



# Drinking Water State Revolving Fund

## City of Pateros Water Quality and Supply Improvements

Congress created the federal Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) loan program in 1996 after reauthorizing the Safe Drinking Water Act. The program provides public water systems with low-interest loans allowing systems to address public health issues.

The City of Pateros applied for a DWSRF loan to address existing water quality and quantity issues. Manganese levels in the Pateros public water supply far exceed the state and federal maximum contaminate levels. Although current water supply meets the Department of Health’s minimum capacity requirement, it can’t meet the maximum daily demand for water (identified in its water system plan) or the city’s reliability criteria if the largest source is out of service.

### Addressing public health concerns

The City of Pateros finds it unacceptable that it currently provides water with potential health effects due to high levels of manganese. These high levels also cause other problems like black water with sediment that ruins clothing and expensive restaurant equipment. Black manganese slime also plugs up service lines and meters, resulting in ongoing loss of customer water pressure. Pateros back flushes system mains twice a year, and each time it is exposed to an increased risk of bacteriological contamination.

| Water Supply Improvement Project (2014)  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Funding Source   | Amount                                |
| Drinking Water State Revolving Fund  | \$1,500,153<br>(includes 1% loan fee) |
| Community Development Block Grant Planning Only Grant  | \$24,000                              |
| Community Economic Revitalization Board  | \$21,000                              |
| Community Development Block Grant  | \$1,000,000                           |
| DWSRF Preconstruction Grant  | \$25,000                              |
| DWSRF Consolidation Grant  | \$30,000                              |
| WA State Legislature appropriated funds  | \$2,175,000                           |
| Internal Funds   | \$100,000                             |
| <b>Total budgeted to date</b>  | <b>\$5,400,000</b>                    |
| <b>Lower 1.5% interest rate will save Pateros more than \$400,000 over the 20 year term<sup>1</sup>.</b> |                                       |



*The City of Pateros’ decorated water reservoirs were damaged by the massive Carlton Complex wildfire in July 2014. The “before” picture shows colorful patterns on reservoirs, created with stick-on reflectors. After the fire swept through, leaving the reservoirs blackened and destroying the structure that housed telemetry equipment, someone erected an American flag – a testament to American spirit. Photos by Mike Wilson*

<sup>1</sup> Assumes 3.4% interest rate and 5% cost to issue bonds

Pateros plans to drill new test wells and two production wells, in addition to adding new pump stations and improving water reservoirs damaged during the July 2014 Carlton Complex wildfire.

These improvements will help ensure its customers will no longer have to bear the cost of repeated emergency repairs. During peak demand, both existing wells have to run up to 20 hours per day just to keep the tanks from going dry. Without a new source of water and adequate storage, the city doesn't have enough for its customers, and worries about its ability to fight a fire. Pateros hopes to complete this project by December 2016.

**Want to learn more?**

More DWSRF success stories are available online at <http://www.doh.wa.gov/DWSRF.aspx>.