

IMPACT STATEMENT

189359

Date: December 14, 2018

Council Date: January 23, 2019

Legislation Title: Amend Intergovernmental Agreement with Multnomah County for the Water/Sewer Enhanced Fixture Repair Program (Ordinance; amend Agreement No. 30004057)

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Presenter Name: Sarah Santner, Water Efficiency Program Manager

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

Intergovernmental Agreement No. 30004057 was entered into on July 1, 2014, between Multnomah County (County) and the Water Bureau. The Intergovernmental Agreement (Agreement) was approved by City Council under Ordinance No. 186573.

The Agreement is a partnership with the County's Weatherization Program for the Water Bureau's Leak and Fixture Repair Program (Program). The Program requires the County to hire plumbers to fix leaks and replace leaking fixtures for income-qualified homeowners. This Program has been in place since 1998 and was created to assist low-income homeowners manage the costs of their water and sewer fees while supporting the City's conservation efforts. The Leak and Fixture Repair Program is one essential component of the City's ongoing commitment to assisting low-income customers with managing the costs of water and sewer charges.

During the term of the Agreement, the Program has seen an increase in requests for leak and fixture repair services as well as an increase in costs for plumbing repairs. The Program has served between 51 and 68 homeowners each City fiscal year for the duration of the Agreement with the most common repair being toilet leaks. The purpose of this legislation is to complete an amendment to the Agreement to extend the Agreement until June 30, 2020, and to increase the funding to support the increased costs to provide Program services.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

Ordinance No. 186573 authorized funds in the amount of \$300,000. Amendment 1 increased the original amount of the Agreement by \$45,000 bringing the new Agreement total to \$345,000. This Amendment 2 shall include an additional increase to the Agreement in the amount of \$130,000. The new Agreement amount shall not exceed \$475,000. Funding is available in FY 2018-19 and additional funding shall be requested in FY 2019-20.

Community impacts and community involvement:

The City is committed to help low-income customers within Portland service areas manage the costs of water and sewer fees. The Water Bureau has multiple services to support this goal including the Leak and Fixture Repair Program partnership with Multnomah County. Low-income homeowners are often vulnerable and may be unable to afford home repairs. This can result in high water bills and health and safety concerns. An underground water service line leak can cost thousands of dollars. For example replacing a leaking toilet can cost \$500 or more.

The Program began in 1998 when the City partnered with the County's Weatherization Program to create the Leak and Fixture Repair program. The partnership provides customers with access to plumbing and fixture repair plus the full suite of weatherization services offered by the County. If a customer has a water leak, but perhaps also needs a furnace replacement, the County is able to identify the need and make that repair, too. The Weatherization Program administers the Fixture Repair Program on behalf of the City and does extensive outreach about its services through community assistance service providers. The City also does outreach about the program through community events, on its website, with community partners, and through mailings to low-income customers.

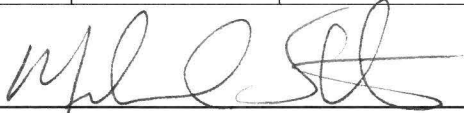
This Program has been reviewed through the City's annual budget process since 1998. In past years, the Water Bureau's Budget Advisory Committee, comprised of Water Bureau Management staff, labor representatives, and community members have reviewed and supported this program along with other activities as part of the budget development process. For the most recent two budget years, the Portland Utility Board (PUB) and Citizens Utility Board (CUB) have provided a budget review.

100% Renewable Goal:

Municipal water has energy imbedded in each gallon such as energy for treatment and pumping as well as energy for treating wastewater. By repairing water leaks, the Water Fixture Repair Program directly decreases energy waste on the municipal side and the customer side.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet**Does this action change appropriations?**☐ **YES:** Please complete the information below.☒ **NO:** Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount



12/17/18

Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator

Date