

**City of Yakima**  
**Yakima County, Washington**

**2023 WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Projects For**  
**Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities**

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## **Executive Summary**

The City of Yakima, located in Yakima County in Washington, is applying for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency Task D grant. With the WaterSMART grant the City proposes to construct domestic water and sanitary sewer infrastructure to two distinct underserved areas in the City where City utility services currently do not exist. Currently, developed parcels in the two identified areas are using shallow, individual wells ranging from 25 to 80 feet deep, with adjacent septic systems. Due to the close proximity of the septic systems, shallow wells pose considerable risk to public health because of their susceptibility to contamination. Reliability of municipal wells has also been challenging with the frequency and durations of recent droughts in Washington State. As of October 2023, three drought intensities span across Yakima County. With many houses in the area being over 100 years old, private wells and septic systems are steadily aging, with continued failures, leaks, and contamination. Both project areas are included in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) as disadvantaged. Dropping groundwater levels and/or contaminated water supply would lead to condemnation and abandonment of a property, as it already has for some properties, due to the combination of low-income residents and high cost of replacement systems.

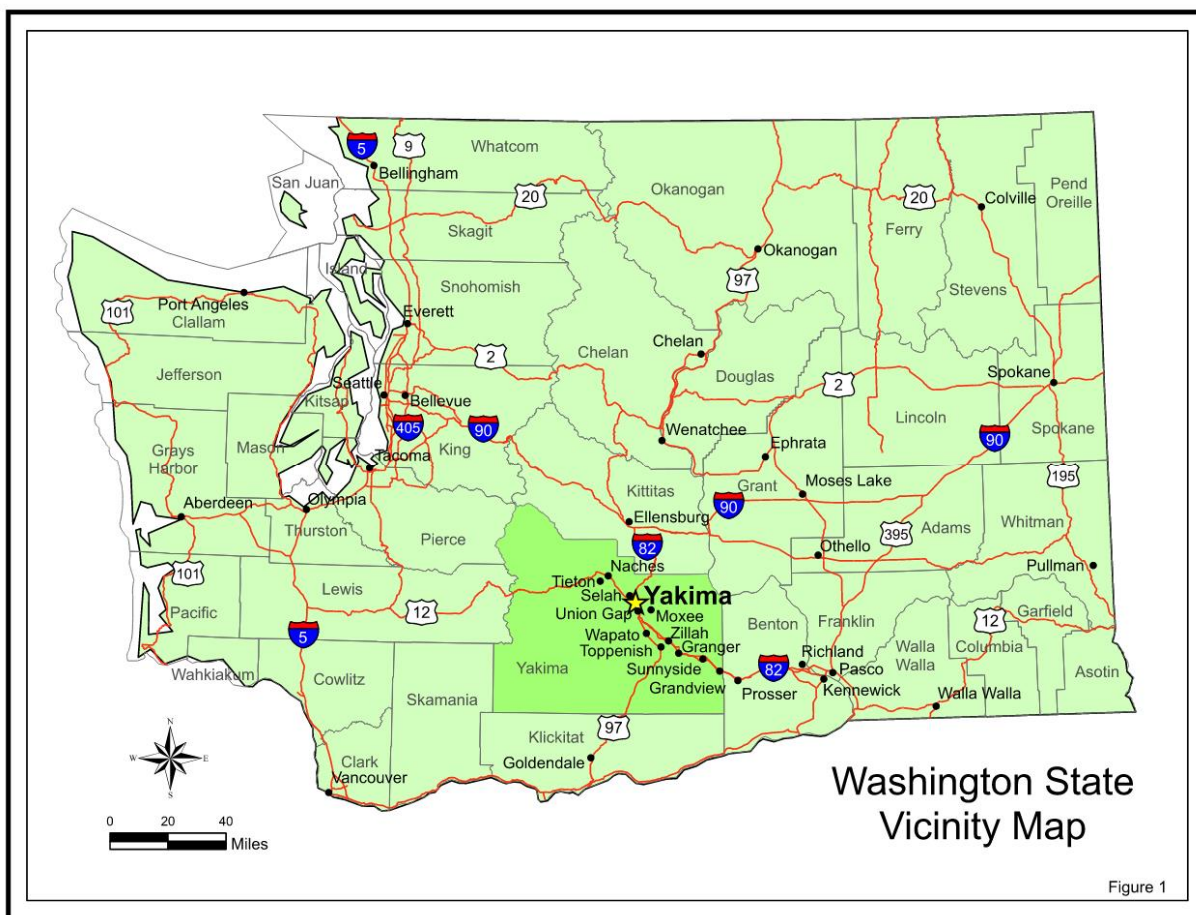
After identifying and prioritizing the public health issue, City of Yakima Water and Wastewater departments contracted with a local engineering consulting firm to design system expansion to provide City water and sewer services to these areas. With designs 100% complete (“shovel ready”) the City is applying for a WaterSMART grant to fully construct new resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer connections to 85 residents. The City of Yakima’s Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project is supported by three existing planning documents. The three plans include the City of Yakima 2017 Water System Plan, the 2023 Wastewater Collection System Master Plan, and the Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan. Connecting underserved areas without City water and sewer connections has been identified as a priority in all planning documents. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) also manages water in five Yakima storage reservoirs, which are used to fulfill water rights, water contracts, and instream flow obligations. Bi-monthly analyses are provided by Reclamation when potable water supplies are near or below 75%.

Project construction is anticipated to start November 2024 and take 140 working days. The estimated completion date is August 2025. The City of Yakima’s Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project has support for construction by a diverse set of stakeholders that have expressed interest in providing reliable potable water and sanitary wastewater access to disadvantaged communities. Various stakeholders have pledged their support, including multiple health services at the local and state level, a state environmental agency, municipal agencies related to housing development and public utilities, a local elected Yakima County Commissioner, and the residents and business owners who will benefit from receiving a connection to reliable City water and proper disposal of wastewater.

## 1. Project Location

The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project is located in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Washington State in the City of Yakima, in Yakima County, approximately 142 miles southeast of Seattle. The project latitude is 46°37'N and longitude is 120°30'W. Yakima is the 11<sup>th</sup> largest city in Washington State and the heart of the Metropolitan Planning Area in Yakima County with 98,650 of Yakima County's 261,200 population (2023 Estimate by Washington State Office of Financial Management). See proximity in reference to Washington State and Yakima County in Figure 1. In relation to the Yakima Urban Area, both project locations are in historically disadvantaged and low-income areas.

Figure 1. City of Yakima's Proximity in the State of Washington.



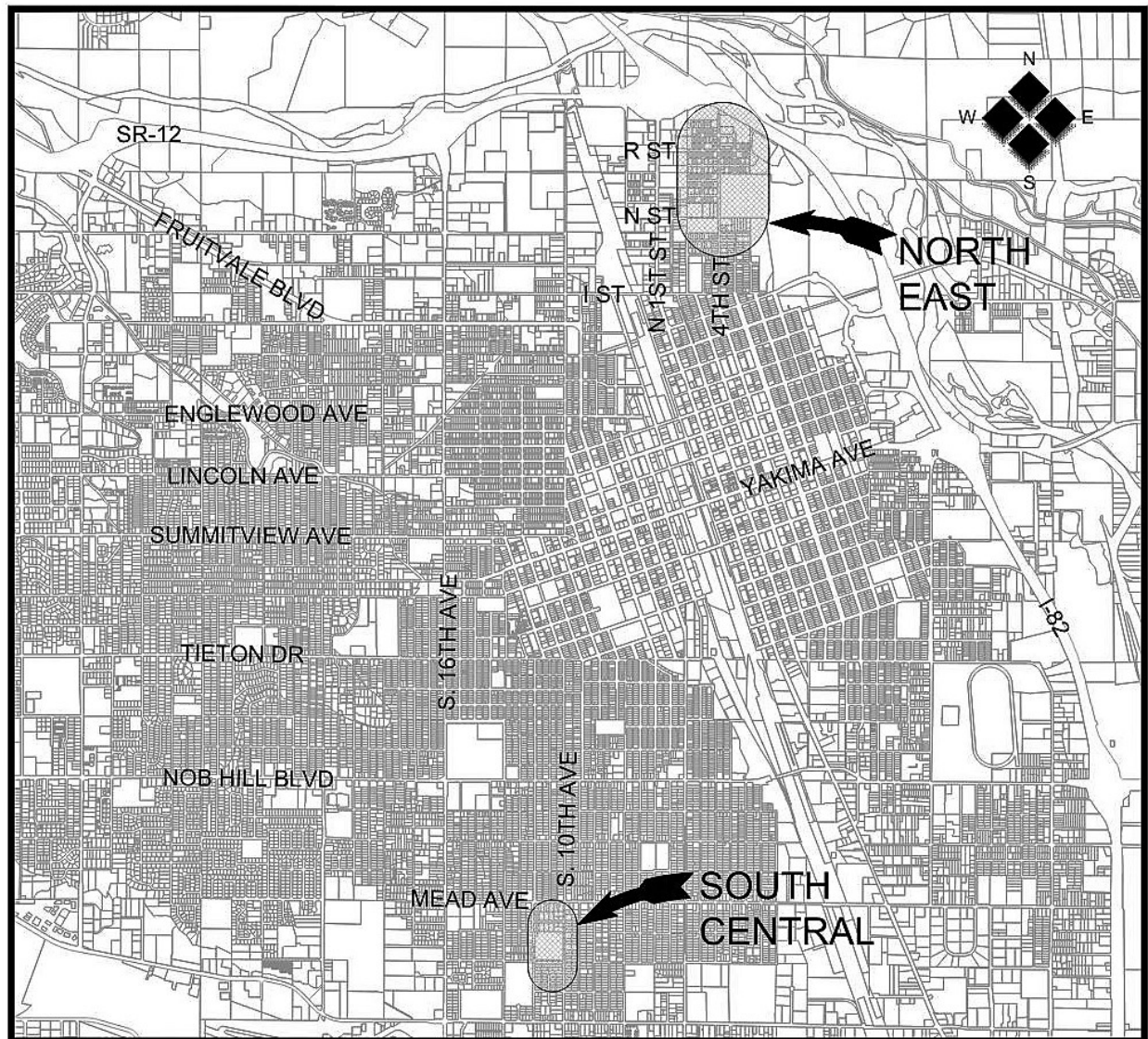
## 2. Project Description

The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project proposes to construct water and sewer infrastructure in two distinct areas in the City where City water and wastewater utility services currently do not exist. In 2022, Yakima water and wastewater departments contracted with a local engineering consultant, HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc. (HLA), to design system expansions which would empower homeowners and business owners to decommission shallow, unreliable, aging, individual wells and septic systems and connect to City water and sewer services. The City-funded designs are now 100%



complete and the City is applying for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant to construct water and sewer infrastructure, fully connecting 85 residential properties to the City's resilient, safe, and reliable potable water and sanitary sewer systems.

Figure 2. Two areas of the City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project.



***Existing Conditions North East Area: Census Tract 53077000200***

Situated in Yakima's Opportunity Zone, the project area represents approximately 70 parcels without City sanitary sewer services and approximately 47 parcels without City water services. Developed parcels without City water and sewer services are using shallow, individual wells and individual septic systems. Reliability of municipal wells has been challenged with the frequency and durations of recent droughts in Washington State. Shallow wells experience extreme reliability challenges and are susceptible to pump failure when groundwater levels fall below pump elevations. Due to the close proximity of the septic systems on the same small City



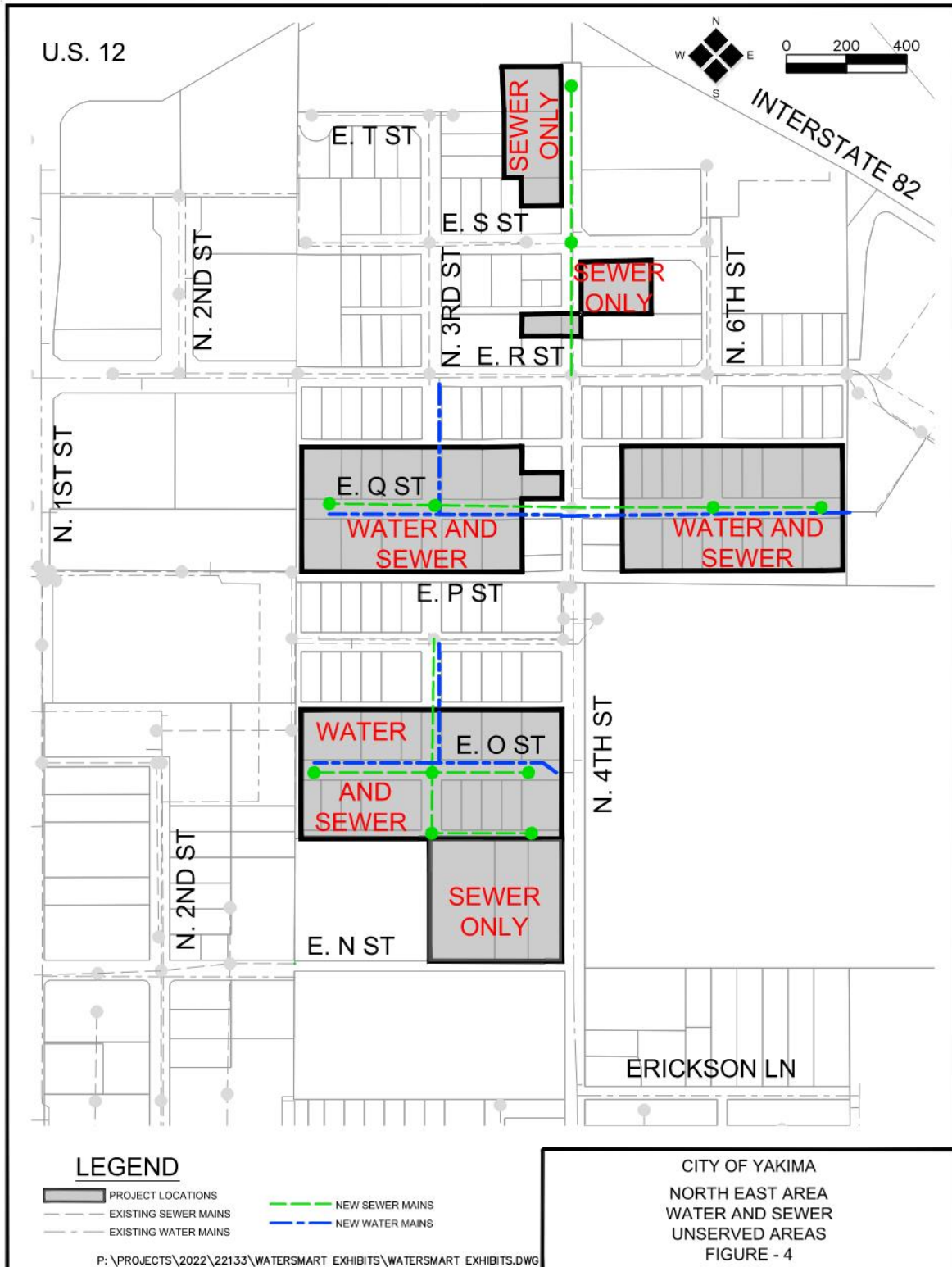
parcels, shallow wells also pose considerable risk to public health because of their susceptibility to contamination. Many of the private wells and septic systems are aged or past their expected useful life. The combination of low-income residents, high cost of replacement systems, and low-value housing, is the cause for many of the 100-year or older homes to be condemned and abandoned without the assistance of grant funding.

Figure 3. Typical Neighborhood Conditions in the North East Area.



The City of Yakima embraces the Justice40 Initiative and welcomes the opportunity to direct financial investments into disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. This commitment was the catalyst of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project. This project area is included in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) as disadvantaged since it meets more than one burden threshold and the associated socioeconomic threshold (low income = 98<sup>th</sup> percentile). The categories in over-threshold burden indicators directly associated with understanding the importance of this project include the following: climate change (projected wildfire risk = 98<sup>th</sup> percentile), health (asthma = 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile), legacy pollution (proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities = 98<sup>th</sup> percentile), water and wastewater (underground storage tanks and releases = 97<sup>th</sup> percentile), and workforce development (linguistic isolation = 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile).

Figure 4. Proposed Water and Sewer Infrastructure and Connections for the North East Area.





### ***Existing Conditions South Central Area: Census Tracts 53077001201 and 53077001202***

This project area represents approximately 42 parcels without City sewer services and approximately 12 parcels without City water services.

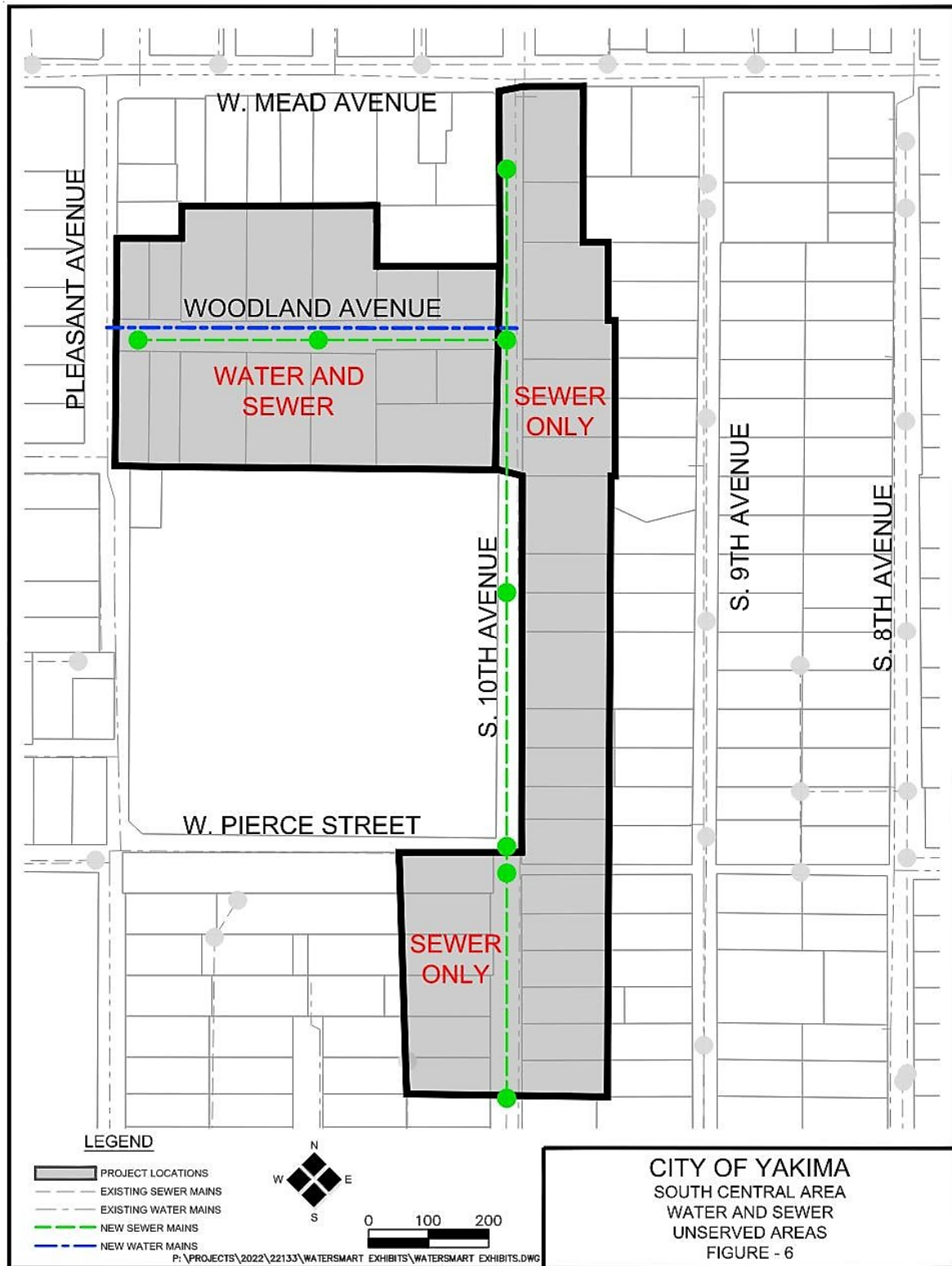
Figure 5. Typical Neighborhood Conditions in the South Central Area.



This project spans two Census Tracts and both are included in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) as disadvantaged. The Tract 12.01 categories in over-threshold burden indicators directly associated with understanding the importance of this project, include: climate change (projected wildfire risk = 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile), health (asthma = 91<sup>st</sup> percentile), legacy pollution (proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities = 96<sup>th</sup> percentile and proximity to Superfund sites = 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile), water and wastewater (underground storage tanks and releases = 96<sup>th</sup> percentile), and workforce development (poverty = 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile and unemployment = 91<sup>st</sup> percentile). Tract 12.02 categories include: legacy pollution (proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities = 98<sup>th</sup> percentile and proximity to Superfund sites = 95<sup>th</sup> percentile) and workforce development (poverty = 91<sup>st</sup> percentile and unemployment = 95<sup>th</sup> percentile).



Figure 6. Proposed Water and Sewer Infrastructure and Connections for the South Central Area.



### 3. Performance Measures

The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project proposes to expand water and sewer infrastructure to two distinct areas in the City where municipal utility services currently do not exist.

Measuring success is quite simple for this project; improving public health by extending City utilities to underserved areas, making connections, and decommissioning public health risks (shallow wells and adjacent septic systems). Water and sewer connections in each of the areas can be measured to indicate progress and overall success of the project. Table 1 below will be used to track the progress and provide information during reimbursement reports. The table will not be used for reporting purposes during the phase of the project when the City is installing the water and sewer main pipes, but during the later stages as each residence and business is being connected to the City's expanded water distribution system and sewer collection system respectively.

After completely connecting each residence to the two municipal infrastructure systems, Performance Measures 3 and 4 will be used to track the number of private wells and septic systems as they are decommissioned.

Table 1. Proposed Performance Measures for Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities Project.

Performance Measure	# Identified	# Completed	% Completed
1. Number of Connections Made to the City Water System			
North East Area			
South Central Area			
2. Number of Connections Made to City Sewer System			
North East Area			
South Central Area			
3. Number of Private Wells Decommissioned			
North East Area			
South Central Area			
4. Number of Private Septic Systems Decommissioned			
North East Area			
South Central Area			

## 4. Evaluation Criteria

### *i. Projects Benefits*

#### *Adds to Available Water Supplies*

There is nothing more important to sustaining life than water, specifically, safe, and reliable water for drinking. The City of Yakima owns and operates a domestic water supply system, a Group A water system, permitted by the Washington State Department of Health. The City's Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan includes several goals and policies pertaining to water and sewer service availability:

GOAL 7.4. Provide adequate services within the urban area in a manner that protects public health and safety, is aesthetically compatible, and protects environmental quality.

#### Policies

7.4.1. Coordinate with other jurisdictions and suppliers in the city limits and Urban Growth Area (UGA) to ensure a reliable, economic source of water and to address the long-term regional water demand needs of all of the area's agencies and suppliers.

7.4.2. Encourage water conservation by residents and businesses and undertake municipal actions to conserve water and water resources as appropriate.

7.4.3. Encourage conversion from on-site wastewater disposal systems as sewer lines become available. Require areas with failed septic systems to connect to sanitary sewer to protect public health and safety and environmental quality.

7.4.4. Extend City of Yakima sewer services within the city limits and UGA in accordance with planned growth.

7.4.5. Invest in water and sewer system infrastructure in areas designated for infill and redevelopment. Ensure new growth extends infrastructure based on its demand for service.

#### City of Yakima Supply Facilities

The City's domestic water supply system consists of a surface water treatment plant on the Naches River and four groundwater municipal wells. Additionally, the City has developed an Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) program to provide additional water supply and improve water system reliability. The ASR program involves diverting water from the Naches River during low demand periods (e.g., the winter), treating the water to drinking water standards at the Naches River Water Treatment Plant (WTP), delivering water through the City's distribution system to groundwater wells, and injecting (recharging) water through the wells into the aquifer. The City's domestic water supply system source capacity is 25.7 million gallons per day, while current

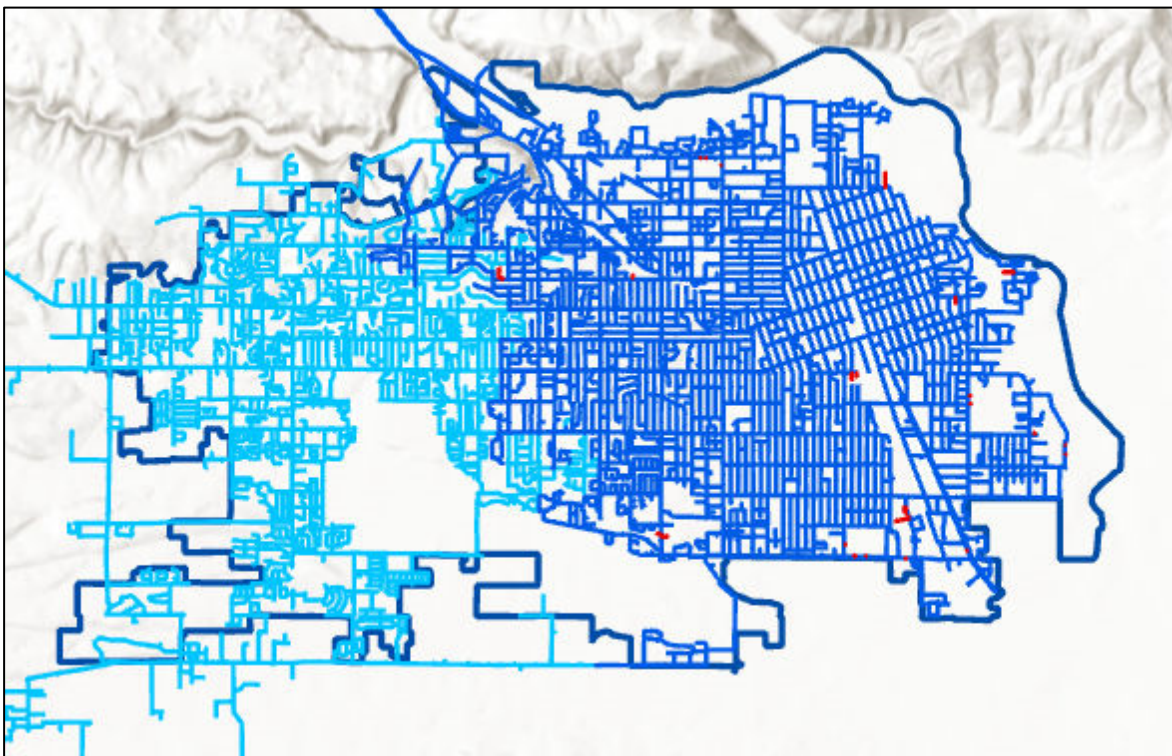


maximum day demands are 18.4 million gallons per day, with 20-year projected demands of 19.6 million gallons per day.

For additional reliability, the City of Yakima has an intertie agreement and two physical intertie locations with a neighboring Group A water system, the Nob Hill Water Association. One intertie is automatically activated during certain types of fire flow events. The other intertie is activated manually. There have been instances when the intertie was critical for potable water supply to City of Yakima customers. In 2011, when the City's transmission main was damaged, the Nob Hill Water Association intertie was utilized to maintain uninterrupted potable water service to City residents during the outage. Figure 7 below shows the City of Yakima City Limits (dark blue boundary), City of Yakima Water System (blue lines), and Nob Hill Water Association (light blue lines).

The City of Yakima has the water supply capacity to immediately serve the disadvantaged and underserved areas considered in this funding application.

Figure 7. Yakima and Nob Hill Water Systems.



The City of Yakima is committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water to all residents within the City, spanning those parcels originally platted in 1886, to new development areas, alike. Many of the original platted lots are not currently served by the City's water system, as they have individual groundwater wells that date back to the late 1800s and early 1900s. The wells have ongoing maintenance needs including cleaning, pump and screen replacement, and re-drilling. These wells are very shallow, ranging from 25 feet to 80 feet below ground surface. With annual

drought declarations becoming the new norm, these shallow wells are becoming less and less reliable, posing public health and safety concerns in these disadvantaged and underserved areas within the City.

With all water demands and consumption, there are sanitary sewer discharges. In these disadvantaged and underserved areas where individual wells serve each parcel, septic systems accompany each parcel for the wastewater discharges. With parcel sizes being relatively small with limited landscaped areas, the septic systems including drain field locations are typically directly adjacent to the wells. With septic drain fields above the groundwater wells intake, this poses a grave public health concern for contaminated water. Existing septic tanks have not been upgraded since original construction almost 100 years ago. While the existing septic tanks are not officially considered failing, the current ageing septic systems are not meeting present wastewater treatment regulation standards. This poses a safety concern as wastewater is not being properly treated for these disadvantaged communities.

### ***Environmental and Other Benefits***

Extending water and sewer connections to disadvantaged and underserved populations in the City of Yakima carries significant environmental and public health advantages, especially in a region where the very lifeblood of the area, the Yakima River, is facing mounting challenges. In Yakima, polluted water and rising temperatures are taking a toll on the river's ecosystem, particularly its salmon population. This is where a comprehensive water and sewer expansion initiative can play a pivotal role.

One of the most pressing concerns is the health of the aquifers that feed the City's backup drinking water supply. The City relies on groundwater from municipal wells as a backup resource. These aquifers are vulnerable to contamination, with certain areas already identified as high-risk zones, covering approximately 8 percent of the City. Once groundwater is contaminated, it can be challenging and costly to clean, jeopardizing both human health and the environment. By extending water and sewer services to underserved areas, the risk of groundwater contamination is significantly reduced. This is not just about convenience; it's about safeguarding the long-term viability of a critical resource.

Additionally, the Yakima River's health is intimately linked to the availability and quality of its water sources. Increased runoff from impervious surfaces and pollution from various sources, including industrial, commercial, residential, and agricultural activities, negatively impact the river and its associated streams and lakes. This pollution disrupts human use of these waters and interferes with aquatic life. Expanding water and sewer connections can help alleviate these problems by reducing pollution from failing septic systems and wells, ultimately leading to cleaner, cooler waters in the Yakima River.

The City of Yakima has been actively involved in regional efforts aimed at addressing water flow issues within the Yakima River Basin. These initiatives are focused on protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife habitats, improving the reliability of water supply, and managing instream flows to meet ecological objectives. By extending water and sewer infrastructure to underserved areas, Yakima can align with these goals, contributing to the ecological well-being of the river and its

surroundings. It also underscores the City's commitment to a healthy ecological system that can serve the diverse needs of its citizens.

Extending water and sewer services to underserved populations in Yakima is not only about ensuring access to clean water and protecting public health, but also about addressing the specific environmental challenges faced by the City. It plays a crucial role in safeguarding the aquifers, reducing pollution in the Yakima River, and supporting broader ecological conservation efforts. By investing in comprehensive water and sewer infrastructure, Yakima can create a healthier and more sustainable environment for its residents and the unique ecosystem of the Yakima River Basin.

## ***ii. Planning and Preparedness***

City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project is supported by three existing planning efforts. In 2017, the City of Yakima updated the Water System Plan, in 2023, the Wastewater Collection System Master Plan was updated and in 2017 the Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan was updated. Infrastructure design has been 100% completed for both project areas and the project is "shovel ready" once construction funding is secured.

### **City of Yakima 2017 Water System Plan (WSP)**

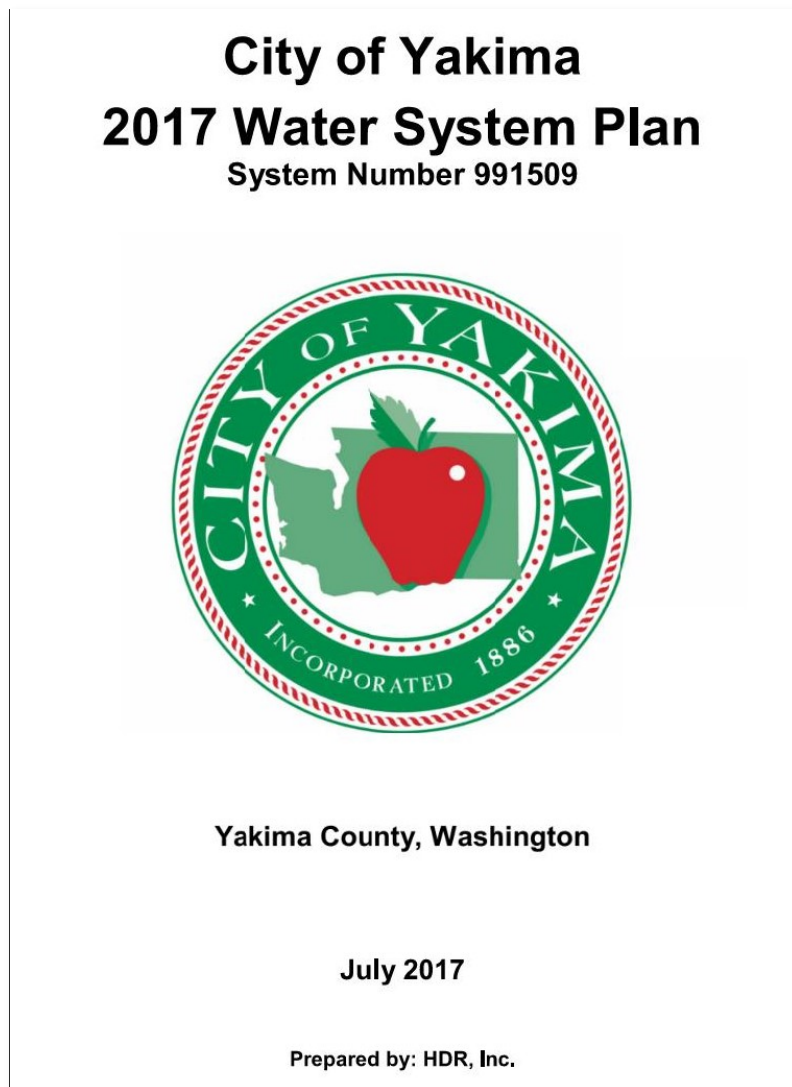
Excerpts from the WSP are attached to this application showing the identification, prioritization, and budgeting for WSP Project # D31, New Waterline Installation in Unserved Areas. As is seen in Tables 8-1 Capital Improvement Program and 9-3 Capital Plan (attached), the City has embraced the strategy of making consistent investments in infrastructure to unserved areas as a way to increase resiliency, reliability, and sustainable options.

The City has not yet developed a stand-alone Drought Resiliency Plan but includes drought analysis and reporting throughout the WSP. The City's daily-use water supply comes from the Naches River through a water treatment plant (WTP). The City has municipal wells which are used as seasonal or back-up water sources in the event of failure or planned maintenance of the WTP. In 2001, a severe drought resulted in the City being limited to accessing 29% of the daily water needed from the Naches River, and the wells were activated. The 2001 drought represents the City's worst-case scenario for water source capacity analysis. As long as the City can access 29% of the water typically sourced from the Naches River, the combination of river and City well sources does accommodate current and projected maximum day demand.

The ability to connect the underserved areas into the City's infrastructure system, and then use a representative, updated, decision-making modeling tool that includes the presently underserved areas, will ensure the entire population of the City is analyzed for critical lifeline services such as water and sewer. Since meters will be a part of this expansion project, observed and recorded water demands will be available for analysis, and projections will be based on actual water usages in all areas of the City further refining the data used for decision-making.



Figure 8. 2017 Water System Plan.



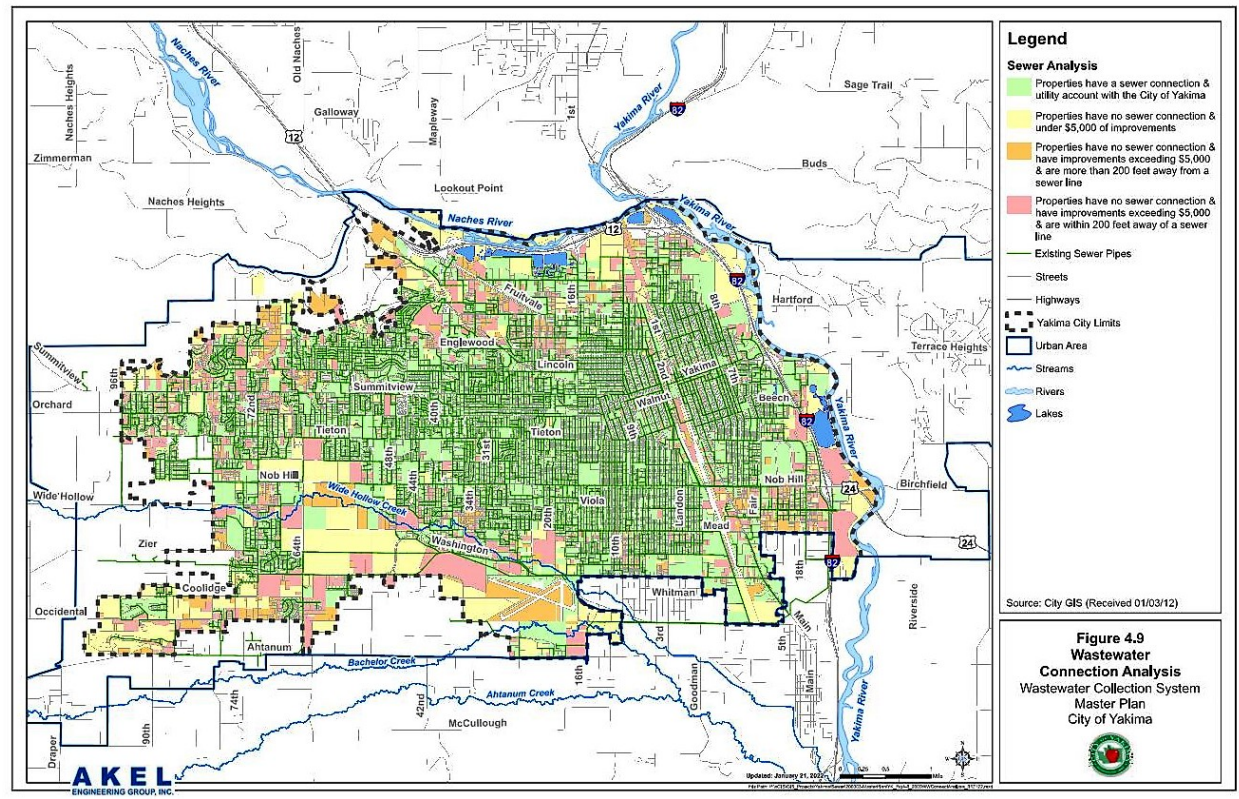
## **2023 Wastewater Collection System Master Plan (WWCSMP)**

In 2023, the City of Yakima developed a GIS exhibit labeled “Wastewater Connection Analysis” identifying sewer versus non-sewer utility accounts within the City. Chapter 4.6 Septic Systems Areas in the WWCSMP presents this information (attached). Although both of the areas are identified in the WWCSMP, the propelling reason for the two identified areas in this application are based on the connection of municipal water to the disadvantaged populations which are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollutions and unreliable water sources. Efficiencies will be maximized for construction costs, neighborhood disturbance, and risk prevention if both the water and wastewater infrastructures connect to the residential and business areas simultaneously.

Figure 9. Wastewater Collection System Master Plan.



Figure 10. Wastewater Connection Analysis



## Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan

In 2017 the City completed a Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan. Included in the plan were goals and policies prioritizing the extension of City services to underserved communities.

GOAL 7.3. Ensure that facilities and services are planned, designed, and sited in a fair and equitable manner.

### Policies

7.3.1. Provide equitable levels of service by accounting for existing community conditions and needs, and considering how decisions will impact different geographic areas and racial and socioeconomic groups.

7.3.2. Prioritize social, environmental, and economic equity in siting or expanding capital facilities.

GOAL 7.4. Provide adequate services within the urban area in a manner that protects public health and safety, is aesthetically compatible, and protects environmental quality.



## Policies

7.4.1. Coordinate with other jurisdictions and suppliers in the city limits and Urban Growth Area (UGA) to ensure a reliable, economic source of water and to address the long-term regional water demand needs of all of the area's agencies and suppliers.

7.4.3. Encourage conversion from on-site wastewater disposal systems as sewer lines become available. Require areas with failed septic systems to connect to sanitary sewer to protect public health and safety and environmental quality.

7.4.4. Extend City of Yakima sewer services within the city limits and UGA in accordance with planned growth.

7.4.5. Invest in water and sewer system infrastructure in areas designated for infill and redevelopment. Ensure new growth extends infrastructure based on its demand for service.

Figure 11. Growth Management Act Comprehensive Plan.



### iii. Severity of Actual or Potential Drought or Water Scarcity Impacts to be addressed by the Project

Washington State bases its drought determinations on a drought definition found in state law. An area is considered to be in drought when the water supply for that geographic area, or for a significant portion of that area, is below or projected to be below 75% of normal and the water shortage is likely to create undue hardships for water users or the environment. Although drought can have dramatic impacts on this mainly agricultural County, the information highlighted below is meant to display the severity of drought and water scarcity impacts within the project limits.

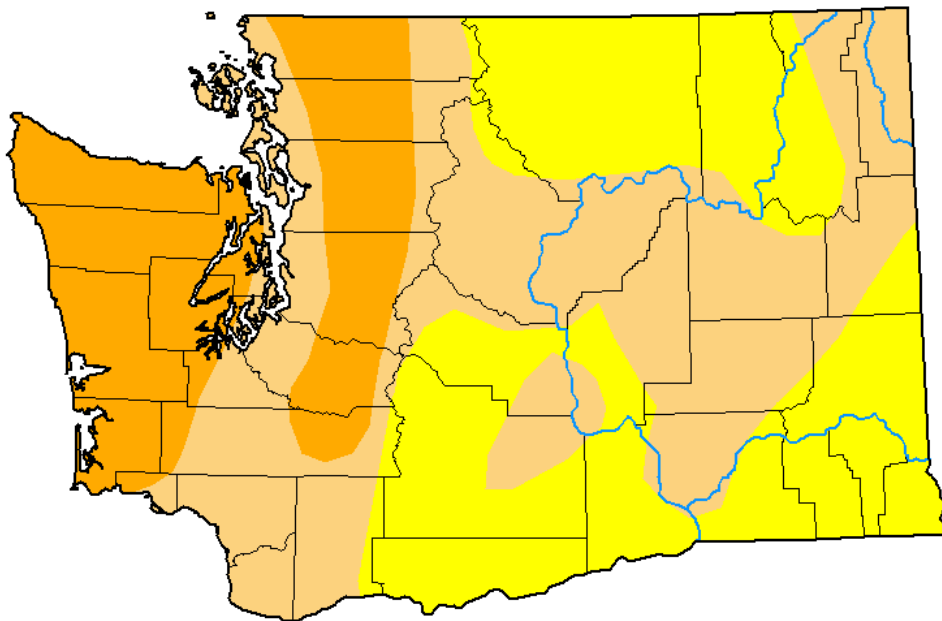
The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project will increase reliability of lifeline services for water and sewer by connecting underserved populations in the City Limits to municipal infrastructure. Currently, the residents in these two areas rely on shallow private wells and septic systems coexisting in close proximity and many on small parcels. In addition to unmonitored health risks of having hundreds of shallow personal water sources and septic systems concentrated in two area pockets, Yakima County was in a drought emergency declared recently (07/24/2023 - 08/23/2023) with some of the 12 counties (including Yakima County) experiencing dry or nearly dry wells. Not only do the concentrated areas experience health-related risks due to potential contamination, the two areas, which are in or adjacent to underserved communities, are more importantly at an increasing risk of experiencing water scarcity.

Even though the drought declaration has expired, as of October 17, 2023, three drought intensities span across Yakima County: abnormally dry (D0), Moderate Drought (D1), and Severe Drought (D2). According to data shared on the U.S. Drought Monitor, in addition to increasing frequency of drought in Yakima County and the City of Yakima, the intensity of drought has worsened. The information in Table 2 below was taken from the U.S. Drought Monitor at <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/Animations.aspx> over a 7-year period by recording the severity of drought using the animation tool and observing the Yakima County area on the U.S. map.

Table 2. Severity of Drought Over Last 7 Years.

Yakima County			Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Legend</b>														
<b>Severity of Drought</b>														
	<b>None</b>	2016												
		2017												
	<b>D0 (Abnormally Dry)</b>	2018												
	<b>D1 (Moderate Drought)</b>	2019												
	<b>D2 (Severe Drought)</b>	2020												
	<b>D3 (Extreme Drought)</b>	2021												
	<b>D4 (Exceptional Drought)</b>	2022												
		2023												
<a href="https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/Animations.aspx">https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/Animations.aspx</a>		viewed in animation and choice is highest classification												
captured for the Yakima County														

Figure 12. U.S Drought Monitor Map 2022.



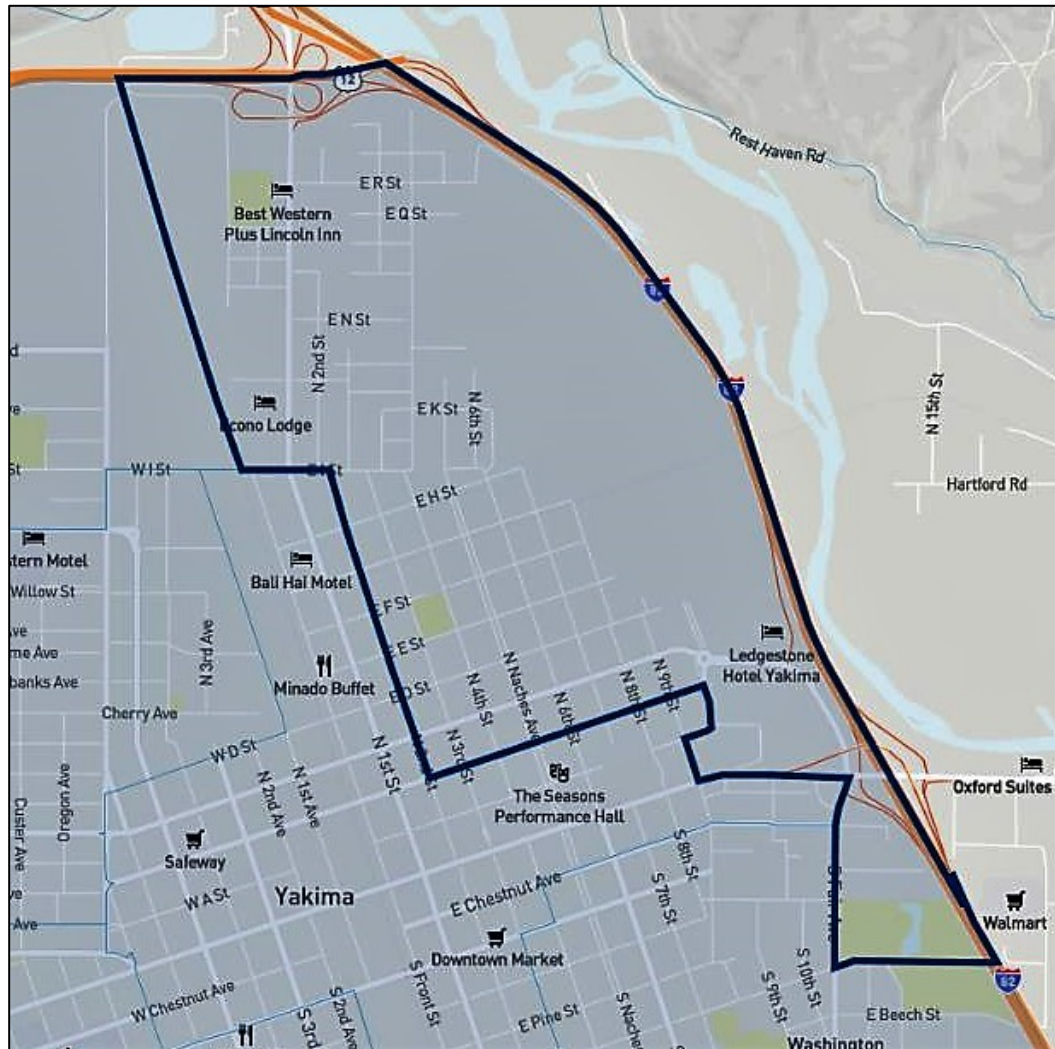
#### ***iv. Presidential and DOI Priorities***

The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project looks to address two distinct areas where City utility services do not currently exist. Both areas have been identified as areas of persistent poverty. With many houses in the area being over 100 years old, private wells and septic systems are steadily aging, increasing the likelihood of leaks and contamination. With the high cost of repairs and severely low-income residents, contamination would lead to the loss of their home.

#### ***North Area Census Tract 53077000200***

The first project area is located in the North East corner of Yakima. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) identifies this area as disadvantaged since it meets more than one burden threshold and the associated socioeconomic threshold (low income = 98<sup>th</sup> percentile). Relevant over-threshold burden indicator categories include the following: climate change (projected wildfire risk = 98<sup>th</sup> percentile), health (asthma = 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile), legacy pollution (proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities = 98<sup>th</sup> percentile), water and wastewater (underground storage tanks and releases = 97<sup>th</sup> percentile), and workforce development (linguistic isolation = 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile). Out of the 5,572 population, 73% identify as Hispanic or Latino and 4% identify as American Indian.

Figure 13. North East Area Location CEJST Map.

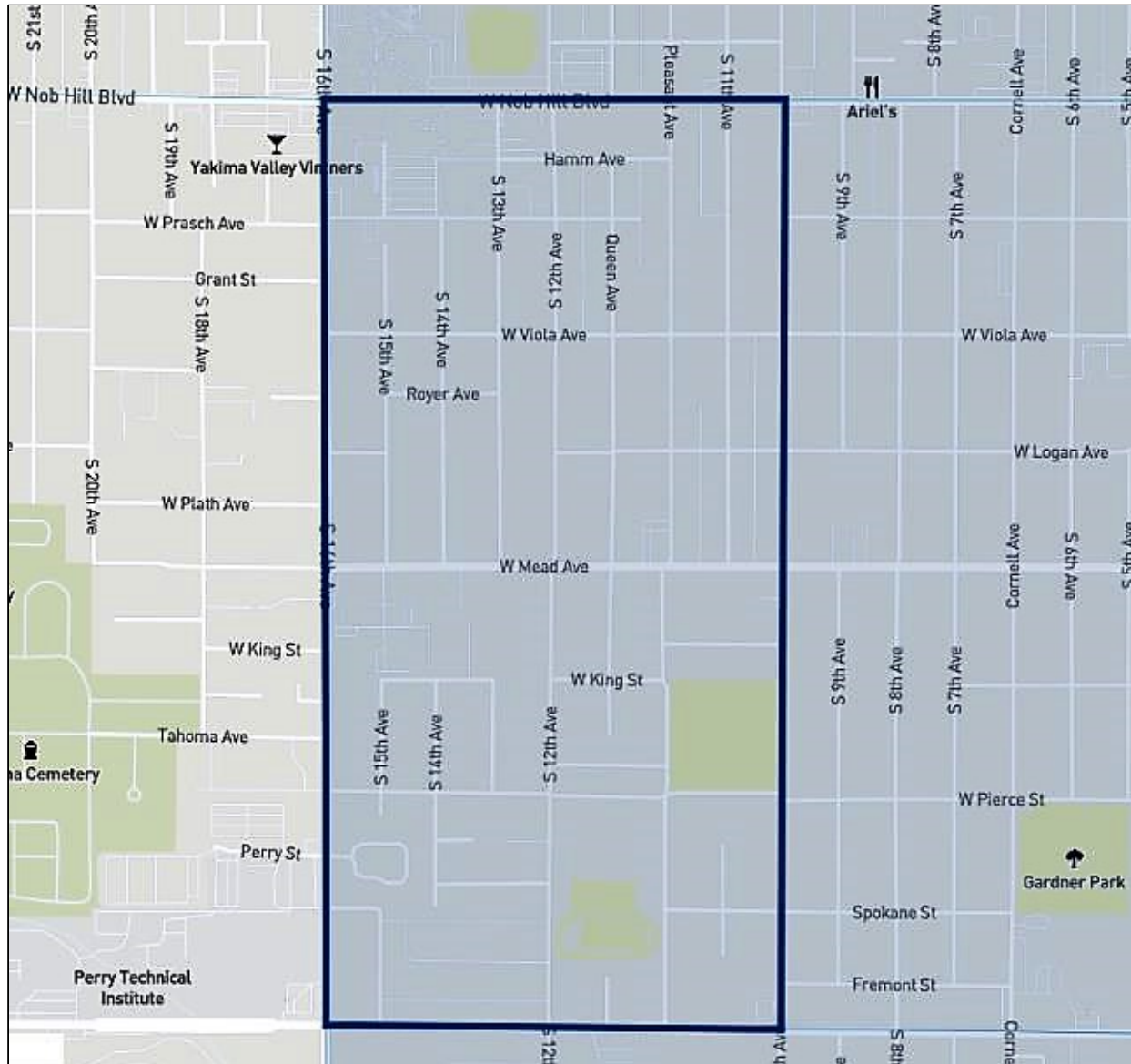


### ***South Central Census Tract 53077001201***

The other project area is located in the South Central Area of Yakima. The Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST) identifies this area as disadvantaged since it meets more than one burden threshold and the associated socioeconomic threshold (low income = 91<sup>st</sup> percentile). Relevant over-threshold burden indicator categories include the following: climate change (projected wildfire risk = 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile), health (asthma = 91<sup>st</sup> percentile), legacy pollution (proximity to Risk Management Plan facilities = 96<sup>th</sup> percentile and proximity to Superfund sites = 92<sup>nd</sup> percentile), and workforce development (poverty = 93<sup>rd</sup> percentile and unemployment = 91<sup>st</sup> percentile). Out of the 4,411 population, 63% identify as Hispanic or Latino and 1% identify as American Indian.



Figure 14. South Central Area Location CEJST Map.



The improvements proposed in the City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project will improve public health and safety in these disadvantaged areas. The use of shallow wells and individual septic tanks has been challenged with the frequency and durations of recent droughts in Washington State. With the addition of City water services, water supplies will be more reliable. Due to the close proximity of septic systems, shallow wells are in danger of being contaminated, posing a risk to public health. Water quality will improve with the installation of safe City water and wastewater services. Residents will no longer have to worry about their property being condemned due to unsafe water. Having City utility service connections will also improve the value of the property, creating an economic growth opportunity for the low-income residents.

***v. Readiness to Proceed and Project Implementation***

Table 3. Estimated Project Schedule

<b>Milestone/Activity</b>	<b>Planned Start Date</b>	<b>Planned Completion Date</b>
Project Management	April 2024	November 2025
WaterSMART Funding Announcements	April 2024	April 2024
Funding Agreement Execution with USBR	April 2024	June 2024
Consultant Contracting	April 2024	June 2024
NEPA Categorical Exemption	July 2024	August 2024
Advertise for Bids	August 2024	August 2024
Award Construction Contract	September 2024	September 2024
Preconstruction Conference	October 2024	October 2024
Construction (140 Working Days)	November 2024	August 2025
Performance Measurement Evaluation and Audit	September 2025	September 2025
Funding Agreement Closeout	September 2025	November 2025

***vi. Nexus to Reclamation***

The proposed areas for the City of Yakima’s Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project are located in a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) project area. Reclamation manages water in five Yakima storage reservoirs, which are used to fulfill water rights, water contracts, and instream flow obligations. Bi-monthly analyses are provided by Reclamation when potable water supplies are near or below 75%. Reclamation also provides updated water supply forecasts monthly from March through early October, using the latest data each month to reflect changing conditions.

With the use of shallow wells in the two distinct project areas, varying water levels affect the reliability of water to these residents. Construction of the City of Yakima’s Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project will fully connect 85 residents to the City’s resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer systems.

### ***vii. Stakeholders Support for Proposed Projects***

The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project is supported by a diverse set of stakeholders that expressed interest in providing water and wastewater access to disadvantaged communities. Various stakeholders have pledged their support, including multiple health services at the local and state level, a state environmental agency, municipal agencies related to housing development and public utilities, a local elected Yakima County Commissioner, and the residents and business owners who will benefit from receiving a connection to reliable City water.

Some of the largest stakeholders in this project are the City of Yakima Water/Irrigation and Wastewater departments. Funding for the completed design and planning strategies for the project was budgeted from utility funds, which is supported by existing rate payers. The U.S Department of the Treasury is also a stakeholder with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds being used to cover project match.

Please see attached support letters from the following agencies that support the City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project:

- Yakima Neighborhood Health Services is a leading health care service throughout the Yakima Valley. The City's proposal is consistent with their mission to improve the quality of life and equity in our communities.
- Washington State Department of Ecology is responsible for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of the state's environment. The City's proposal is consistent with their mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for current and future generations.
- County Commissioner Kyle Curtis represents District 2 where both project areas are located.
- Office of Neighborhood Development Services provides technical assistance in the creation of new affordable housing. The City's proposal is consistent with their mission to develop a viable community by providing decent, affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low income.
- Washington State Department of Health provides comprehensive public health services and programs to the community. The City's proposal is consistent with their mission to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington state through equity, innovation, and engagement.
- The Yakima Health District is the oldest health district in the nation and has a proud tradition of providing public health services to people living in, working in, and visiting Yakima County for over 100 years. The City's proposal is consistent with their mission to

provide prevention, education, and disease control services to promote, protect, and enhance the health and safety of all.

- Yakima County Public Services is responsible for the operation and development of the County's domestic water and wastewater systems. The City's proposal is consistent with their mission to develop the County's domestic water and wastewater systems.



October 10, 2023

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects  
City of Yakima, Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved  
Communities Project

Dear Commissioner Touton:

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services is pleased to support the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant application submitted by the City of Yakima to construct new water and sewer infrastructure to low-income and underserved areas. Since 1975, Yakima Neighborhood Health has provided holistic health care services throughout the Yakima Valley. The City's proposal is consistent with our mission to improve the quality of life and equity in our communities.

City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project proposes to construct water and sewer infrastructure to three distinct areas in the City where City utility services currently do not exist. In 2022, Yakima water and wastewater departments contracted with a local consultant, HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., to design system connections which would empower homeowners and business owners to decommission shallow individual wells and septic systems and connect to City water and sewer services. The City funded designs are now 100% complete and the City is applying for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant to construct water and sewer infrastructure, fully connecting 105 residents and 4 businesses to the City's resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer systems.

We at Yakima Neighborhood Health support this significant project as a Yakima health provider and hope it is successfully funded through the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant program to provide for timely construction of the needed improvements.

Sincerely,



Rhonda D. Hauff  
CEO, Yakima Neighborhood Health Services





# Public Services

128 North Second Street • Fourth Floor Courthouse • Yakima, Washington 98901  
(509) 574-2300 • 1-800-572-7354 • FAX (509) 574-2301 • [www.co.yakima.wa.us](http://www.co.yakima.wa.us)

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October 12, 2023

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects  
City of Yakima, Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities Project

Dear Commissioner Touton:

Yakima County Public Services is pleased to support the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant application submitted by the City of Yakima to construct new water and sewer infrastructure to low-income and underserved areas. The City's proposal is consistent with our mission to promote the connection of smaller water and wastewater systems to a larger regional system.

The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project proposes to construct water and sewer infrastructure to three distinct areas in the City where City utility services currently do not exist. In 2022, Yakima water and wastewater departments contracted with a local consultant, HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., to design system connections which would empower homeowners and business owners to decommission shallow individual wells and septic systems and connect to City water and sewer services. The City funded designs are now 100% complete and the City is applying for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant to construct water and sewer infrastructure, fully connecting 105 residents and 4 businesses to the City's resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer systems.

We at Yakima County Public Services support this significant project and hope it is successfully funded through the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant program to provide for timely construction of the needed improvements.

Sincerely,

Joe Stump, P.E.  
Utilities Manager

*Yakima County ensures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination against any person on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the provision of benefits and services resulting from its federally assisted programs and activities. For questions regarding Yakima County's Title VI Program, you may contact the Title VI Coordinator at 509-574-2300.*

*If this letter pertains to a meeting and you need special accommodations, please call us at 509-574-2300 by 10:00 a.m. three days prior to the meeting. For TDD users, please use the State's toll free relay service 1-800-833-6388 and ask the operator to dial 509-574-2300.*



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
*EASTERN DRINKING WATER REGIONAL OPERATIONS*  
*16201 E Indiana Avenue, Suite 1500, Spokane Valley, Washington 99216-2830*  
*(509) 329-2100 • 711 Washington Relay Service*

October 18, 2023

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects  
City of Yakima, Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities  
Project

Dear Commissioner Touton:

Washington State Department of Health (DOH) is pleased to support the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant application submitted by the City of Yakima to construct new water and sewer infrastructure to low-income and underserved areas. The City's proposal is consistent with our mission to protect and improve the health of all people in Washington state through equity, innovation, and engagement.

The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project proposes to construct water and sewer infrastructure to three distinct areas in the City where City utility services currently do not exist. In 2022, Yakima water and wastewater departments contracted with a local consultant, HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., to design system connections which would empower homeowners and business owners to decommission shallow individual wells and septic systems and connect to City water and sewer services. The City funded designs are now 100% complete and the City is applying for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant to construct water and sewer infrastructure, fully connecting 105 residents and 4 businesses to the City's resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer systems.

We at the Washington State Department of Health support this significant project and hope it is successfully funded through the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant program to provide for timely construction of the needed improvements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dorothy S. Tibbetts".

Dorothy Tibbetts, MS, MPH  
Eastern Regional Manager  
Office of Drinking Water  
Washington State Department of Health



**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Joan Davenport, AICP, Director*

*129 North Second Street, 2nd Floor Yakima, Washington 98901*  
*Phone (509) 575-6183 • Fax (509) 575-6105*  
*[www.yakimawa.gov/services/community-development](http://www.yakimawa.gov/services/community-development)*

October 19, 2023

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: WaterSMART Drought Response Program: City of Yakima, Washington, Expanding  
Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities Project

Dear Commissioner Touton:

Extending infrastructure to provide public drinking water and public sewer to existing neighborhoods was recognized as a priority project in the City of Yakima 2021 Housing Action Plan. The neighborhoods proposed for new water and sewer infrastructure are of particular concern. This project will empower homeowners and business owners to decommission shallow individual wells and septic systems and connect to City water and sewer services. The WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant would fully connect water and sewer infrastructure to 105 residents and 4 businesses to the City's resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer systems.

The Office of Neighborhood Development Services is pleased to support the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant application submitted by the City of Yakima to construct new water and sewer infrastructure to low-income and underserved areas. The City's proposal is consistent with our mission to develop a viable community by providing decent, affordable housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for persons of low income.

We at the Office of Neighborhood Development Services support this significant project and hope it is successfully funded through the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant program to provide for timely construction of the needed improvements.

Sincerely,

Joan Davenport, AICP, Director  
Community Development Department  
129 North 2<sup>nd</sup> St  
Yakima, WA 98901  
[joan.davenport@yakimawa.gov](mailto:joan.davenport@yakimawa.gov)  
(509)576-6417





October 20, 2023

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240


Re: WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects  
City of Yakima, Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities Project

Dear Commissioner Touton:

Yakima Health District is pleased to support the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant application submitted by the City of Yakima to construct new water and sewer infrastructure to low-income and underserved areas. The City's proposal is consistent with our mission to provide prevention, education, and disease control services to promote, protect, and enhance the health and safety of all.

The City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project proposes to construct water and sewer infrastructure to three distinct areas in the City where City utility services currently do not exist. In 2022, Yakima water and wastewater departments contracted with a local consultant, HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., to design system connections which would empower homeowners and business owners to decommission shallow individual wells and septic systems and connect to City water and sewer services. The City funded designs are now 100% complete and the City is applying for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant to construct water and sewer infrastructure, fully connecting 105 residents and 4 businesses to the City's resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer systems.

We at the Yakima Health District support this significant project and hope it is successfully funded through the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant program to provide for timely construction of the needed improvements.

Sincerely,  
  
Shawn Magee, R.S.  
Environmental Health Director



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Central Region Office  
1250 West Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

October 27, 2023

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

**Re: WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects  
City of Yakima, Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities Project**

Dear Commissioner Touton:

The Washington State Department of Ecology is pleased to support the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant application submitted by the City of Yakima to construct new water and sewer infrastructure to low-income and underserved areas. The City's proposal is consistent with our mission to protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for current and future generations.

City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project proposes to construct water and sewer infrastructure to three distinct areas in the City where City utility services currently do not exist. In 2022, Yakima water and wastewater departments contracted with a local consultant, HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., to design system connections that would empower homeowners and business owners to decommission shallow individual wells and septic systems and connect to City water and sewer services. The City funded designs are now 100% complete and the City is applying for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant to construct water and sewer infrastructure, fully connecting 105 residents and 4 businesses to the City's resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer systems.

We at the Department of Ecology support this project and hope it is successfully funded through the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant program to provide for timely construction of the needed improvements.

Sincerely,

Damon Roberts  
Water Quality Project Manager, Ecology





# COMMISSIONER KYLE CURTIS

## DISTRICT 2

October 11, 2023

The Honorable Camille Calimlim Touton, Commissioner  
Bureau of Reclamation  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240

Re: WaterSMART Drought Response Program: Drought Resiliency Projects  
City of Yakima, Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities Project

Dear Commissioner Touton:

I support the WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant application submitted by the City of Yakima to construct new water and sewer infrastructure for low-income and underserved areas.

City of Yakima's Expanding Water and Wastewater Access to Underserved Communities project proposes to construct water and sewer infrastructure to three distinct areas in the City where utility services currently do not exist. In 2022, Yakima water and wastewater departments contracted with a local consultant, HLA Engineering and Land Surveying, Inc., to design system connections which would empower homeowners and business owners to decommission shallow individual wells and septic systems and connect to City water and sewer services. The City funded designs are now 100% complete and the City is applying for a WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant to construct water and sewer infrastructure, fully connecting 105 residents and 4 businesses to the City's resilient, safe, and reliable water and sewer systems.

Federal funding through the WaterSMART program is needed to provide additional momentum for investment in a low-income region. I support the City of Yakima's application and thank you for your full and fair consideration.

With appreciation,

Kyle Curtis  
Board of Yakima County Commissioners  
District 2

C: 509-654-0582 | E: [kyle.curtis@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:kyle.curtis@co.yakima.wa.us)