

North Harvey Road Booster Pump Facility

Funding Request: \$500,000



Request: The City of Blaine requests \$500,000 of EDI funding to help build a water booster pump station and related infrastructure to serve the current community and prepare for the residential growth that is occurring in East Blaine. The City intends to contribute \$500,000 of the City's ARPA funding to the project and is has received a \$500,000 capital allocation from the State the complete the project funding. As development continues in the service area, developers will additional infrastructure to distribute potable water to new homes. The request is for a \$125,000 loan and \$375,000 grant.

Issue: Whatcom County is in need of additional housing. The County's Business and Commerce Committee has identified workforce housing as the single largest issue curtailing economic development. Young adults raised in the County are finding it impossible to remain in the County due to high housing costs. The City of Blaine's and Whatcom County's comprehensive plans have indicated a need for significant expansion to occur in East Blaine to support the expected population increase. Given that, the East Blaine area is projected to support almost 40% of the city's housing stock need over the next 20 years. Most of the area is at an elevation higher than what can be served by the existing water distribution system. The City has determined that a water booster pump station for Blaine's current water system service area is required to provide the necessary water infrastructure concurrent with upcoming residential and business development.

Solution: The portion of the subarea that is near and east of North Harvey Road will require a new pressure zone and major improvements to provide adequate service. This includes a new booster pump station, 12-inch looped trunk lines, and a new reservoir. The initial phase of the project is installation of the first pump in a new pump station building with adequate electrical service to serve this scalable solution. The City is currently completing the design phase of the project.

