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Stormwater Billing Proposal for Drainage Districts



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Proposal

- To bill directly for stormwater management services in the Drainage Districts
- Direct billings would replace expired intergovernmental agreement
- Billings would be phased in multiple steps



Drainage Districts



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History

- Districts formed in 1917 by property owners to manage Columbia River floodplain and local stormwater runoff.
- City billed customers in the Districts directly for City stormwater management before 2000, with exemptions for those discharging directly to the Columbia Slough
- Intergovernmental Agreement with Districts in 2000 replaced direct billings
- Negotiations beginning in 2005 to renew agreement were unsuccessful
- City notified Districts in 2006 agreement would expire June 30, 2012



City Stormwater Services

- Build, operate and maintain stormwater pipes and water quality facilities
- Remove and treat stormwater runoff from public rights of way.
- Monitor, test and analyze water quality in local waterways
- Stormwater source control – prevent pollution from reaching waterways



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How the City Bills for Stormwater Management Services

- Charge per 1,000 square feet of impervious area
- Two components:
 1. **On-site** - recovers costs of managing stormwater from individual sites (35% of rate). This portion can be discounted for those who manage their stormwater on-site.
 2. **Off-site** - recovers costs of managing stormwater city-wide (65% of rate) including managing stormwater from the public right-of-way and meeting regulatory requirements. This portion of the bill is not discounted.



Proposed Change in Stormwater Billing

- City would resume billing directly for stormwater management within the Districts
 - Districts previously billed for City services under an intergovernmental agreement
- City would pay Districts for stormwater management services
 - City and Districts would negotiate new intergovernmental agreement to compensate Districts for managing City stormwater



Public Involvement

Public outreach for direct billing began in January, 2012. Staff have:

- Met with board members of the Columbia Corridor Association (January)
- Attended three meetings of the Bridgeton and East Portland Neighborhood Associations (January and July)
- Attended two meetings with representatives of the Port of Portland and commercial airlines and Air National Guard (June)
- Mailed property owners and account holders (June 19, August 9)
- Coordinated two public meetings for district residents and businesses (June)
- Briefed the Portland Utilities Review Board (spring-summer)



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Details of Alternative Proposal

Direct billing of customers would occur in five steps

1. Starting February 1, 2013 - Customers would be billed for 17% of the off-site stormwater charge
 - Approximately 690 commercial accounts and 685 residential accounts
 - Recovers what would have been collected from the intergovernmental agreement and a contribution to Districts' stormwater management costs.
2. Starting July 1, 2013 - Customers would be billed 25% of the off-site stormwater charge
 - Billings adjusted to 50%, 75% and 100% over following three years



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Impacts of Alternative Proposal

- Starting February 1 - Monthly charge for single family residential customers in the Districts would be \$2.64
- Starting February 1 – Monthly charge for commercial customers in the Districts would be \$1.17 per 1,000 square feet of impervious area.

