
Meeting Date: February 24, 2025

Subject: Declaration of Emergency to Make Immediate Repairs for the Wastewater Treatment Plant

Attachments: Resolution 2025-11

Presented by: Dan Ford, PE, City Manager

Approved for Agenda by: Dan Ford, PE, City Manager

Discussion:

The City's Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) on February 11, 2025, and February 20, 2025, experienced failures to critical treatment processes and systems preventing the City from processing municipal wastewater consistent with permit requirements. Several events have occurred over a short amount of time including rupture of a sludge line under an existing building. This failure caused sewage to exfiltrate to the ground surface and also caused the foundation of a building to heave raising in elevation by approximately 6-inches. This failure was reported to Ecology as a spill. City Staff quickly rerouted wastewater to another process to reduce the City's exposure and temporarily fix the aforementioned issue. On February 20, 2025, two blowers at the aeration basin responsible for a critical wastewater process failed. A third blower, and remaining blower was placed into operation to manage the same loading as two blowers and is also in a state of failure and requires replacement. In addition, the headworks screen also is in a state of failure. The failure of these systems combined require immediate attention and funding.

Following RCW 39.04.280(1)e a Declaration of Emergency can be authorized by a governing body allowing the City Manager to waive the competitive bidding process and award necessary contracts to undertake these repairs and equipment replacements. Additionally, emergency funding is available to the City through an application process by declaring a state of emergency. The sum of all repairs and equipment replacements, except replacement of the building, is estimated at \$900,000.

The state of emergency will be lifted when all repairs are made.

Failure to act will result in permit violations and fines by the Department of Ecology / Environmental Protection Agency.

Fiscal Impact: Unknown. City Staff are pursuing emergency funding through the Department of Ecology, Department of Commerce, and Congressionally Directed Spending Request. Declaring an emergency allows the City to leverage funding for instances defined as an emergency per RCW 39.04.280(3).

Recommendation: Approve the following: Resolution 2025-11: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Toppenish, Washington, Declaring a State of Emergency to Make Immediate Repairs for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Alternatives: 1) If no approval, repairs will need to follow competitive bidding process, and City will need to utilize fund balances for repair and replacement costs. 2) Forward to next council meeting for further review.