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## **LELWD Receives \$4.9M Grant for Water Treatment Plant Construction**

A state grant will pay more than \$4 million toward building the new Whitcomb Avenue water treatment plant. The new facility will protect water quality and public health by ensuring treatment of the town's public water supply prior to delivery to consumers.

"This is great news for the ratepayers and the LELWD staff who are working hard to manage project costs. The state grant recognizes the importance of the water treatment plant to improving water quality and ensuring public health," said James Karr, Chairman of the Board of Water Commissioners.

The new 10,500-square-foot water treatment plant under construction on Whitcomb Avenue will remove PFAS chemical compounds, iron and manganese. The plant will treat water from two Whitcomb Avenue wells and the Spectacle Pond well, handling up to 1.8 million gallons per day.

The project cost, budgeted at \$24.5 million, will be financed through a State Revolving Fund loan with a zero percent interest rate. The grant comes in the form of a 20% loan forgiveness, meaning LELWD will repay 80% of the loan. If LELWD borrows the full amount of \$24,534,937, the grant forgives \$4,906,987 of the loan.

Littleton's grant is one of 52 projects awarded a total \$66.8 million, the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust recently [announced](#), calling the recipients vital water infrastructure projects that protect water quality, public health and the environment.

The project broke ground in June 2021 and is expected to be completed in Spring 2023. The project was supported by the Littleton Select Board, Board of Health, Conservation Commission, Finance Committee and Town Meeting.

Despite the presence of PFAS in the Spectacle Pond well, Littleton's public water supply is a safe and reliable source of drinking water. Regular testing shows Littleton's water, as delivered to consumers, meets all MassDEP standards and is safe for all consumers.

PFAS is an acronym for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, a family of chemical compounds known for their non-stick properties and resistance to breaking down in the environment. PFAS have been linked to numerous health effects with state regulators cautioning pregnant and

breastfeeding mothers, infants and immunosuppressed individuals to avoid consuming water with PFAS levels above 20 ppt.

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