

EPA Region 10 SRF **WATERS** Awards



2023
WATERS

Well-Planned
Affordable
Transferable
Efficient
Resilient
Sustainable

2023 WATERS Award Winners

Alaska

- City of Fairbanks, Golden Heart Utilities

Oregon

- City of Cannon Beach
- Christmas Valley Domestic Water Supply District
- City of Salem
- Panther Creek Water District

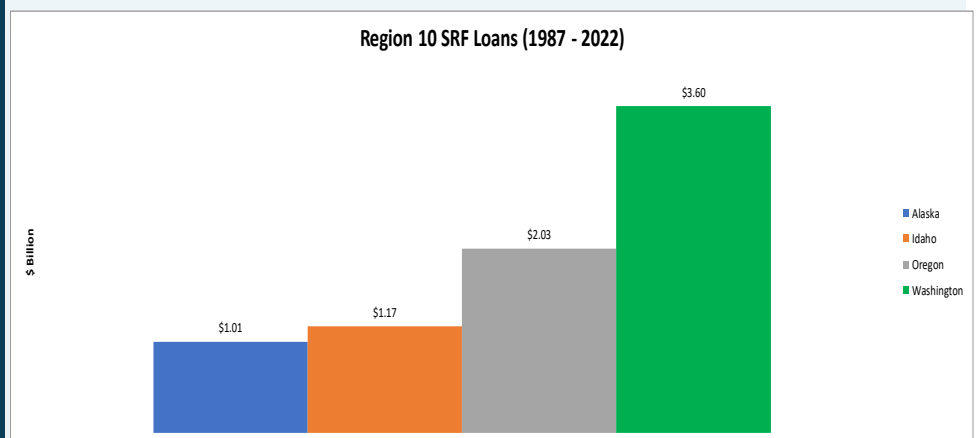
About The **WATERS** Awards

Recognizing the most innovative and effective CWSRF and DWSRF projects.

Since program inception, borrowers have utilized the State Revolving Fund (SRF) program to fund millions of dollars of projects that deliver environmental and public health benefits. The EPA Region 10 WATERS award program seeks to recognize exceptional SRF projects. These projects are nominated by the state SRF staff who implement this program, and are projects that help communities attain goals or requirements under the Clean Water Act or Safe Drinking Water Act, as well as achieve one or more elements of the **WATERS** award. Those elements include projects that: are **Well-planned**, address **Affordability** issues, include innovative ideas or technology that is **Transferable** to other communities, provide benefits for water or energy **Efficiency**, or incorporate elements of **Resiliency** and/or **Sustainability**.

About the **Region 10 SRF Program**

Over the past 35 years, the Region 10 SRF program has been capitalized at a total of \$3.4 billion. To date, using those funds, along with state match, repayments and interest earnings, Region 10 states have provided more than \$7.8 billion in SRF loans.





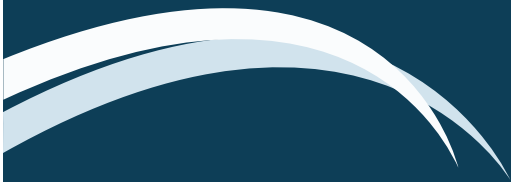
City of Fairbanks, Golden Heart Utilities Wastewater Treatment Facility Water Main Installation and Process Water Piping Replacement

This project was funded by a low interest \$1.5 million loan from the Alaska CWSRF program which kept the user rate increase to a minimum and resulted in energy efficiency. The average user fee for residential sewer service was \$53.72 in 2021. The user rate was approximately 1.03% of Median Household Income which is well under EPA's benchmark of 2% for sewer rate affordability. The loan increased the user rate by 0.27% of the user bill, or approximately 14 cents per month, keeping the user rate affordable. The loan paid for the installation of 10-inch water main to the WWTF and replacement of the failing process water system within the facility. In addition, the system was reengineered to minimize circulating flows and eliminate high-pressure water bleed into the atmospheric well. This greatly reduced the energy used to boost the pressure within the system, leading to energy efficiency.

Cannon Beach, Backbone Resiliency Project Phase 1

Cannon Beach is using a \$586,000 DWSRF loan to procure services to design and construct the following improvements: installation of seismic valves, improvements to main reservoir site including replacement of a water reservoir, and repair capacity after a seismic event. This project will help this community become more resilient. The terms of the loan, 30 years at 1% interest with \$298,000 in principal forgiveness will reduce the financial impact to ratepayers.

Photo shows the 1.3 million gallon concrete water reservoir that will be replaced with a seismically resilient tank





Workers installing new water main.

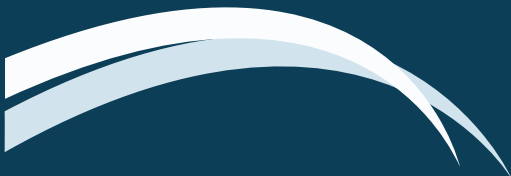
Christmas Valley Domestic Water District, Water System Improvements

The water district will use a DWSRF loan in the amount of \$1.6m to replace approximately 3 miles of piping and associated valves and hydrants. Areas to be replaced are located along portions of Christmas Valley Highway, Comet Lane, Mistletoe Road, and Holiday Road. The project will include engineering, permits, environmental review, cultural monitoring, and other required administration activities. The terms of the loan, 30 years at 1% interest, with \$530,000 in principal forgiveness, will make the project more affordable for district ratepayers.

Panther Creek Water District, Seismic Risk Assessment and Mitigation Plan

The water district will use a DWSRF Sustainable Infrastructure Planning Projects (SIPP) loan in the amount of \$50,000 to complete a seismic risk assessment and mitigation plan to address the lack of seismic resiliency in their current water system following damage to their water intake treatment buildings from the 2020 wildfires. The terms of the loan, 100% principal forgiveness, mean that this important planning effort will have no impact on ratepayers.

Wildfire damage to the embankment above water treatment plant





City of Salem, Sleepy Hollow Water System Integration

The Sleepy Hollow Water System (Sleepy Hollow) was constructed in the late 1950's, operating as an independent small community water system within the boundary of the City of Salem, and serving 114 residents through 41 connections. Sleepy Hollow obtained its water from a community well equipped with a submersible pump; the distribution system consisted mainly of 4" PVC water lines with some 2" lines in service; and each customer connection was within a valve box located in the ROW but was not metered.

Sleepy Hollow experienced elevated arsenic levels in water samples collected from the well since 2012, 60% of the samples collected from 2012 to 2020 exceeded the federal Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic. Sleepy Hollow entered into a Bilateral Compliance Agreement (BCA) with the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services (OHA-DWS) to address the MCL exceedances and develop a plan to bring the system into compliance.

To connect to the City of Salem and bring the system up to city standards, the City of Salem replaced all PVC pipe with either 8" or 4" ductile iron pipe (depending on location), a water meter was installed for each service connection; additionally five fire hydrants were installed throughout the neighborhood to conform to current fire code, and then the system was connected directly to current City of Salem distribution piping.

The \$1,132,810 DWSRF loan has terms of 30 years at 1% interest with \$530,000 in principal forgiveness which makes this project more affordable for ratepayers.