

Tina Kotek, Governor

February 17, 2026

Lucas Stangel, PE  
Anderson Perry & Associates  
PO Box 1107  
La Grande, Oregon 97850

**Re: Water System Master Plan Update, PR #4-2026, City of Vale, PWS ID#4100917  
Concurrence with Master Plan**

Dear Lucas:

Thank you for your submittal to the Oregon Health Authority's Drinking Water Services (DWS) of the 2025 Water System Master Plan Update for the City of Vale. On January 9, 2026, a pdf copy of the draft Water System Master Plan Update was received. On January 16, 2026, the plan review fee of \$4125 was received. On January 20, 2026, a hard copy of the draft Water System Master Plan Update was received. The review of the draft Master Plan confirmed the criteria listed in Oregon Administrative Rule 333-061-0060(5) have been met.

The Master Plan Update covers a 20-year planning period from 2025 to 2045. It includes a system description, future demand estimates, and a prioritized list of capital improvements with cost estimates. The system's existing water sources are adequate to supply the projected demand, however the system lacks redundancy should the airport wellfield be out of service. Proposed improvements include a new well, a new booster pump station, establishing a new pressure zone for higher elevations, and selected improvements to the distribution piping.

I have the following comments:

- I generally concur with the list of recommended capital improvement projects.

- I note that a new well would not be allowed at the proposed location next to the Washington Street well. Wells that do not meet current construction standards, such as the Washington Street well, are not allowed within the 100-foot setback area of new drinking water supply wells.
- I note that pressures less than the required minimum 20 psi would occur in areas of the distribution system during fire flows. The proposed new booster pump station and establishing a new pressure zone would mitigate this issue.
- I note that the preferred funding source for the improvement projects will be determined in consultation with Business Oregon, USDA Rural Utilities Service, and other agencies.
- I note that no environmental impacts for the proposed projects were identified.
- I note that additional operation and maintenance costs will be incurred with the installation of a new well and booster pump station.
- On page 2-8 it states that the most recent OHA/DWS survey of the water system took place on August 10, 2022, however a more recent survey was conducted on June 16, 2025. The most recent survey should be included in Appendix E.
- Please send me either a hard copy of the final version of the plan, or replacement pages for any that are edited.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at [william.h.goss@oha.oregon.gov](mailto:william.h.goss@oha.oregon.gov) or call at (541) 966-0900.

Sincerely,

  
William Goss, PE  
Regional Engineer

cc: Julie Wray, OHA/DWS, Portland  
Jack McElravy, City of Vale  
Todd Fuller, City of Vale (pdf copy only)  
Feather Sams-Huesties, Business Oregon (pdf copy only)  
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