



## Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership 30-Day Public Review Process

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Reminder of the Purpose of this 30-Day Review Process

On January 7<sup>th</sup> the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership announced that a draft plan, *The Mid-Coast Water Action Plan*, was available for public review and comment. The public was invited to review the draft and report back their level of support for the plan's proposed actions in the Implementation Table (pages 54 - 79). Those who were not familiar with the Partnership or needed a refresher on our planning efforts were encouraged to read the Executive Summary (pages viii - 14) for context. This information will help gauge community support for the draft and inform future updates to the Plan. Input was anonymous, and the compiled list of comments is below.

### Compiled Results (Anonymous)

#### (Submission 1)

Of course, this plan should be supported and adopted by our County Commissioners and our communities.

#### (Submission 2)

Performance measure 34, revolving loan for septic systems: First off, having just done this work for Otis, 200k is far too less money that would actually be needed. A complete replacement, which is often what is needed for systems that are failing, are 30-50k. So, at 50k you can only do 4 systems at a time. Additionally, with the cost of inspections, you really cannot get anywhere. You would need a revolving loan fund of probably 2 million or more in my opinion. Second, USDA already has a fund for replacement of septic systems for low-income seniors. Third, DEQ actually has an RFI out right now for municipalities to get funds to replace systems, so that may not even be something that needs to stay in the plan, as it might just get funded here in the next month or so. And just to again put the dollar amount in context our ask to them is for 3 million dollars, coupled with another 2.5million we have from ARPA, so a total investment we are looking at is 5.5 and we will still probably run out. Overall looks pretty good.

#### (Submission 3)

I would like to call your attention to Figure 7. on page 19 of the draft Plan, and in particular, the fact that Salmon and Reedy Creeks are not listed in this figure as tributaries to the Yachats River. These are perennial streams, and more importantly, are the sole source of drinking water for the City. I was unable to find the average annual flows for these two streams on the City's website and its posted publications and suggest you or your staff could follow up with Rick McClung at the City's Public Works Department to obtain that information to update this figure. Yachats has recently adopted a Drinking Water Protection Plan (2021) which I understand is one of the first of its kind for Oregon coastal communities.



Several of us hope to convince the City's elected officials to form a working committee that focuses on implementing our Drinking Water Protection Plan, helping to ensure a sustainable water supply for Yachats. And, our City has recently formed a collaborative with the City of Waldport, the Southwest Lincoln County Water Peoples Utility District, and the Siuslaw National Forest to utilize federal funding and staff expertise to restore and better manage federally owned lands within our combined watersheds for source water protection and other purposes. Both of these recent actions are in my view consistent with the draft Water Action Plan's implementation imperatives. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important draft Plan.