

The SHOSHONE-BANNOCK TRIBES

FORT HALL INDIAN RESERVATION
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FORT HALL BUSINESS COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 306
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April 15, 2025

Representative Mike Simpson
2084 Rayburn House
Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Simpson,

On behalf of the Fort Hall Business Council, the Governing Body of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall, Idaho, I am writing to respectfully request consideration to leverage Community Partnership Funding (CPF) to fund a water infrastructure project on Fort Hall. This need includes constructing a new concrete water storage tank, conducting associated well and waterline improvements, and adding additional fire hydrants at an estimated cost of \$5,676,450. The purpose of this project is to add water storage capacity, increase water pressure, and improve firefighting capabilities to meet current and future requirements for community and economic development.

In 1995, water testing discovered Ethylene Dibromide (EDB) contamination, a toxic ingredient in pesticides now banned by the EPA, directly underneath the developed portion of the Reservation. Prior to this discovery, wells tapping into the contaminated aquifer were the primary source of potable water. The discovery resulted in the rapid expansion of the Tribes' water distribution system to enable reservation residents and facilities to stop relying on domestic wells. Thus, the Tribes drilled new wells outside of the contaminated area, and constructed new water tanks, including a 324,000-gallon steel tank east of Sheepskin Road - northeast of our hotel/casino.

Now 30 years post-EDB discovery, this existing tank is undersized to meet future water storage needs, and is experiencing a considerable amount of corrosion. In addition, the current storage capacity is insufficient to meet both peak demand and fire suppression requirements. For example, modeling indicates that during peak demand, water pressure is below "normal" pressure in many areas, the system is at risk of not meeting the state minimum of 20 psi during fire suppression, and the number and spacing of existing fire hydrants do not meet current code.

This CPF project to construct a new water tank will support on-going efforts to meet the Tribes current and future water storage and delivery requirements. It will directly contribute to economic development by providing additional capacity for new construction, and increase fire safety on Fort Hall.

Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.

Sincerely,

Lee Juan Tendoy
Chairman
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes.