

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Legislation title:** \*Amend contract with Cogan Owens Cogan, LLC in the amount of \$28,048 to provide additional Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission Facilitation Services (Ordinance; amend Contract No. 30004067)

**Contact name:** Jim Blackwood

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**Presenter name:** Jim Blackwood

**Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:**

The eleven-member Portland Utility Oversight Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) was established by Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Nick Fish in July 2014 in response to concerns about oversight, transparency and accountability in the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) and the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES). The BRC was charged to analyze potential reforms of the oversight and accountability, focusing on streamlining communications and transparency in the rate setting process.

The BRC convened from July, 2014 through November, 2014 and undertook a condensed yet extensive process to develop the findings and recommendations contained in this report to improve oversight, transparency and accountability in the management of the City's water utilities. The BRC held ten meetings and three public listening sessions, received written and oral testimony from scores of witnesses, examined hundreds of pages of documents, and presented preliminary recommendations to City Council in a November 13 work session.

In order to support, guide, and document the work of the BRC, an independent consultant was brought on to provide facilitation services. In order to achieve their charge, the Commission requested a number of additional Commission meetings, an additional Listening Session, and numerous additional meetings with staff in the Office of the City Attorney, the City Budget Office, and the utility bureaus. In order to address additional feedback received from the City Council and the public, several additional report drafts were required.

**Financial and budgetary impacts:**

The work of the BRC is funded in a one-time General Fund Special Appropriation. The original funding amount was \$50,000. In approving this ordinance, City Council will commit to increasing the special appropriation to \$60,128 as part of the Spring Supplemental Budget. The incremental \$10,128 will be set aside in the General Fund contingency.

**Community impacts and community involvement:**

There are no community impacts or involvement specifically associated with the increased scope of services and contract value. However, as noted above, the consultant has been critical in involving the public through numerous meetings and three listening sessions.

### 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