



Fiscal Year 2020-2021 BUDGET MESSAGE

Providing safe drinking water to our customers is the primary goal of the Corbett Water District. The Corbett Water District was established as a taxing district in 1932 and currently provides drinking water to 1,084 service connections in the Corbett and Springdale area. The source of our water is the North Fork and South Fork intakes of Gordon Creek. The Corbett Water District filters the water using slow sand filtration. Water is transported roughly five miles to our treatment plant, which consists of three filter ponds, a clear well, and a one-million-gallon reservoir. The plant was built in the 1980's. In addition to the filter ponds and treatment plant the District has four other reservoirs with a storage capacity of 1.95 million gallons. The water is treated with chlorine at a rate of one milligram per liter, which ensures that harmful bacteria and organisms in the water have been killed, and the water is safe to drink. Soda ash is also added into the water to raise the pH and alkalinity level, which reduces the amount of corrosion in plumbing. Both processes are necessary to meet state drinking water standards.

During Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in lieu of funding capital improvement projects we will continue to focus on maintenance programs to improve reliability and functionality of the district's current infrastructure. This includes inspecting and repairing Cla-valves, hydrants, mainline valves, treatment plant, headworks, and reservoirs.

We continue to save for the replacement of the internal structural members and re-coating of the interior of Reservoir #3. This project should be completed within the next few years. We have set aside \$25,000 in the proposed budget for the project.

Our staffing for the upcoming year will include hiring of another utility worker. This will bring our staff up to six. We will have the full time District Manager, three full time field utility workers and two part-time office staff. We will be using outside contractors to perform work that is beyond the scope and capability of district personnel, such as large main breaks, or major construction projects. This will allow our crew to work on hydrant installation, meter maintenance, treatment plant monitoring and answering service calls for our customers.

A ground water well is currently under development and feasibility stages, to supply the district's current and future needs as an alternate and primary drinking water source. The Board of Commissioners voted in October 2019 to move forward with drilling a test well with a feasibility study for possible aquifer storage and recovery (ASR). The District has applied for a 50% matching grant from the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for this portion of the well project. If successful the grant will provide \$264,500 towards the estimated \$529,500 cost of the test well. This grant will be awarded in June 2020. If results of the test well are good the District will continue on to the production well phase of the project in 2021.

We continue to make payments on our loan with Oregon Economic and Community Development Department which is scheduled for pay off in December 2025.

This budget is built on an assumption that revenue from water sales and property tax receipts will remain steady and that we will receive the OWRD grant of \$264,500 for the test well. This budget was prepared in compliance with Oregon Budget Law.

I respectfully submit the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 proposed budget for the discussion and deliberation of the Budget Committee and interested citizens of the Corbett Water District.

Jeff Busto
District Manager/Budget Officer