



EAST RANGE WATER SYSTEM

Project Funding Needs

Project Description

Phase 1 of the project involves construction of a raw water intake, watermain, and water treatment facility to serve the City of Aurora and Town of White. This phase of the project is in construction and anticipated to be completed in 2026. The water treatment plant will have the capacity to serve over 3,000 constituents across multiple communities, the Mesabi East School District, and Essentia Hospital. This system will also have the capacity to continue providing emergency water to Biwabik and Giants Ridge as Aurora’s water treatment plant has done twice in the last five years. The project components have been designed with the intent of expansion to provide water and fire protection to communities throughout the East Range.

Phase 2 will involve an expansion to the water treatment plant, a booster station, and a watermain connecting Hoyt Lakes to the system and allow further connections to residents of Town of White. The expansion will also have the capacity for Biwabik to join in the future. When fully completed, the East Range Water System will provide water to over 5,000 constituents across many East Range communities.

Phase 1 Funding Needs

ERWB Phase 1 Project Funding	
Item	Cost
Project Bid Cost	\$33,000,000
Value Engineered Project Cost	\$31,000,000
Grants Committed	(\$21,000,000)
State PFA Affordable Loan	(\$5,000,000)
Project Funding Gap	\$5,000,000

The East Range Water Board worked with engineers to reduce the bid project cost through value engineering. This saw a reduction in the total bid price by \$2,000,000. Fully closing the \$5,000,000 funding gap for Phase 1 of the East Range Water System will have immediate extensive benefits for all three communities on the East Range.



Raw Water Intake Construction



Water Treatment Plant Construction

East Range Water Board Project Overview - Phases 1 and 2

East Range Water Board

March 2025

