



Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

City of Mabton

Water System Improvements

The City of Mabton, whose motto is “Rural Living in the Heart of the Yakima Valley,” received two low-interest loans from the Department of Health’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) program to improve its deteriorating infrastructure.

Incorporated in 1905, the city was built on the site of a Northern Pacific Railway stop, where the the Mabton Townsite Company had built a water tower. Today, the city can boast more than 105 years of experience owning and operating a domestic water system.

Challenges

The distribution system is more than 75 years old, and half the mains are 4-inch diameter cast iron.

Thirty-eight percent of the water is lost to leakage. Well 3 contains excess nitrates, Well 5 has a hydrogen sulfide level that prompts customer complaints, and Well 4 has a history of failure.

Water Supply Improvement Project	
Funding Source	Amount
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (2014 loan cycle)	\$1,533,180
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (2013 loan cycle)	\$1,800,000
Total budgeted to date	\$3,333,180
Lower 1.5% interest rate will save the City of Mabton more than \$622K over the 20-year term¹.	



Mabton’s aging reservoir will be replaced.

Without Well 4, the city can’t meet maximum demand on hot summer weekends without fear of draining the reservoir unless it stops the booster pumps. The booster pumps maintain system pressure, so stopping the pumps, while reducing leakage, increases the risk of contamination.

The city’s 800,000-gallon reservoir is its sole reservoir. An inspection in 2014 revealed the reservoir is corroded and has multiple holes in its roof, which poses a public health threat. The city’s chlorination system is automatically controlled by one well. However, when the well is not functioning, the city must manually chlorinate the water, making it difficult to gauge the proper amount of chlorine to apply.

Solutions

In the 2013 DWSRF funding cycle, the city received a \$1.26 million loan, almost half of which was forgiven. That loan is

¹ Assumes 2.75% interest rate and 5% cost to issue bonds and service debt.

paying for a new well and well house, new distribution main and an emergency generator.

The most recent loan of \$1.5 million will help the city replace the 800,000-gallon reservoir with a new 1-million gallon standpipe reservoir, relocate an existing diesel generator, and install a new chlorination system.

Mabton also received loans and grants from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and USDA Rural Development. These projects will help to ensure a safe and reliable water supply

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