



GREATER ST. HELENS AQUATIC DISTRICT EISENSCHMIDT POOL

April 22, 2021

City of St. Helens
265 Strand Street
St. Helens, OR 97051

Dear City Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the city meeting on April 21st. As requested, I am writing to ask for leniency on our City Water bill.

Eisenschmidt Pool is 82 years old this year and we are extremely proud to be part of its continuing future. We have some historic pictures and fascinating information on our web site at sthelenspool.com which might be of interest.

At the beginning of COVID we were alerted to a significant water leak. We found a hole in an original 1939 underground pipe at the bottom of one of three filter pits. We lost approximately 400,000 gallons of water in one month. The repair was fixed at a cost of \$25,000 during a time we were closed due to COVID and collected no gate money.

COVID forced me to lay off 25 people. A total of 9 employees remained when we re-opened with limited hours and occupancy. During the high & moderate risk levels of Columbia County and the low number of employees, we are unable to offer anything close to our past programs and activities.

Currently our 30 year old boiler is failing and is no longer repairable. The Energy Trust of Oregon did a study and by replacing the boiler with an energy efficient one, the Trust will pay \$42,000 of the total replacement cost. The project is bid at \$105,000 which leaves \$70,000 to pay. We have retained a 3 year loan through Columbia Pacific Economic Development District to cover this cost.

Another issue facing us is the need to re-grout and re-caulk the pool shell. A bid has come in at \$78,000 plus a total drain and refill of the pool. We are completely unsure how we can get this project started until the COVID pandemic has come to a complete end.

With the above expenses, limited operating hours/programs and resources, I would like to ask for your consideration in a temporary reduction in the percentage paid on our water bill or at least place a hold on our current percentage paid.

We want nothing more than to keep this resource available at an affordable cost for our county residents.

Thank you,

Anne Scholz
General Manager