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## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Date:** November 4, 2019

**Council Date:** November 13, 2019

**Legislation Title:** Adopt a set of priority values, expectations, and the Recommended Option to guide the design and implementation of the City of Portland's Bull Run Filtration Projects (Resolution)

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**Presenter Name:** David Peters, P.E., Program Manager  
 Gabriel Solmer, Deputy Director

### Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The purpose of this legislation is to Adopt a set of priority values and expectations and a Recommended Option to guide the design and implementation of the City of Portland's Bull Run Filtration Projects (Project).

The City of Portland, through the Portland Water Bureau, is responsible for providing safe, reliable, drinking water to a large population in the metropolitan area. This responsibility includes meeting anticipated demands now and in the future by managing and building a system that addresses regulatory requirements, changes in water quality, and impacts from natural disasters. The Bull Run Watershed is the City's primary water supply and is currently an unfiltered water source. All Oregon public water systems that have a surface water source are subject to the state and federal Long-Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2) which requires enhanced treatment for the pathogens *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia*, and others. The City of Portland's 2012 variance from the requirements to treat for *Cryptosporidium* was revoked in 2017 by the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) due to the continued presence of *Cryptosporidium* in the Bull Run supply.

In August 2017, City Council approved Resolution No. 37309 to comply with Oregon Health Authority's (OHA) order to treat drinking water from the Bull Run Watershed for *Cryptosporidium*, as required by the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (L

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T2), by submitting a compliance plan that includes the requirement to plan, design, and construct a filtration facility.

The City of Portland entered into a bilateral compliance agreement with the State of Oregon in December 2017 which requires the City's filtration facility for the Bull Run supply be operable by September 2027. In December 2018, City Council approved Resolution No. 37402 determining the location, capacity, and filtration type for the Project.

The Project is both a regulatory requirement and an opportunity to increase the resilience of Portland's water system. Water system resilience against significant risks is of critical importance for the delivery of safe, high quality water that protects public health. The Project must consider costs and benefits of investments to increase resilience. The Project must be implemented in a manner that is sensitive to community and environmental impacts.

Water Bureau staff presented several Project options to Council in a work session on September 19, 2019 and suggested Full Implementation. After receiving feedback from City Council, Portland Utility Board, Citizens Utility Board, and the public, the Water Bureau has tailored a Recommended Option to address some comments. The recommended Option includes:

- Target capacity of 145 million gallons per day to meet most projected peak day demands through 2045;
- Conventional treatment including flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration to best handle turbidity events;
- Ozone for enhanced water quality and protection from a wide range of current and future risks;
- Clearwell (on-site water storage) sized for operational flexibility; and
- Two pipelines into and out of the filtration facility to maximize gravity flow, reduce future impacts to the filtration facility neighborhood, and provide a more resilient, easier to maintain system.

The Recommended Option will best advance the Water Bureau's ongoing efforts to provide a more resilient system and address needed capital maintenance and replacement of critical water system assets. The Recommended Option has a lower total capital cost than the Full Implementation Option discussed at the September 2019 work session.

Water Bureau staff have convened a Site Advisory Group, which includes neighbors adjacent to the future filtration facility to create a Good Neighbor Agreement and mitigate negative impacts on the local community. The Water Bureau will seek all required approvals for the Project and will comply with all terms and conditions of such approvals and permits.

This legislation provides for the following:

- Directs the Water Bureau to proceed with design and implementation of the Recommended option elements and concepts;

- Directs the Water Bureau to pursue reasonable additions, refinements, and optimization of the Project throughout design and implementation to provide best value for customers;
- Directs the Water Bureau to continue working with the site advisory group to reduce Project construction impacts on the local community; and
- Directs the Water Bureau to provide annual updates to Council as the Project is implemented.

### **Financial and budgetary impacts:**

The proposed legislation will not create, eliminate, or re-classify any positions. The Project is still in the planning phases, with design scheduled to begin in 2020, and as such, the cost estimate confidence rating is low. The legislation does direct the Water Bureau to pursue federal financing, explore enhancements to its financial assistance program for low income customers, and seek efficiencies in other Water Bureau operations and programs to limit rate impacts to customers.

### **Community impacts and community involvement:**

The City shares the community's values regarding the need to balance the cost, public health, current and future regulatory compliance, and system resilience considerations of water treatment options in a responsible manner. These shared values inform decisions made for the Bull Run Filtration Project.

The Water Bureau has several public engagement methods and opportunities to provide information to, and gather information from, our customers. Since 2018, the Water Bureau has launched an extensive public outreach and communications effort including both public and adjacent community meetings and events, digital outreach, and media relations activities, dedicating staff and consultant resources solely for outreach and communication activities for the Project.

The Water Bureau uses—and will continue to use—the Filtration Project and Filtration Neighbors webpages, an updated FAQ, social media, e-newsletters, press releases, the Annual Water Quality Report, a range of mailers and postcards, monthly information events including creation of the Bull Run Filtration Site Advisory Group, and one-on-one meetings with property owners throughout the Project.

### **100% Renewable Goal:**

This action does not increase or decrease the City's total energy use. This action does not increase or decrease the City's renewable energy use.

## **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



11/5/19

Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator

Date