



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: City Council
Meeting Date: March 18, 2024
From: Jeff Aprati, Deputy City Manager
Subject: Government Relations Update: 2024 Legislative Session

PURPOSE / OBJECTIVE:

To review the results of the 2024 short session of the Oregon Legislature with the City's government relations consultant, Nellie deVries.

BACKGROUND / CONTEXT:

The 2024 short session of the Legislature was characterized by a focus on housing policy. Accordingly, the City's government relations efforts were aligned within the policy context in an attempt to secure state funding for our wastewater system improvement projects. We made the strong argument that as a city with a development moratorium currently in place, Sandy is perhaps the best possible example of a worthwhile investment of state dollars to fund infrastructure that would support additional housing.

Numerous meetings were held with members of the Capital Construction Subcommittee, the Speaker's office, the Governor's office, and other legislators spearheading these issues including Representative Gomberg. Testimony was also delivered at multiple public hearings. By all accounts, Sandy's wastewater needs and the merit of our funding request was well understood throughout the Legislature, and in particular by key decision makers. Ultimately however, as Ms. deVries' report indicates, the City was unfortunately unsuccessful in our efforts to secure funding.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Council use this work session to discuss the outcomes of the 2024 session and provide input on priorities and strategies for government relations in the future.

Ms. deVries is prepared to brief the Council on other bills considered and passed this session as well, in addition to the infrastructure issue.