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190932

Emergency Ordinance

***Authorize an Agreement in the amount of \$58,000 with the Water Research Foundation for the Enhancing Drinking Water Treatment Resilience to Wildfire Events Project**

Passed

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. On December 18, 2017, the Oregon Health Authority issued a Bilateral Compliance Agreement with the Portland Water Bureau, revoking the 2012 Bull Run Treatment Variance and requiring a schedule for installing Cryptosporidium treatment and for protective interim measures until treatment is installed.
2. The Portland Water Bureau is required to meet all surface water and Cryptosporidium treatment requirements by September 30, 2027, as part of a compliance agreement with the Oregon Health Authority.
3. Until surface water treatment requirements are met, the Portland Water Bureau must meet interim measures as described in the Bilateral Compliance Agreement. This includes submitting a pilot study by November 30, 2020 and submitting design documents by October 31, 2022.
4. On December 12, 2018, Resolution 37402 authorized the Bull Run Filtration Preferred Alternatives related to Bull Run Filtration Project's plant capacity, location, and filtration technology.
5. In March 2019, the Portland Water Bureau procured the Bull Run Filtration Pilot, a small-scale treatment facility to be used for regulatory approval, informing process selection and detailed design, and training operations staff.
6. On November 27, 2019, Resolution 37460 identified priority values to guide developing project design and implementation. Among the eight identified values were "Provide Resilience/Reliability" and "Look

Introduced by

[Commissioner Mingus Mapps](#)

Bureau

[Water](#)

Contact

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Requested Agenda Type

Consent

to Future Needs”.

7. On November 30, 2020, the Bull Run Filtration Pilot Study Report was submitted to Oregon Health Authority, meeting the first requirement of the Bilateral Compliance Agreement.
8. In September 2021, the Portland Water Bureau, in conjunction with the consulting firm Brown & Caldwell and the University of Waterloo, submitted a research proposal to the Water Research Foundation titled, “Enhancing Drinking Water Treatment Resilience to Wildfire Events”. The objective of the proposed study is to explore how rapid filtration meant to remove Cryptosporidium from Portland’s drinking water will provide additional resiliency against future risk of water quality impacts from wildfire.
9. The research proposal underwent significant scientific review and was selected in a competitive process for funding by the Water Research Foundation in May 2022.
10. The Agreement, attached as Exhibit A, will be the instrument used in order for the Portland Water Bureau to co-fund the Water Research Foundation Project (Project) #5168 titled, “Enhancing Drinking Water Treatment Resilience to Wildfire Events.”
11. The Portland Water Bureau will provide \$58,000 to the Water Research Foundation in support of the Project and will also provide up to \$457,000 in-kind services. In return, the Water Research Foundation will match the funds and provide a panel of experts to provide additional technical expertise for the Project. The funds will be sent to the research team collaborators, who will additionally provide funding for professional and technical services.
12. The Agreement must be approved by Council to enter into arrangements with the Water Research Foundation and pursue the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council directs:

- A. That the Portland Water Bureau Director is authorized to execute on behalf of the City an Agreement with the Water Research Foundation generally in accordance with the agreement attached as Exhibit A.
- B. The Agreement authorized by this ordinance is subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney's Office.
- C. The Portland Water Bureau will pay \$58,000 to the Water Research Foundation in support of WRF's Project #5168 and will also provide up to \$457,000 in-kind services for this Project.

- D. Funding in the amount of \$58,000 will be paid in full to the Water Research Foundation upon full execution of the Agreement and upon invoicing the Portland Water Bureau.
- E. The Mayor and Auditor are hereby authorized to draw and deliver checks chargeable to the Water Fund when demand is presented and approved by the proper authorities.

Section 2. The Council declares that an emergency exists because delays in the execution of the agreement necessary to transfer funds to the Water Research Foundation would prevent the work to capture critical seasonal water quality this year and would have to be delayed an entire year; therefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Council.

Documents and Exhibits

 [Exhibit A](#) (472.86 Kb)

An ordinance when passed by the Council shall be signed by the Auditor. It shall be carefully filed and preserved in the custody of the Auditor (City Charter Chapter 2 Article 1 Section 2-122)

Passed by Council
July 20, 2022

Auditor of the City of Portland
Mary Hull Caballero

Impact Statement

Purpose of Proposed Legislation and Background Information

This legislation is to authorize the Portland Water Bureau to enter into an Agreement with the Water Research Foundation for the Water Research Foundation Project (Project) #5168 titled, "Enhancing Drinking Water Treatment Resilience to Wildfire Events."

In September 2021, the Portland Water Bureau, in conjunction with the consulting firm Brown & Caldwell and the University of Waterloo, submitted a research proposal to the Water Research Foundation. The objective of the proposed study is to explore how rapid filtration meant to remove *Cryptosporidium* from Portland's drinking water will provide additional resilience against future risk of water quality impacts from wildfire. The research proposal underwent significant scientific review and was selected in a competitive process for funding by the Water Research Foundation in May 2022.

The Project's aim is to improve operational resilience of the Bull Run Filtration Facility against potential water quality impacts resultant from wildfire. Ash harvested from the nearby 2020 Riverside Fire will be mixed

with Bull Run water and used to test the designed filtration treatment process at the Bull Run Filtration Pilot.

An agreement, attached to this legislation as Exhibit A, will be the instrument used in order for the Portland Water Bureau to co-fund the Project. The Portland Water Bureau's matched funds and in-kind contributions will be used for developing the Bull Run Filtration Program, specifically to increase resilience of the filtration facility against possible wildfire impacts.

The Portland Water Bureau's contributions will be matched by the Water Research Foundation, then routed to the sub-recipient, Brown & Caldwell who will provide technical expertise and enable interagency collaboration. The Water Research Foundation and the sub-recipient will enter into and execute a separate contract of their own.

Financial and Budgetary Impacts

The Portland Water Bureau will provide \$58,000 to the Water Research Foundation in support of the Project and will also provide up to \$457,000 in-kind services. In return, the Water Research Foundation will match the funds and provide a panel of experts to provide additional technical expertise for the Project. The funds will be sent to the research team collaborators, who will additionally provide funding for professional and technical services.

The funding provided will be a one-time payment and has been budgeted in the FY 2022-23 Water Bureau Operations Budget. There are no proposed changes to staffing positions. The total Portland Water Bureau staff time required to execute the Project will come from the standing Water Bureau Operations Budget from FY 2022-23 through FY 2023-24. All required equipment necessary for the Project has already been obtained.

Community Impacts and Community Involvement

Entering into this agreement will enable extra industry expertise, collaboration with other water utilities, and specialized sample analysis. This Project will establish interagency collaboration with water utility departments from the City of Vancouver, British Columbia; City of Medford, Oregon; and City of Grants Pass, Oregon. The estimated contributions from the partner agencies totals \$93,000, which when joined with the \$58,000 from the Water Research Foundation represents a nearly 3:1 return on the Portland Water Bureau's investment.

Public input gathered by the Bull Run Treatment Program based on 180,000 contacts identified "Reliability and resilience to earthquake and fires" as a core community value to be used for guiding the Bull Run Filtration Project. Approving this legislation improves the Portland Water Bureau team's access to expertise to verify the Project meets that community value.

100% Renewable Goal

The City's 2015 Climate Action Plan identified "Climate change preparation" as a goal, including preparation for the likelihood Oregon will experience more frequent and more intense heat waves, droughts, and wildfires. This Project aims to demonstrate and improve operational resilience of the upcoming water treatment facility against impacts from possible wildfire. This legislation does not increase or decrease the City's total energy use and does not increase or decrease the City's renewable energy use.

Agenda Items

643 Consent Agenda in [July 20-21, 2022 Council Agenda](#)

Passed

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty Yea

Commissioner Mingus Mapps Absent

Commissioner Carmen Rubio Yea

Commissioner Dan Ryan Yea

Mayor Ted Wheeler Yea