

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 299

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
299	Anonymous	Oppose	<p>Dear Current and Future Council Members,</p> <p>Along with thousands of other Portlanders, I am concerned that the Portland Water Bureau water treatment plant has grown to a staggering 1.84 BILLION and is still growing. I understand that the Portland Water Bureau is AGAIN coming to you to approve another budge increase, and we are 5 plus years away from completion of the proposed project. We believe that the PWB intends to ask for incremental increases along the way, minimizing the shock of adding another Billion dollars to an already out of control and avoidable project.</p> <p>We are aware that other options are available, such as UV and UV plus Ozone, and that the PWB arguments of the additional benefits of a filtration plant are not unanswerable. Most talking points can be addressed by other less expensive purification means or have no impact and are scare tactics.</p> <p>Current economic conditions of record inflation, increased food and utility costs are draining our budgets and are heavy on the minds of all Portlanders. The exodus of ratepayers and wholesale customers mean fewer people to share in the costs of the water bureaus operations. Portland already has the 5th highest water rates in the nation, and will exponentially climb if that plant is allowed to move forward.</p> <p>Therefore, I urge you to support the protection of safe, affordable water for our community, while being good stewards of Portlanders/voters/citizens funds. I urge you to STOP the reckless spending, avoid any further unnecessary overspending towards a filtration treatment plant and consider other more cost-effective options such as building a UV approved plant at Headworks.</p> <p>Respectfully, A concerned Portland ratepayer,</p> <p>SE Bixel</p>	No	04/09/24 6:24 PM

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299	Patricia Fiedler	Oppose	<p>PORTLAND WATER BUREAU WILL BE MAKING A REPORT AT THIS MEETING. ASK SOME QUESTIONS. DEMAND ANSWERS AND THEN FACT CHECK THEIR ANSWERS.</p> <p>We want City Council to provide oversight for its bureau. Although the cost has risen from \$350 Million to over \$2 Billion, not one person past or present on PUB or City Council demands detailed cost estimates and how much ratepayers are going to have to pay and actually checks their staff's numbers and plans. How much has been spent on PWB's army of outside attorneys and consultants to just get them through the first round of the land use process?</p> <p>How much the land use conditions of approval will add to the cost of the project? How PWB justifies forging ahead when LUBA process is unresolved? Did you know that PWB removed old Redwood Trees and lovely old hedges along Carpenter Lane? They did have a permit to remove the trees; however, they hadn't received a permit to widen the road nor did they know the outcome of the appeal -- so much for working with the community!</p> <p>What specific projects are being delayed to accommodate this project? Portland Water Bureau continues to tell you that UV is not an option.</p> <p>What happened to the \$16M UV plan that the council requested in 2009? Why did the council choose UV over filtration in 2009 based on a binder received from PWB and then reverse their direction to filtration in 2017? Was the initial information from PWB inaccurate? Please review Amanda Fritz' 2009 report to the council (attached below) which resulted in the council to choose UV over filtration. Boston, San Francisco, Seattle and San Francisco use UV to treat their drinking water and all these cities treat more water per day than Portland. Why is it effective in these major cities and not Portland?</p> <p>If cryptosporidium is such a serious, perhaps deadly, health hazard, why did EPA give the Portland Water Bureau 10 years to fix the problem?</p> <p>Turbidity - is it really a problem in our watershed?</p> <p>The Water Bureau has shut down the Bull Run water source 11 times since 1985 -- 11 times in 38 years!!! (Ref. Oregonian article: Sept. 10, 2023) When it is shut down, we switch temporarily to the backup wells system.</p> <p>During the Camp Creek fire our watershed was threatened but the water supply was safe. How do I know? – After the Camp Creek fire in August 2023 PWB sent me this email: "What you need to know: Portland's drinking water remains safe. Federal and local laws protect the watershed and water quality. We work closely with the Forest Service, the Oregon Department of Forestry, Portland Fire and Rescue and other fire agencies to develop plans for fire prevention and response. From controlling erosion to preventing the introduction of invasive species, fire response officials are making sure natural resources in the watershed remain protected."</p> <p>PWB neglects to tell you that filtration plants can also be overwhelmed during events that cause large of amounts of mud and material in the water. That is when we use our wells.</p> <p>PWB will tell you that UV is no longer an option for meeting Portland's regulatory obligation. The City chose filtration in 2017 and entered into a binding compliance agreement based on that decision.</p> <p>We are asking the city council to investigate this claim. We have an email from Kari Salis, Technical Manager OHA Drinking Water Services, that states "As for modifying the BCA, since the agreement is bi-lateral, if both parties agree to modifications, the BCA can be modified</p>	No	04/10/24 10:04 AM

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299	Scott and Natalie Voruz	Oppose	<p>Portland City Council,</p> <p>I want to begin by stating that I am a Portland water customer. Unlike most of my neighbors, I do not have a well and I purchase water from the Portland Water Bureau. The safety of the water that my grandbabies drink is of the utmost importance for me. I am confident we have safe drinking water today. I am also confident that UV treatment is an acceptable method to combat cryptosporidium. I am deeply concerned about chemical filtration. I am also concerned about the future of Portland. My husband was born in Portland 58 years ago and this is our home. Portland is unaffordable for so many. We already have increased electrical costs, the nation's largest downtown vacancy rate for commercial property, a housing crisis, and a fentanyl epidemic. Portland is in an economic crisis. I am pleading with you to consider what a 2.1 billion dollar water treatment plant bill will do to our water rates.</p> <p>As a former Fairview City Councilor, I appreciate the pressure you are experiencing to make a decision, but I also know that city staff will provide you with skewed information to meet their needs and career goals. I understand the economic pressure, but not all of the money being spent will stay in Portland. There are large, national companies that will benefit from this project. This is putting an unfair economic burden on Portland water customers and the future of Portland.</p> <p>When you first voted for the filtration method, the estimated cost was \$350 million. It rose to \$500 million, then \$850 million and is now at \$1.84 billion. This request commits Portland water customers to a \$2.1 billion dollar bill. We are still 5 year plus away from completion and with our current inflation rate, it will continue to rise. As PWB customers continue to decrease, that water rates will quickly become unaffordable. It won't be about being taxed out of our houses or not keeping up with the rising cost of groceries, Portland residents will have to ration use. The Portland Water Bureau is touting that they will maintain water rate affordability. Take a look at the water rate increase projection, 8.1 % a year through 2030 and then 4% a year? One cubic meter of water was \$1.43 in 2021. This project has already pushed it to \$5.33 in 2024. It will be at \$15.94 in 2030 and an astonishing \$25.34 in 2036. This is per cubic meter, not per bill. The projection is startling. We will have the most expensive water in the country.</p> <p>Contrary the PWB presentation, the Oregon Health Authority has confirmed it is not too late to change the agreement and go with a much more affordable alternative like UV treatment at the headwaters. No chemicals, lower water rates, a quicker resolution to possible contamination, is there really a question as to what's best for Portland? We are not even touching on the future increased rates to cover the crumbling sewer system. It's time to reverse the decision of those before you and do what is best for Portland. This project is reckless and fiscally irresponsible. Deny the increase and tell the Water Bureau to focus on an affordable alternative.</p> <p>Thank you, Scott and Natalie Voruz Portland Water customers</p>	No	04/10/24 10:28 AM
299	Jamie Seastrom-Price	Oppose	Please oppose this agenda item. Due to the water bureau bloated bureaucracy costs our water is already much more costly than in certain places in Arizona, Idaho, California, West Virginia and Ohio. The proposal of this new water treatment center is unnecessary and will make it much more difficult than it already is for people to live here. Vote NO!	No	04/10/24 12:08 PM
299	Dee White	Oppose		Yes	04/10/24 12:10 PM
299	Jan Dozier	Oppose	Already the 7th costliest water in the nation. Are you people trying to break the citizens of this city?	No	04/10/24 12:14 PM

Dee White testimony City Council April 10 2024 Agenda Item 299 Accept Bull Run Treatment Projects 2024 Annual Report

My name is Dee White.

On Aug 2, 2017 at the 2:00 city council meeting Commissioner Nick Fish introduced Resolution 37309 .

The Agenda item read:

– Comply with Oregon Health Authority's order to treat drinking water from the Bull Run Watershed for Cryptosporidium by submitting a compliance plan and proceeding with updating the design and construct an ultraviolet treatment facility

Seconds before the motion to vote on this resolution to build a UV treatment plant, Commissioner Fish proposed an amendment that substituted “construct an ultraviolet treatment facility” and replaced this with “.... construction of a filtration plant.”

That day, the council chamber was filled with Bull Run water activists including myself who were there and had already testified against any treatment, including UV because there had never been any problem with cryptosporidium in our Bull Run watershed. There is still no problem with cryptosporidium!!

If you go to eFiles on the City Auditor’s page, you will see what an administrative jumble the records are on this legislative antic pulled by an elected official.

Commissioner Fish’s move was ruthless and the Mayor and Council’s unanimous vote was undemocratic. And if I may remind the audience, Mayor Wheeler, you were Mayor at the time.

Just that quickly, treatment went from a UV plant at a little over \$100 million to a filtration facility which was, they said, going to cost between \$350 and 500 million. Today, that cost has exponentially gone up and is now at \$2.3 BILLION and as Commissioner Mapps said in today’s Oregonian:

He cannot guarantee that the cost is not going up again.

Today, I am asking you all to move and vote to table this filtration plant indefinitely. Mayor Wheeler, since you were Mayor at the time this undemocratic amendment was made and subsequently passed unanimously, I implore you to do the right thing and that is to quickly amend Resolution 37309 again, pull the plug on filtration and build a UV plant instead, in order to comply with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

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299	Anonymous	Oppose	I do not support this.	No	04/10/24 1:05 PM
299	Sharron Fuchs	Oppose	Public is not educated on this subject. Please put this to a vote. There are less costly solutions.	No	04/10/24 1:27 PM
299	Kelly Seymour	Oppose		No	04/10/24 1:28 PM
299	Christine Cody, Multnomah County Resident	Oppose		Yes	04/10/24 2:57 PM
299	Portland Advocates for Lead-free Drinking Water	Oppose	<p>OHA says Bull Run source water is “safe” (for cryptosporidium) and filtration, a treatment option, is not federally required to meet cryptosporidium regulation (LT2). Therefore, PWB DOES NOT *NEED* to build a \$2+ Billion water filtration plant.</p> <p>4/10/24: Portland Water Bureau’s regulator, OHA Drinking Water Services Manager Samina Panwhar (via OHA Kari Salis): “To date, crypto[sporidium] has not been detected at levels thought to be a health concern for healthy individuals.”</p>	No	04/10/24 3:01 PM
299	Melissa C. Hillmann		<p>Dear Current and Future Council Members,</p> <p>Along with thousands of other Portlanders, I am concerned that the Portland Water Bureau water treatment plant has grown to a staggering 1.84 BILLION and is still growing. I understand that the Portland Water Bureau is AGAIN coming to you to approve another budget increase, and we are 5 plus years away from completion of the proposed project. We believe that the PWB intends to ask for incremental increases along the way, minimizing the shock of adding another Billion dollars to an already out of control and avoidable project.</p> <p>We are aware that other options are available, such as UV and UV plus Ozone, and that the PWB arguments of the additional benefits of a filtration plant are not unanswerable. Most talking points can be addressed by other less expensive purification means or have no impact and are scare tactics.</p> <p>Current economic conditions of record inflation, increased food and utility costs are draining our budgets and are heavy on the minds of all Portlanders. The exodus of ratepayers and wholesale customers mean fewer people to share in the costs of the water bureaus operations. Portland already has the 5th highest water rates in the nation, and will exponentially climb if that plant is allowed to move forward.</p> <p>Therefore, I urge you to support the protection of safe, affordable water for our community, while being good stewards of Portlanders/voters/citizens funds. I urge you to STOP the reckless spending, avoid any further unnecessary overspending towards a filtration treatment plant and consider other more cost-effective options such as building a UV approved plant at Headworks.</p> <p>Respectfully, Melissa C. Hillmann</p>	No	04/10/24 3:11 PM

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Respectfully,
Christine Cody
Multnomah County Resident
ccodyportland@comcast.net

Portland City Council Meeting
Wednesday, April 10, 2024 2:00 p.m.
Verbal Testimony

Agenda Item	Name
299-301	Charles Ciecko
299-301	Lauren Courter
299-301	Laura Belson
299-301	robert butler
299-301	Dee White
299-301	Charles Waugh
299-301	Angela Todd
299-301	Loretta Guzman
299-301	Tara Faul
299-301	Tamara Wensenk
299-301	James Faison