



18 February 2026

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

On behalf of the citizens of the City of Carey, thank you for your public service to the state of Idaho and this country. After serving a very full career with the United States Air Force, I've returned home to rural Idaho and became the new Mayor for the City of Carey. Carey still embodies *small town USA*, where the predominant business sector continues to be the farmers and ranchers that feed our great nation. Unfortunately, our aging wastewater infrastructure requires a massive overhaul rapidly outpacing our capability to replace without your assistance.

I am writing today to express support for the City of Carey's (City) wastewater improvement project, which is necessary to return the system to regulatory compliance. The City's wastewater system serves a diverse customer base, including residential, commercial, and light industrial users. Annually, the system supports seasonal increases in demand from tourists and wilderness enthusiasts visiting the historic area.

For decades the City discharged treated effluent through slow-rate land application on 59 acres of farmland under Reuse Permit M-021-03. This permit has since expired, and the City was unable to secure a new agreement with the landowner, resulting in the loss of the land application site. Consequently, treated effluent is currently discharged to the East Channel of the Little Wood River during winter months and released under emergency conditions. These discharges are prohibited under the City's administratively continued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

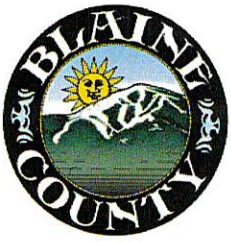
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I want to personally thank you for representing the great state of Idaho, providing critical representation of small communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project.

Sincerely,

Logan L. Davis

Logan L. Davis
Mayor, City of Carey



THE BOARD OF BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

206 FIRST AVENUE SOUTH, SUITE 300

HAILEY, IDAHO 83333

PHONE: (208) 788-5500 FAX: (208) 788-5569

www.blainecounty.org bcc@co.blaine.id.us

Angenie McCleary, Chair * Lindsay Mollineaux, Vice-Chair * Muffy Davis, Commissioner

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

The Blaine County Commissioners are writing today to express support for the City of Carey's (City) wastewater improvement project, which is necessary to return the system to regulatory compliance. The City's wastewater system serves a diverse customer base, including residential, commercial, and light industrial users. Annually, the system supports seasonal increases in demand from tourists and wilderness enthusiasts visiting the historic area. This project is of great importance and value to Blaine County.

For decades the City discharged treated effluent through slow-rate land application on 59 acres of farmland under Reuse Permit M-021-03. This permit has since expired, and the City was unable to secure a new agreement with the landowner, resulting in the loss of the land application site. Consequently, treated effluent is currently discharged to the East Channel of the Little Wood River during winter months and released under emergency conditions. These discharges are prohibited under the City's administratively continued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

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Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho, providing critical representation of small communities like ours. We appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project.

Sincerely,

Angenie McCleary
Chair

Lindsay Mollineaux
Vice-Chair

Muffy Davis
Commissioner



February 24, 2026

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Community Project Funding for City of Carey, Idaho

Dear Congressman Simpson,

Idaho Rural Water Association (IRWA) is an association of drinking water and wastewater utility systems whose mission is to provide technical assistance, training, and a strong representative voice for the benefit of Idaho's drinking water and wastewater utility systems. IRWA represents over 370 drinking water and wastewater utility systems throughout the state. Our field staff support nearly every community in Idaho through technical assistance and training on a regular basis.

Across Idaho, we see rural communities struggle with the challenge of maintaining aging and failing infrastructure. As you are aware, Idaho's rural communities are the fabric of Idaho, and they play a large role in making Idaho a desired place to live, work, and play. I am writing today to express IRWA's support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project which is necessary to return the system to regulatory compliance. The City's wastewater system serves a diverse customer base, including residential, commercial, and light industrial users. Annually, the system supports seasonal increases in demand from tourists and wilderness enthusiasts visiting the historic area.

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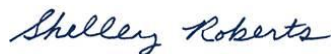
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In response, the City prepared and was priority ranked on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). However, the proposed loan portion offered is simply unaffordable for the most vulnerable community members who struggle to pay for other basic needs. Therefore, any federal support supplied towards the project would reduce the City's need to take on massive debt, providing critical and necessary improvements in furtherance of affordability, public health and safety, and environmental compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho and your representation of small communities like Carey. We appreciate your consideration in providing much-needed support for the City's wastewater improvement project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shelley Roberts".

Shelley Roberts
Chief Executive Officer

MIKE J. POHANKA

DISTRICT 26
JEROME, LINCOLN &
BLAINE COUNTIES



HOME ADDRESS
489 SUNRIDGE DRIVE
JEROME, IDAHO 83338
(208) 490-4709
EMAIL: mpohanka@house.idaho.gov

House of Representatives State of Idaho

February 21, 2026

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

I am writing today to express support for the City of Carey's (City) wastewater improvement project, which is necessary to return the system to regulatory compliance. The City's wastewater system serves a diverse customer base, including residential, commercial, and light industrial users. Annually, the system supports seasonal increases in demand from tourists and wilderness enthusiasts visiting the historic area.

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Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho, providing critical representation of small communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael J. Pohanka".

Michael J. Pohanka
District 26-A State Representative

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: City of Carey Wastewater Treatment Facility

Dear Congressman Simpson,

On behalf of the South Central Public Health District Board of Health, I am writing today to express support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project, which is necessary to return the system to regulatory compliance. Carey's wastewater system serves a diverse customer base, including residential, commercial, and light industrial users. Annually, the system supports seasonal increases in demand from tourists and wilderness enthusiasts visiting the historic area.

As a public health agency, we are focused on protecting public health and the environment. We are currently aware of the circumstances and challenges the City of Carey is facing regarding its wastewater treatment facility. We fully support the city's efforts to find a solution for their effluent discharge and return to compliance under their National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

In February 2025, the City of Carey met with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) to discuss the unauthorized discharges. IDEQ staff indicated that a Compliance Agreement Schedule (CAS) may be developed within the next 18 months. In anticipation of and alignment with the forthcoming CAS, the City has completed applicable planning and environmental studies and has identified a corrective improvements project designed to resolve the unpermitted discharges and restore compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho, providing critical representation of small communities like ours. The South Central Public Health District Board of Health appreciates your consideration in providing much-needed support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project.

Sincerely,



Logan Hudson, MN, RN
District Director



February 17, 2026

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

First, thank you for your public service to the state of Idaho and this country. Secondly, it was great to meet Jessica (and Sam and Mike) last week as the delegation made the journey up from Twin Falls. I'm the new Director for Sun Valley Economic Development; a not-for-profit whose mission is to *"preserve and advance the Sun Valley Region's economic vitality and diversity while recognizing the values of the community"*. Our purview is Blaine County as a whole. I was privileged to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Carey Mayor Logan Davis on January 20th.

With that as a background, I am writing today to express support for the City of Carey's (City) wastewater improvement project, which is necessary to return the system to regulatory compliance. The City's wastewater system serves a diverse customer base, including residential, commercial, and light industrial users. Annually, the system supports seasonal increases in demand from tourists and wilderness enthusiasts visiting the historic area.

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For a rural community like Carey this is a vital project, upgrading infrastructure that will be able to support the kind of economic development we are working towards. Thank you again for all the work you do in communities like ours around the state of Idaho. We greatly appreciate your

consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel Jackson'.

Mel Jackson

Executive Director

Sun Valley Economic Development

www.sunvalleyeconomy.org

E-Mail: mel@sunvalleyeconomy.org

Mobile: +1 (208) 350 0539

Address: P.O. Box 3893 | Ketchum, ID | 83340 | USA

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

Blaine County School District #61 Trustee
Parent
Community Member

I am writing today to express support for the City of Carey's (City) wastewater improvement project, which is necessary to return the system to regulatory compliance. The City's wastewater system serves a diverse customer base, including residential, commercial, and light industrial users. Annually, the system supports seasonal increases in demand from tourists and wilderness enthusiasts visiting the historic area.

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Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho, providing critical representation of small communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project.

Sincerely,



Amber Royal-Perkes
Blaine County School District Trustee

Carey Rural Fire Protection District
P.O. Box 206
Carey Idaho 83320

February 21, 2026

The Honorable Congressman Mike Simpson
2084 Raburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

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Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho, providing critical representation of small communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project.

Sincerely,

Richard Kimball
Chief of District
Carey Rural Fire Protection District
(208)720-2076

February 23, 2026

The Honorable Mike Simpson
2084 Rayburn House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

My name is Alyssa Cenarrusa. I served as a member of the Carey City Council from April 2021 to June 2024, at which time I was sworn in to fill the vacated Mayor's seat. I completed that term in January 2026. During my service, I gained firsthand knowledge of the infrastructure challenges facing our small rural community, particularly the financial and regulatory pressures associated with maintaining essential public utilities.

I am writing to express my strong support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project. This project is critical to restoring regulatory compliance, protecting public health, and safeguarding the environmental integrity of our community.

For decades, the City discharged treated effluent through a land application on 59 acres of farmland under Reuse Permit M-021-03. This permit has since expired, and the City was unable to secure a new agreement with the landowner, resulting in the loss of the land application site. Consequently, treated effluent is currently discharged to the East Channel of the Little Wood River during winter months and released under emergency conditions. These discharges are prohibited under the City's administratively continued National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit.

In February 2025, staff and I met with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ) to address these unauthorized discharges. IDEQ indicated that a Compliance Agreement Schedule (CAS) may be developed within the next 18 months. In anticipation of the forthcoming CAS, the City has completed the necessary planning and environmental studies and has identified a corrective improvements project designed to eliminate unpermitted discharges and restore compliance.

Thank you for representing the great state of Idaho and providing critical representation of small communities like ours. I appreciate your consideration in providing much needed support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project.

Sincerely,



Alyssa Cenarrusa
Former Mayor

https://www.5bgazette.com/government_policy/carey-mayor-leads-wastewater-upgrade-efforts-with-funding-support-from-county-leaders/article_33b9bab7-3dac-40fe-8d6c-5ec6ffbfc01c.html

Carey mayor leads wastewater upgrade efforts with funding support from county leaders

By Sarah Lurie

Feb 18, 2026



Carey Mayor Logan Davis



Carey Mayor Logan Davis took office last month inheriting a wastewater system under regulatory strain from decades of use and recent growth pressures.

With a \$6.6 million upgrade plan in hand, the new mayor is leading efforts to secure funding and approvals, drawing backing from county leaders as the town navigates seasonal demands from tourists and a push for sustainable expansion.

Carey's wastewater system, which handles connections for homes, businesses and light industry, once relied on land application of treated effluent across 59 acres under a reuse permit.

The permit expired, leaving the town without a disposal site and prompting discharges into the East Channel of the Little Wood River during winter and emergencies. These releases breach the city's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, leading to three years of quarterly violations.

In a February 2025 meeting with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, or IDEQ, officials discussed the issue and floated a Compliance Agreement Schedule within 18 months.

Carey has since finished planning and studies, outlining fixes in a facility plan: a new lift station, 12-foot-deep lagoon, polishing reactor, 4,300 feet of collection-system repairs and fixes to 24 manholes.

To manage interim growth, the city council considered a sewer-allocation ordinance at last night's council meeting, limiting new hookups. "So we can slow growth, but not stop it until we can work on procuring the funding and getting the approval with our facility plan," Mayor Davis explained in an interview with the Gazette.

The upgrades would bolster capacity for the system's users, including seasonal visitors drawn to the area's historic sites and outdoor recreation. Mayor Davis views them as a foundation for resilience. "These improvements will resolve the current issues but also support long-term infrastructure resilience," he said.

Davis is targeting federal earmarks through Community Project Funding for about half the cost, with the balance eyed from grants and other funding sources. "We're going to be looking for those sources

first," he said, noting two to four additional options identified so far. The town is also raising sewer rates modestly, while bonds or levies serve as backups. "We're hoping to avoid that," Davis added. He is collaborating with Great West Engineering, the city's consultant, which has grant-writing resources, and Frontier Community Resources. "We're working closely with them... So we'll try to cast a wide net," he said.

The effort has garnered countywide support. On Feb. 17, Blaine County Commissioners Angenie McCleary, Lindsay Mollineaux and Muffy Davis sent a letter to U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, endorsing the project.

"The Blaine County Commissioners are writing today to express support for the City of Carey's wastewater improvement project, which is necessary to return the system to regulatory compliance," the letter states. It details the permit expiration, discharges and IDEQ discussions, calling the upgrades "of great importance and value to Blaine County." The commissioners thanked Mr. Simpson for aiding small communities and urged his backing.

Davis's approach draws lessons from nearby Bellevue, where Great West also serves as engineer on a protracted wastewater project. There, unexpected costs and system issues have prolonged the work.

In Carey, the mayor emphasizes checks and balances. "We rely on our subject-matter experts to double-check each other," he said.

Broader growth planning is advancing, too. A comprehensive plan, almost complete, will shape zoning for housing and business while preserving agriculture.

As a commuter hub for Hailey workers, Carey attracts those seeking affordability away from pricier Sun Valley. "We take a unique kind of person," Davis said.

Carey City Council meets Monday, March 16 at 7 p.m. at Carey City Hall or online.