infrastructure and the economic benefits they provide. Please fund the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds at \$2.384 billion.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

John Austin, Chair

Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member

July 16, 2012

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Request Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to be Maintained at FY 2012 Levels

Dear Senator Murray:

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Sincerely,

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Phil Johnson, Member

David Sullivan, Member

July 16, 2012

The Honorable Norm Dicks
U.S. House of Representatives
2467 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Request Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds to be Maintained at FY 2012 Levels

Dear Congressman Dicks:

We respectfully request that you help to maintain funding for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. As you know, the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds are a vital resource for our community and countless others around the country. We respect the difficult task you face this year to meet obligations to cut funding, but request that you protect this important program which provides many economic benefits.

We greatly appreciate the funds you secured for the Port Hadlock Wastewater System Project in 2010. These funds have enabled us to contract for final design. In addition to helping our county meet regulations under the Clean Water Act, the Port Hadlock Wastewater System Project will boost our economy. The project will not only create many new jobs, but it will also allow us to meet the pent up demand for growth in the housing, retail and light industry sectors. In order to meet these goals, Jefferson County is working diligently to develop the resources necessary to carry out this project.

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