

**Attachment A:
Wasco County 2023 Community Enhancement Projects**

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Project Sponsor</i>	<i>Project</i>
1	Columbia Gorge Community College	<u>Columbia Gorge Childcare Center (CGCC):</u> There continues to be a serious shortage of qualified childcare. CGCC completed a feasibility study as the first step in developing a public childcare center and to improve workforce training available to childcare providers. CGCC is working with local partners for both potential locations and ongoing engagement. They are also increasing the size of the proposed center to 200 slots to reduce the subsidy needed based on economies of scale. CGCC has approximately \$1.75 million in ARPA funds allocated by the State for this project and will likely seek additional resources if the project is able to move forward.
2	Q-Life	<u>Cascades East Interconnection Colocation Facility +Fiber Expansion:</u> In the Northwest, major colocation points are in areas threatened by the Cascadia Subduction. This would mean that the internet was largely inaccessible in the event of a subduction event. Q-life is developing an improved colocation facility in The Dalles where providers and emergency communications networks can meet and access scalable communication paths. They completed initial designs for the facility with a cost estimate of approximately \$1 million. Additionally, Q-Life is working to ensure that communities across the County are connected via fiber to support strong last mile connection opportunities.
3	City of Mosier	<u>Joint Use Facility:</u> The City of Mosier and the Mosier Fire District are partnering to develop a joint use facility that will include a City Hall, Fire Hall, and multipurpose community space in downtown Mosier on the North side of Highway 30. The building will house a fire station, city hall offices, and community meeting center. In addition to these core functions, the approximately 10,000 sf building will include a kitchen, restrooms, public works garage, storage, outdoor plaza, and parking. The estimated total project has escalated to \$8.4 million with rising costs. They anticipate needing an additional \$1.2 million and are still aiming to break ground in 2023.
4	City of Maupin	<u>Water System Improvements:</u> The City’s water source is a spring that feeds into the system with a single, above ground 6” pipe that is 40 years old, failing and vulnerable to natural hazards. Additionally, the City needs to update and resurface its reservoir and infrastructure in East Maupin to increase fire flows and open up additional land for development. Cost estimate for these improvements is approximately \$10 million.
5	City of Dufur	<u>Drinking Water System Improvements:</u> The City of Dufur currently gets fresh drinking water from a well that is not sufficient to support their community. To acquire adequate drinking water for community members the City will need to drill a new well, build sufficient water storage and construct a dedicated waterline. In addition, the city will be assessing the state of the current fresh water well and addressing what usage options are available. The cost estimate is \$5 million.

6	City of The Dalles, Klickitat County, CGCC	<u>Aviation Maintenance Training Hangar (CGCC, City of The Dalles, Klickitat County):</u> City of The Dalles and Klickitat County are co-applicants for a successful \$2.8 million EDA funding request to match a \$700,000 local commitment to support college training program hangar and industrial park development at Columbia Gorge Regional Airport. Cost escalation since EDA proposal was submitted two and a half years ago has resulted in a projected shortfall of \$1.9 million however. Klickitat County is seeking \$500,000 grant from Washington State Department of Commerce with Sen. Murray's office encouraging a congressionally directed spending request to resolve the balance as well as additional resources.
7	Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development	<u>Dufur Rural Innovation (DRI) Hub:</u> Wy'East RC&D has partnered with Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Forth, and Sustainable NW to establish the Dufur Rural Innovation (DRI) Hub. The DRI Hub will promote the use of electric farming equipment and vehicles in the area to support innovative agricultural practices. The Hub partners have received a congressionally directed spending allocation but are continuing to seek the final match to allow them to access the full \$1.5 million in federal funding. The estimated funding needed is \$200,000- \$500,000.
8	Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District	<u>Fifteenmile Managed Underground Water Storage:</u> Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District is looking at creating a managed underground water storage facility to counter the low stream flows and summer high temperatures in the Fifteenmile watershed. The District is moving forward with construction drawings and the current estimated build out costs at \$1 million to \$1.2 million.
9	Northern Wasco County Park and Recreation District	<u>Sorosis Park Redevelopment-Phase 2:</u> After the removal of the mature pine trees at the park, NWCPRD is planning significant improvements to the space to meet current and future needs. The next phase of this plan is to replace Tree Top Playground with a new play structure and additional shade structures around it. Estimated cost for the project is between \$700,000 and \$900,000 for this project with \$200,000 in local matching funds already identified.
10	Pine Grove Water District	<u>Pine Grove Water Source Development:</u> The Water District is moving through the process to seek funding for developing a new water resource to support this community in having a more resilient system that improves necessary fire flows in this fire prone area of the county. Total project cost is estimated at \$2.26 million.

Priority Issues:

- **Issue: Developable Land.** As communities across the County continue to develop what land is available and ready for investment, there is a need to focus on ensuring that areas within urban growth boundaries, urban area boundaries, or appropriate rural centers are ready for development. The City of The Dalles, Port, and EDC are collaborating on a Brownfield Assessment Program with funding from EPA to support property owners in understanding redevelopment challenges and opportunities and MCEDD has sought additional funding for

this program to continue after the initial grant is complete. Additionally, there is work being done in several communities focused on code and infrastructure updates that will allow for appropriate, additional development. As this development occurs and reduces the inventory of vacant or underutilized land, other next steps will be proactively explored with partners. Critical to this effort, the City of The Dalles is restarting discussions about a plan for the west side of the community and will be seeking to scope and find resources for this planning effort that will support thoughtful commercial, industrial, and residential development within The Dalles.

- **Issue: Columbia Gorge Childcare.** There continues to be a shortage of qualified, affordable childcare in the Columbia Gorge region, particularly in The Dalles and Wasco County. CGCC completed a feasibility study would be the first step in this process to identify potential partners, the physical scope, regulatory requirements, operational costs, and capital construction sources for a childcare center in The Dalles. The SBDC is also partnering with Child Care Partners to explore supporting childcare providers in key business planning efforts to make them more sustainable. These conversations and supports to grow childcare accessibility are critical to ensuring workforce participation from families.
- **Issue: Housing.** Housing prices have continued to be unaffordable for many in Wasco County. We have consistently heard from employers and real estate professionals that the challenges in access and affordability for residents and potential employees seeking to come to Wasco County have hindered businesses’ ability to grow. Better understanding this need and supporting community partners in opportunities to address it will impact access to a robust workforce moving forward.
- **Issue: Broadband.** Continued engagement around gaps in broadband service availability for communities across Wasco County and additional focus on funding resources at the State and Federal level will provide opportunities for shovel ready projects in the next few years. Continuing to focus on creative strategies to address access needs will support diverse businesses, educational access, and many more key services to create vibrant communities.

Additional Projects Not Ranked:

Wasco County	Kramer Field Complex
Port of The Dalles	Marina Dock Replacement
Port of The Dalles	Land Acquisition Fund
Mid-Columbia Medical Center	New Hospital Campus
The Dalles Art Center	Downtown Pocket Park
Tooley Water District	Tooley Well Repair or Replacement
City of The Dalles	Westside Area Plan
City of The Dalles	Safe Routes to School Sidewalk
City of The Dalles	Improv Getchel Building
Dufur School District	Ranger Tech-CTE Program
Dufur School District	School Based Health Center

City of Dufur	Streetscape Improvements
City of Dufur	Ambulance Replacement
Wasco County SWCD	Fish monitoring and irrigation loss incentives
City of Maupin	Maupin City Park Boat Ramp Remodel
City of Maupin	Wastewater Treatment Plant Redevelopment
City of Maupin	West Reservoir
City of Maupin	Legion Hall Improvements
City of Maupin	River Transit
City of Maupin	West Maupin Street Expansion Plan
City of Maupin	Mountain Fir Park Improvements
City of Maupin	White Water Park
Mosier Community School	School Renovation and Expansion
City of Mosier	Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements
City of Mosier	Streetscape Improvements
City of Mosier	Emergency Well Replacement
Main Street Mosier	Skate Park Development
Wamic Water & Sanitary Authority	Wamic Wastewater System Replacement
Wasco Co SWCD + Juniper Flats Fire District	Fire Prevention and Protection
Tygh School Community Center	Building Improvements
Wasco County Fairboard	Facility Master Plan
Wamic Water & Sanitary Authority	Well # 1 Improvements Watershed
Wasco County SWCD	Assessments Countywide
White River Health District	Health Care Campus Improvements