

MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

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TO: Commissioners Schlossberg, Brown, Carlson, Barofsky and McRae

FROM: Frank Lawson, CEO and General Manager

DATE: September 29, 2021 (Board Meeting October 5, 2021)

SUBJECT: 2020 Eugene Census and Ward Boundary Project Update

OBJECTIVE: Correspondence

On September 24, 2021, Jason Dedrick, Policy Analyst, City of Eugene, City Manager's Office, provided the following update. EWEB wishes to thank Mr. Dedrick for sharing this information.

Below is the project update for the Ward Boundary effort. I wanted to specifically mention that all incumbent EWEB Commissioners remain in their existing districts under both of the boundary change scenarios.

Every 10 years, after the federal census, boundaries for federal, state, and local elected offices, including City of Eugene wards, are reviewed and adjusted to reflect new population data. Updating ward boundaries helps ensure equal representation by local elected officials by making sure each Councilor and EWEB Commissioner represents about the same number of constituents.

At their September 20, 2021 work session, the Eugene City Council reviewed 2020 census data and two possible scenarios that would more evenly distribute the city's population across the eight Council wards. The Council approved sharing the scenarios with the community to collect their input and feedback over the next month on possible boundary changes and options. Information about the census and ward boundaries, scenario maps, an interactive webmap, population data, and a survey are available on the City's website at www.eugene-or.gov/wardboundary.

The current population of Eugene is 176,945, which indicates that each of the eight wards should have approximately 22,118 residents. The population differences among Council wards are relatively small and two scenarios were developed for Council to review.

Between now and late October, the City will collect community input on the ward boundary scenarios. In addition to community meetings and online opportunities, a public forum will be held on October 25 for people to provide their input directly to City Council. Community members can also sign up to receive email updates on the website. An online and printable survey will be available to collect feedback on the ward boundary scenarios or people can send their feedback directly to staff or City Council. Public feedback will help inform any adjustments needed to produce a final set of proposed ward boundaries that will go to a public hearing.

Staff are available to answer questions or a make a presentation, so please reach out to me if we can assist in any way with your engagement on this effort. Thank you.

Jason Dedrick, Policy Analyst City of Eugene, City Manager's Office jdedrick@eugene-or.gov

Requested Board Action

Information Only – No Action