



City of Haverhill

Massachusetts

Department of Public Works
Water and Wastewater Divisions

Date: August 20, 2026

To: The Honorable Melinda E. Barrett
Mayor of Haverhill

From: Robert E. Ward *REW*
Director of Public Works – Water/Wastewater

Subject: Loan Order – South Mill Street Pumping Station and Force Main Improvements

Attached for your review and approval is a proposed loan order appropriating \$26,190,000 for the engineering and construction of improvements to the South Mill Street Pumping Station and Force Main. The loan order amount is based on preliminary cost estimates and cannot wait for final design; securing funding now is essential to ensure work can proceed without delay once engineering is complete.

Preliminary recommendations for the project include installing two new 36-inch parallel force mains between the South Mill Street Pump Station and the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). MassDEP has made clear that the permanent solution must include redundancy in the force main system—hence the requirement for two parallel mains rather than a single replacement—so the City can maintain conveyance capacity during maintenance or emergency events.

Because the station is already operating under an emergency bypass due to the June 26 force main failure, this project also includes replacement of the aging interior pump station piping, originally planned for the future WWTF upgrade. Completing that work now avoids a second bypass operation, reduces long-term disruption, and consolidates improvements into one coordinated project.

The attached cost estimate reflects a preliminary total project cost of approximately \$26.19 million, which includes final design and permitting, the construction of dual 36-inch force mains, interior pump station piping, engineering during construction, a 10% construction contingency (higher than typical due to the fast-tracked nature of the project), temporary bypass pumping estimated at \$380,000 per month, utility allowances, and materials testing.

These costs are very early in development and will continue to evolve as Wright-Pierce refines the alternatives, completes final design, evaluates easement needs, and determines requirements for hazardous soils disposal and environmental permitting. Early funding authorization is critical so that design and procurement can proceed without delay, and so that construction can begin as soon as regulatory approvals and easements are finalized. Any unused borrowing authority would simply not be utilized.

The loan order authorizes the City to finance the project through borrowing, including the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust, and to pursue any available state and federal grant funding to reduce the City's borrowing obligation.

Because this is a borrowing authorization, the loan order must be placed on file for ten days by the City Council before it can be acted upon at a subsequent meeting. I respectfully recommend forwarding the attached loan order to the City Council so it may be placed on file and subsequently considered for adoption.

Please let me know if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Ward
Director of Public Works – Water/Wastewater

Attachment:

Loan Order
Estimated Cost

cc:

Christine Lindberg, Chief of Staff, clindberg@haverhillma.gov
Lisa Mead, Mead, Talerman & Costa LLC, lisa@mtclawyers.com
Angel A. Perkins, Chief Financial Officer & City Auditor, aperkins@haverhillma.gov
Isaiah Lewis, WWTP Facility Manager, ilewis@haverhillma.gov
Shaun Burrier, Water/Wastewater Engineer, sburrier@haverhillma.gov
Allana McOsker, Water/Wastewater Business Manager, amcosker@haverhillma.gov