



Letter of Support Examples

2024

Support Newport, Oregon's Big Creek Dams Project

This document contains examples of letters of support for the City of Newport's Big Creek Dams Project. You may consider using these letters to support the project in several ways:

- Send it to state legislators to ensure they know of and support funding for the project.
- Address it to your federal representatives to ensure they are aware of and are helping support the project through federal grants and other funding streams.
- Send it to other agencies that provide grant funding for infrastructure projects.

Types of Letters

To ensure draft letter language is as helpful as possible, the letters are organized by entity type. If your organization does not fit these categories, please repurpose the letter as you see fit. The language is written to be flexible to your needs, as we know every community member is impacted by this critical project differently.

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Private Citizens

Date

Letter Contact

Contact Title

Address

Dear XX:

As a member of the Newport community, I write to support the City of Newport's effort to replace the Upper Big Creek and Lower Big Creek Dams to ensure a reliable water supply for the city.

Communities like ours rely on a dependable, abundant water supply to power everything we do. Unfortunately, the Governor's Office recently rated Newport's Upper Big Creek and the Lower Big Creek Dams as "unsafe/potentially unsafe" and at risk of failure.

Suppose the dams fail due to seismic vulnerability or seepage. In that case, loss of life would most definitely occur, water supply would be impaired, bridges and landslides would block access to roads, and the city would be isolated for long periods, adversely affecting the population, regional economy, and environment. Simply put, without investment in this project, the future of our community is in jeopardy.

The City has already secured \$21 million, with \$35 million in grants and loans being pursued to address this situation. To ensure the project succeeds, Newport still needs to secure around \$80 million in local, state, and federal resources to construct the dam, protecting life, providing economic stability, and allowing our community to flourish.

I urge you to fund community projects like the Big Creek Dams Project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Date

Letter Contact

Contact Title

Address

Dear XX:

I am writing to you as a concerned member of the Newport community regarding the urgent matter of the Upper and Lower Big Creek Dams. As you may be aware, the Governor's Office recently rated the dams as "unsafe/potentially unsafe" and at risk of failure, posing a significant threat to the safety and well-being of our community.

The current state of the dams is alarming. Not only are they vulnerable to seismic events due to their lack of earthquake resilience, but seepage has also been detected in one of them. In the occurrence of a seismic event along any active fault lines near the Big Creek Reservoirs, the dams could liquefy and fail, resulting in catastrophic consequences.

The potential failure of these dams presents a dire risk to our residents' lives, our economy's sustainability, and Newport's future prosperity as a whole. Our community relies heavily on a consistent and clean water supply to support the health of our residents, sustain our tourism industry, and maintain the vitality of our fishing sector. Without access to reliable water, Newport's very existence would be threatened.

Fortunately, there is a solution in sight with the Big Creek Dams Project. This ambitious initiative aims to replace the existing dams with an earthquake-resilient one, and potentially expand the reservoir capacity. By doing so, we can ensure that Newport's water supply remains secure and sufficient to meet the needs of our growing community for generations to come.

However, this project's scope is immense, and the City of Newport and its residents cannot bear the financial burden alone. While we have already secured \$21 million in funding, with an additional \$35 million in grants and loans being pursued, the City still needs to secure about \$80 million in support to fully realize the potential of the Big Creek Dams Project and safeguard the future of Newport.

I urge you to champion our cause and advocate for federal support for the Big Creek Dams Project. The implications of inaction are too grave to ignore, and we cannot afford to gamble with the safety and prosperity of our community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to your support in ensuring the success of the Big Creek Dams Project.

Sincerely,

Date

Letter Contact

Contact Title

Address

Dear XX:

I am writing to you as a concerned member of the Newport community regarding the urgent need for support for the City of Newport's Big Creek Dams Project. As you know, the Governor's Office recently rated the Upper and Lower Big Creek Dams as unsafe or potentially unsafe. This rating indicates that the dams require our immediate attention.

The dams rest on the Big Creek Reservoirs, which hold Newport's sole water supply. Both vulnerable to seismic events and one with detected seepage, the dams are at risk of failure, presenting a significant risk to the safety and well-being of our community.

Newport is a vibrant coastal city with a diverse economy, a thriving tourism industry, and a robust fishing sector. However, all of these elements depend on reliable access to water. The dams are crucial in ensuring a stable water supply for our residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

The City of Newport is proactively addressing this looming crisis with the Big Creek Dams Project. It has secured \$21 million in funding, with \$35 million in grants and loans being pursued. However, to ensure the success of this project and safeguard our community's future, Newport still needs to secure about \$80 million in local, state, and federal resources to complete the project.

The consequences of inaction are dire. Without the completion of the Big Creek Dams Project, lives could be at risk, families might be left without access to clean water, and Newport's economy could suffer irreparable damage. The potential loss of life, livelihoods, and economic stability underscore the urgent need for your support in securing the funding required for this project.

As a respected insert position in office, your advocacy and assistance securing federal resources for the Big Creek Dams Project are paramount. By allocating the necessary funds, you would help safeguard Newport's residents' safety and well-being and ensure our community's continued prosperity for generations.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to serving the needs of our community. I look forward to your support of the City of Newport's Big Creek Dams Project and stand ready to assist in any way possible to advance this vital initiative.

Sincerely,

Local Businesses

Date

Letter Contact

Contact Title

Address

Re: Upper Big Creek and Lower Big Creek Dams Funding

Dear XX:

I write on behalf of the **insert company name and description**.

Our partners at the City of Newport informed us of the failure risk of the Upper Big Creek and Lower Big Creek Dams (the Big Creek Dams) and the need to secure up to \$80 million to replace them.

The Big Creek Dams Project is essential to the Newport community. As you may be aware, the Governor's Office recently found the Big Creek Dams to be "unsafe/potentially unsafe" and at risk of failure, which would have severe consequences up to and including loss of life. Economic consequences would be similarly extreme, as losing our sole water supply would interrupt **insert your business line**.

insert company name supports the City's proactive efforts to address the known problems with the Big Creek Dams. Similarly, we appreciate your ongoing leadership in this area and thank you for supporting our coastal communities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Organizations

Date

Letter Contact

Contact Title

Address

Re: Big Creek Dams Project Funding

Dear XX:

On behalf of **insert institution**, I write to support the City of Newport's efforts to replace the Big Creek Dams to protect the community's sole water supply.

Cities like Newport rely on a dependable, abundant water supply to enable community and economic development. Unfortunately, the Governor's Office recently rated Newport's Upper Big Creek and the Lower Big Creek Dams as "unsafe/potentially unsafe" and at risk of failure.

If the dams fail due to seismic vulnerability or seepage, loss of life would most definitely occur, water supply would be impaired, bridges and landslides would block access to roads, and the City would be isolated for long periods, adversely affecting the population, regional economy, and environment. Simply put, Newport's future is in jeopardy without investment in this project.

The City has already secured \$21 million, with \$35 million in grants and loans being pursued to address this situation. To ensure the project succeeds, Newport still needs to secure around \$80 million in local, state, and federal resources to construct the dam, protecting life, providing economic stability, and allowing our community to flourish.

We urge you to fund community projects like the Big Creek Dams Project and reach out to hear more about our support for this project. We are always happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for your time and consideration, we look forward to seeing the completion of this project.

Sincerely,

Elected Officials

Date

Letter Contact

Contact Title

Address

Dear XX:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong support for the City of Newport's application for **insert grant name** funding. Newport is taking critical steps to ensure the Big Creek Dams and Reservoirs are structurally sound and support seismic resilience for the City's water supply. Our region's quality of life and ability to sustain economic activity depend on building a seismically sound solution for the currently at-risk dams. On behalf of the residents living in the City of Newport, I strongly support investing in funding the subsequent phases of work to plan and design a solution for the Big Creek Dams.

Today, if a seismic event were to occur along any of the active fault lines within proximity of the Big Creek Reservoirs, the dams could fail, flooding the City of Newport and leaving its population of over 10,000 individuals and its water-dependent economy without potable water for an unknown period. Newport is a remote community and is vulnerable to losing access to other water sources if roads and/or bridges fail during a seismic event. Fire suppression, a critical need following seismic events, may also be impacted by a dam failure, limiting access to water for firefighting.

With funding support from **insert grant name**, the City of Newport seeks to build a new structurally sound dam to replace the existing, at-risk dams. In addition, the City may enlarge the reservoir, ensuring Newport has access to enough water supply to sustain its vibrant community and economy long into the future and provide public health and safety benefits to Oregon's Mid-Coast region.

Funding for this project from the **insert grant** name would represent a critical milestone in securing a partnership to protect the water supply of the City of Newport. I hope you will join alongside the State of Oregon and the City of Newport to help ensure public health, safety, and economic sustainability for the people of Oregon's Mid-Coast region.

Sincerely,