



## Determining the future of the Leaburg Hydroelectric Project

EWEB's Leaburg Hydroelectric Project helped power the development of the McKenzie Valley and Eugene, serving our community with clean and reliable hydropower for nearly 100 years.

Built in the 1920s with teams of horses and mules, the Leaburg Canal today has structural deficiencies that must be addressed. Due to the discovery of excessive seepage through the embankment near Cogswell Creek, EWEB de-watered the Leaburg Canal at the direction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in 2018.

EWEB does not believe there is an imminent danger of a canal breach.

With the canal de-watered, EWEB initiated a comprehensive risk assessment of the entire canal to better understand the level of investment required to ensure long-term safe and reliable operation. This assessment determined that the Leaburg Project would have a substantially negative financial value (i.e. the revenue generated is less than the investment cost) for the rest of its FERC operating license, which expires in 2040.

### TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE ASSESSMENT

While implementing near-term risk reduction measures, EWEB Commissioners directed staff to prepare a Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Assessment to examine long-term options for the project. The TBL Assessment considers **financial, environmental and social impacts**, and will help Commissioners compare and evaluate solutions to this complex problem.

Long-term, EWEB must decide between investing in the return to service of the hydroelectric project or moving toward decommissioning the project while adapting its stormwater conveyance function of carrying water from tributaries to the river.



WE WANT  
**YOUR**  
FEEDBACK

See page 2 to learn how to participate in listening sessions and provide public comment.



Watch a video explaining how EWEB generates electricity at Leaburg and the current structural issues with the project: [eweb.org/leaburgcanal](http://eweb.org/leaburgcanal)

## FOUR ALTERNATIVES FOR THE PROJECT

After evaluation by a team of more than two dozen engineers, geologists, compliance specialists, and dam safety engineers, EWEB identified four alternatives for further in-depth analysis. All alternatives involve **substantial costs and tradeoffs**, including impacts to EWEB customers, the McKenzie Valley economy, recreation, wild fish and hatcheries, and the McKenzie River itself.

Alternative 1: Full Decommission	Alternative 2: Full Return to Service	Alternative 3: Partial Return to Service	Alternative 4: Partial Decommission
Return the site to pre-construction conditions, including removing the dam and building a new bridge, restoring Leaburg Lake to river form, removing the canal, and repatriating tributary creeks to return to the river.	Restore the facility to its pre-existing power generation configuration, with a nameplate 15.9MW capacity to power approximately 13,000 single-family homes.	Build a new hydro powerhouse near the Luffman Spillway with a nameplate 6.2MW capacity and convert the four miles of canal downstream to carry only tributary stormwater on to the McKenzie River.	Return sections to pre-project conditions, including creating a new spillway at Johnson Creek and modifying Luffman Spillway.

## PUBLIC INPUT



We are inviting public comment at [eweb.org/LeaburgPublicComment](https://eweb.org/LeaburgPublicComment) through Oct. 10, 2022.

We are also holding public listening sessions. Six upriver listening sessions were held earlier this summer. **Listening sessions for Eugene-based customers are scheduled on the following days:**

### IN-PERSON SESSIONS:

*EWEB Operations Center, 4200 Roosevelt Blvd.*

Monday, Sept. 12 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 28 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 6 | 4 - 6 p.m.

### ONLINE SESSIONS:

*Link will be provided upon registration*

Tuesday, Sept. 13 | 12 - 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 27 | 12 - 1 p.m.

Find more information and register for online sessions at [eweb.org/Leaburginfosessions](https://eweb.org/Leaburginfosessions).

## Your Board of Commissioners

Wards 4 & 5 John Brown (President)

Wards 6 & 7 Sonya Carlson (Vice President)

Wards 1 & 8 Matt McRae

Wards 2 & 3 John Barofsky

At-large Mindy Schlossberg

The citizens of Eugene elect five commissioners to four-year terms. They dedicate their service to the utility as volunteers without pay. Commissioners hold regularly scheduled public meetings on the first Tuesday of each month, typically at 5:30 p.m. Our customer-owners are welcome and encouraged to participate. Meetings are streamed live and archived on [eweb.org/board](https://eweb.org/board).