

GREATER PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT

March 15, 2021

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| The Honorable Richard Durbin  230 S. Dearborn Street  Suite 3892  Chicago, IL 60604 | The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  230 S. Dearborn Street Suite 3900 Chicago, IL 60604 |
| The Honorable Cheri Bustos  820 SW Adams St.  Peoria, IL 61602 | The Honorable Darin LaHood  100 NE Monroe Street  Room 100  Peoria, IL 61602 |

Re: Infrastructure Legislation Consideration

Dear Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth, Representative Bustos and Representative LaHood:

On behalf of the Greater Peoria Sanitary District (“GPSD”) and the 140,000 customers we serve each day, I write to ask that you please consider several of GPSD’s clean water infrastructure funding needs in future infrastructure legislation.

GPSD is a regional wastewater utility that serves individuals and businesses in the Central Illinois area. Without the services GPSD provides, not only would the area’s residents suffer from severe illness such as cholera, but the economic development of the last several decades would not have been possible.

Since our formation in 1927, GPSD has evolved from merely providing basic wastewater treatment to also providing advanced treatment, nutrient removal, and beneficial reuse of what otherwise would be considered a waste. Today, GPSD cleans approximately 25 million gallons of wastewater every day and sends that clean water to the Illinois River. I am pleased to report that today, GPSD’s clean water product is some of the best quality in our nearly 100-year history, and GPSD is being considered for national recognition for clean water quality and permit compliance.

Our work is considered “24/7/365” and our success is only possible because of our nearly 70-person workforce and network of local skilled trades. Our highly dedicated clean water professionals include multiple disciplines, such as: laboratory experts, industrial technicians, professional engineers, skilled tradesmen and tradeswomen, and customer service personnel. Indeed, any investment in clean water at GPSD is a direct investment in them and has a substantial multiplier effect in our community.

COVID-19 did not stop GPSD from continuing to deliver on its mission. GPSD continued providing households and businesses with essential wastewater services to promote commerce and protect public health and the environment. Further, GPSD recognized its unique position to help, and was one of the first utilities to begin testing its wastewater for COVID-19 in support of the broader pandemic strategy.

Just as GPSD did not stop during the pandemic, neither did unfunded regulatory demands placed on us and, consequently, our customers. Along with the City of Peoria, GPSD signed a federal consent decree to perform several projects to help maximize flow to the treatment plant to reduce combined sewer overflows. Additionally, GPSD is also on the verge of new permitting mandates which will result in more unfunded compliance requirements. All of this work will be in addition to the advanced asset management initiatives, efficiency pushes, and infrastructure maintenance that GPSD already performs.

With the potential for infrastructure legislation on the horizon, GPSD has many possible uses for grants that would have a direct impact on GPSD’s mission and the environment. For your consideration, these include:

*Paramount/Rutledge Remote Treatment Basin Discharge Elimination*

* Present Day Estimated Cost: $7,500,000
* Required By: Federal Consent Decree Mandate
* Project Description: GPSD owns and operates two remote treatment basins in the Bartonville area. While these locations only have issues once every two to three years, on average, without any documented environmental harm, our regulatory bodies are requiring GPSD to build additional storage at these two locations. When completed, storage will accommodate the 10-year storm event.

*South Street Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements & Restriction Elimination*

* Present Day Estimated Cost: $5,500,000
* Required By: Federal Consent Decree Mandate
* Project Description: In an effort to attempt to maximize flow to the treatment plant and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows, GPSD will enlarge pipes that connect the City of Peoria’s combined sewer system to the GPSD’s interceptor pipe to the treatment plant. This work will be performed near South Street. Control gates will also be modified and/or install for more active control during rain events. Additionally, GPSD will inspect the interceptor pipe around South for a suspected material restriction and resolve that restriction.

*Spring/Caroline Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements & Control Gates*

* Present Day Estimated Cost: $2,000,000
* Required By: Federal Consent Decree Mandate
* Project Description: In an effort to attempt to maximize flow to the treatment plant and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows, GPSD will enlarge pipes that connect the City of Peoria’s combined sewer system to the GPSD’s interceptor pipe to the treatment plant. This work will be performed near the locations of Spring Street and Caroline Street.

*Cedar, Fayette, Eaton Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements & Control Gates*

* Present Day Estimated Cost: $1,000,000
* Required By: Federal Consent Decree Mandate
* Project Description: In an effort to attempt to maximize flow to the treatment plant and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows, GPSD will modify and/or install control gates for more active control during rain events. This work will be performed near the locations of Cedar Street and the building that captures downtown Peoria flow at Fayette and Eaton.

*Sanger Street Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements*

* Present Day Estimated Cost: $5,800,000
* Required By: Federal Consent Decree Mandate
* Project Description: In an effort to attempt to maximize flow to the treatment plant and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows, GPSD will enlarge pipes that connect the City of Peoria’s combined sewer system to the GPSD’s interceptor pipe to the treatment plant. This work will be performed near Sanger Street. Control gates will also be modified and/or install for more active control during rain events.

*Darst Street Combined Sewer Overflow Improvements*

* Present Day Estimated Cost: $6,480,000
* Required By: Federal Consent Decree Mandate
* Project Description: In an effort to attempt to maximize flow to the treatment plant and thereby reduce combined sewer overflows, GPSD will enlarge pipes that connect the City of Peoria’s combined sewer system to the GPSD’s interceptor pipe to the treatment plant. This work will be performed near Darst Street. Control gates will also be modified for more active control during rain events.

*Treatment Plant Levee & Associated Improvements*

* Present Day Estimated Cost: $8,500,000
* Required By: Increased Flooding Conditions
* Project Description: Over the last several years, flooding posed substantial risks to GPSD’s treatment plant. In the event that a flood were to overtake the levee and flood the plant, substantial economic and environmental harm would likely occur. Although the plant is protected by a levee, in order to accommodate modern flooding, the levee needs to be built higher and reinforced. This project will accomplish the work needed for a FEMA-certified levee to protect the plant from over the 100-year flood as well as build additional flooding protections.

The above projects are just a sample of the projects on GPSD’s extensive list of infrastructure funding needs. GPSD appreciates any consideration you would make to investing in our clean water needs in future infrastructure legislation.

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you might have. Likewise, I am happy to meet with you virtually or in person to discuss these projects and GPSD’s progress in environmental protection.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

GREATER PEORIA SANITARY DISTRICT

Brian F. Johnson, JD/MBA

Executive Director