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**Testimony of Medora Area Planning Leadership Group  
Senate Bill 2020  
Senate Appropriations Committee – Education & Environment Division  
Bismarck, North Dakota – January 19, 2023**

Chairman Sorvaag and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee Education and Environment Division:

The Medora Area Planning leadership group supports the funding request of the Southwest Water Authority within the Department of Water Resources budget, Senate Bill 2020. The leadership group which consists of the City of Medora, Billings County, the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation, and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation have partnered and been leading a comprehensive planning effort for the Medora area over the last 15 months.

Our comprehensive planning efforts have identified long-term needs of the Medora area due to projected growth in tourism and population. For instance, the City of Medora will need to increase its water supply from 150 gallons per minute to 225 gallons per minute to serve the projected growth in tourism and population. The Southwest Water Authority has requested funding to provide greater service to southwestern North Dakota. The people of the City of Medora and Billings County are part of the larger region that will benefit from the approval of Southwest Water Authority's funding request in SB 2020. An adequate supply of drinking water is crucial if we want to accommodate the growth that is anticipated within 10 years.

Please approve Southwest Water Authority's funding request to ensure Medora and other southwest North Dakota cities continue to have an adequate supply of drinking water and for fire protection.

Thank you, Chairman Sorvaag and members of the Senate Appropriations Committee Education and Environment Division for accepting the Medora Area Planning leadership group's testimony for Senate Bill 2020.



# BILLINGS COUNTY



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**Billings County Commission**

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September 29, 2022

Jen Murray, Manager/CEO  
Southwest Water Authority  
4665 2nd Street SW  
Dickinson, ND 58601-7231

*Via email to: [jmurray@swwater.com](mailto:jmurray@swwater.com)  
cc Dr. Andrea Travnicek, ND Dept. of Water Resources  
Via email to: [atravnicek@nd.gov](mailto:atravnicek@nd.gov)*

Dear Jen,

Earlier this year Billings County and the City of Medora partnered with the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library Foundation and the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation to prepare a comprehensive plan in anticipation of growth and development impacts from the TR Presidential Library and other improvements within the Medora area. The Medora Area Plan is nearing the final stage of public review and adoption and wet infrastructure is a key component of the plan.

The county appreciates Southwest Water Authority's recent commitment to increase the City of Medora's contracted flowrate to 150 gpm. However, upon further review of peak water usage in the summer months as identified in the preliminary engineering report prepared by Brosz Engineering, water usage is estimated at 212 gpm and a recommended flowrate to handle future growth is 225 gpm.

Water availability and quality are essential for housing and economic development. Billings County has 78 of the 734 applications on SWA's waiting list and the county expects the increased capacity to Medora to assist in reaching some of the rural areas of Billings County. Increasing SWA's capacity and maximum flowrate to the City of Medora from 150 gpm to 225 gpm is consistent with the following goals, objectives, and policies of Billings County's Comprehensive Plan:

- Provide for steady, responsible residential and commercial growth and development.
- Cooperate with the City of Medora to accomplish common goals.
- Promote the County's tourism and recreational opportunities, particularly as an economic tool, and maintain a strong working relationship with local tourist entities and the City of Medora in the development of the local tourism industry.
- Promote the economic revitalization of Billings County and Southwestern North Dakota
- Ensure the efficient and economical provision of adequate public services, facilities, and utilities for County residents.
- Ensure adequate rural and community fire protections.

The Commission would also like to invite you and others from the Southwest Water Authority and the ND Department of Water Resources to the next community engagement workshop for the Medora Area Plan. This workshop will be held from 3:30pm to 5:30pm MDT on Sunday, October 2, 2022 at the community center in Medora. For more information please visit <https://www.medora150.com/>.

Sincerely,

Lester Iverson, Chairman  
Billings County Commission

Enclosure: Wet Infrastructure – Medora Area Plan  
Prepared by Brosz Engineering



Southwest Water Authority  
Jen Murray, Manager/CEO  
4665 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SW  
Dickinson, ND 58601-7231

**Re: Amendment Request for Increase Flow Rate  
Water Service Contract 1736-18**

Dear Ms. Murray:

The City of Medora is requesting an amendment to Section VI, Paragraph B.2 of our Water Service Contract. We are requesting that the maximum flow rate to be provided by the Southwest Water Authority to the City be changed from a not-to-exceed 150 gallons per minute to **225** gallons per minute.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, or the City Engineer Mike Njos, PE at 701-260-2113(cell) or email him at [njos@highlandseng.com](mailto:njos@highlandseng.com).

Sincerely,

Douglas Ellison  
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**CITY OF HISTORIC MEDORA**