

**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD** 



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

FROM: Tyler Nice, Electric Division Manager; Jeannine Parisi, Resiliency Program Manager

DATE: April 20, 2022 (May 3, 2022, Board Meeting)

SUBJECT: 2022 Wildfire Season Preparedness

OBJECTIVE: Information

#### Issue

This is an informational update describing a number of activities to support operational readiness for the upcoming wildfire season.

# Background

Ongoing drought and more erratic weather patterns are some of the variables creating a more complex and dangerous landscape for wildfire in Oregon. EWEB is responding to these shifts by changing our operations, maintenance, and training practices, while developing a comprehensive approach that consolidates dispersed risk reduction and resiliency investments into a formal wildfire mitigation plan. EWEB contracted with a third-party consultant specializing in emergency planning, ICF, for technical support with key facets of the plan (e.g., high risk circuit analysis, Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) program readiness). Phase 1 of this planning effort is wrapping up. The latest draft of EWEB's wildfire mitigation plan will be presented to the Board on June 16.

#### Discussion

Highlights of this year's wildfire season preparedness activities are described below.

#### Operations and Maintenance

Annual right-of-way inspection and tree-trimming to maintain clearance between vegetation and electric equipment remains a priority activity, particularly in the more forested areas of our service territory. Vegetation management upriver and in the South Hills of Eugene is complete, and crews are focusing on in-town areas and cycle-buster routes.

As of last year, EWEB also began conducting visual patrols of the electric system in our higher fire risk areas for proactive maintenance. The 2021 inspections generated dozens of equipment repairs to improve safety and reliability. This year's patrols are now complete, resulting in a shorter list of proactive maintenance needs. For example, there were two-thirds fewer 'emergency' repairs and about twenty cross-arms (vs nearly 100) identified for replacement compared to last year.

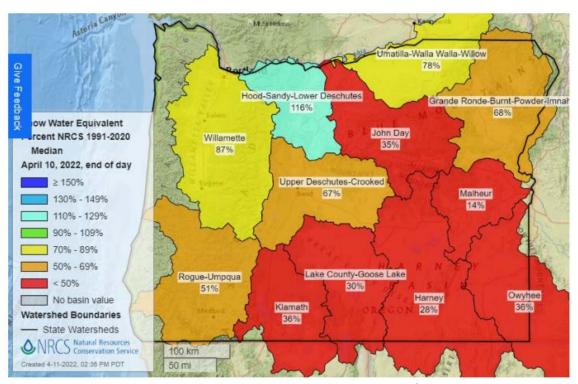
## **Operational Response**

Large, in-person safety trainings have been on pause due to COVID precautions. With restrictions lifting, a wildfire prevention and response refresher for field crews, with support from USFS staff, is in early planning stages for later this spring. Training topics may include fire weather forecasting, suppression tools and tactics, and notification/response protocols.

EWEB has established procedures to place parts of the electric system in 'protective settings' when weather conditions heighten fire danger, such as a Red Flag Warning. Refinements to these procedures to utilize the ICS-structure to improve operational readiness and front-end notifications, and to establish clear lines of responsibility should a related outage or fire occur, are under development. During these events, EWEB notifies the community through various communications channels to raise awareness of fire danger and the potential for increased outages.

## Public Engagement and Interagency Coordination

While April rain and mountain snow has come as some relief, the EWEB service territory is still in 'moderate drought'. According to the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) seasonal climate forecast, warmer than average conditions are expected in May and June with no significant changes to average precipitation, meaning little change in drought status is expected. The map below shows snowpack levels as of early April.



Courtesy of National Weather Service, Portland

As we move into warmer weather, community outreach to raise public awareness of wildfire potential and encourage customer participation in fire risk reduction activities will be ramping up. Following our inaugural campaign last year, this year's efforts include refreshing the 2021 wildfire communications plan and continuing to leverage social media to amplify partners' messaging as well as to share information about EWEB mitigation activities.

Lastly, coordination with interagency stakeholders, including local fire agencies, ODF and other utilities, is underway. Lane County Emergency Management hosted an event in early April for pre-season information sharing and staff are scheduling follow-up meetings to discuss our wildfire mitigation plan in more detail with key emergency response officials.

# **Recommendation/Requested Board Action**

None at this time.



**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD** 



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

FROM: Frank Lawson, General Manager; Anne Kah, Administrative Services Manager

DATE: April 26, 2022 (May 3, 2022, Regular Board Meeting)

SUBJECT: Potential Update to Board Policy GP7 Board Parliamentary Procedures

OBJECTIVE: Information/Guidance

#### Issue

Commissioners conducted a holistic review of Board Policies. During the Board's annual business meeting in January, three policies were selected for further review and refinement; SD3 Customer Service Policy, GP7 Board Parliamentary procedures, and GP15 New Commissioner Orientation. Additionally, the Board committed to establishing a new Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

# **Background**

Board Policy GP7 Board Parliamentary Procedures defines the high-level roles of President, Vice President, and General Manager-Secretary. Additionally, the policy provides guidance for Meeting Start Times, Public Meetings, Quorum, Vacancy on the Board, Board Attendance, Record of Meetings, Minutes Corrections and Additions, and Use of Resolutions. The policy was last revised May 7, 2019. A copy of the current policy is attached herein.

## Discussion

Commissioners initially identified Vacancy on the Board and Board Attendance as two potential areas for improvement. There may be additional opportunities to update the policy to better define the Board's operating procedures under various scenarios. The following information and open-ended questions are provided to assist the Board as they consider prospective amendments.

## Vacancy on the Board

EWEB Bylaws, Article IX, Section 1 states: "should a vacancy occur on the Board, the remaining Commissioners will appoint a qualified elector to fill such vacancy. The appointment shall be made within 90 days. (Eugene Charter Section 24)"

According to Board Policy GP7, "a quorum shall consist of three members of the Board. In order to pass a resolution, motion or other measure, an affirmative vote of at least 3 commissioners (a majority of the 5 commissioner positions) is required."

Currently there is no provision to address a tie vote due to a vacancy on the Board. Commissioners may wish to adopt a means to avoid inaction in this situation. It should be noted that as presently written, the policy states "The president's role shall be primarily procedural and the president shall have no greater

vote on substantive matters than other members", therefore the Board would need to clearly designate under what conditions an exception would be enacted should they wish to do so.

Furthermore, in the event of two vacancies, under the current requirement for a quorum "an affirmative vote of at least 3 commissioners (a majority of the 5 commissioner positions)", requires a unanimous vote to pass a motion. The Board may wish to consider a lesser quorum requirement if there are two open seats on the Board. For instance; "an affirmative vote of at least 3 commissioners (or in the event of vacancies a majority of the occupied commissioner positions)".

To update and revise the Vacancies section of GP7, please consider the following questions for providing guidance:

- 1. Should each remaining Commissioner be able to nominate a potential replacement?
- 2. In the event that four Commissioners remain, should the President's vote be used as a tie-breaker if the replacement vote is 2-2 (including the President's vote).
- 3. If multiple appointment candidates are presented by remaining Commissioners, how shall the field be narrowed?
- 4. Is there ever a condition where the Board feels it appropriate for the General Manager to have a role?

## **Board Attendance**

EWEB Bylaws, Article IX, Section 2 states: Attendance at all meetings of the Board is required of Commissioners. Prior notification of absence should be given to the Board or the Secretary whenever possible. The Board shall have power to declare vacant the office of a member who shall absent themself from three consecutive regular meetings without an excuse satisfactory to the Board (Eugene Code 2.205).

With the advent of virtual and hybrid meetings the Board may wish to revisit its guidelines for attendance. For example;

5. Do Commissioners wish to establish preferences or expectations for in-person and/or virtual attendance, and under what circumstances? Is physical presence required to avoid absenteeism?

## **Recommendation/Board Action**

No action is requested at this time. Please consider providing responses to the questions posed herein. Management will use Commissioners perspectives to provide proposed edits to GP7 for Board future deliberation and potential ratification. A Board discussion is scheduled for the June 7, 2022, meeting where Management will seek Board direction on potential policy amendments.

## Attachment:

**Board Policy GP7 Parliamentary Procedures** 





# Governance Process Policies (GP Policies)

GP7 Board Parliamentary Procedures

Effective Date May 7, 2019

The Board shall conduct meetings in accordance with Board policies. If the Board is unable to resolve procedural issues, the Board shall use Robert's Rules of Order. The following policies and procedures shall apply:

**PRESIDENT'S ROLE:** The president presides over all meetings of the Board. The President's role shall be primarily procedural and the president shall have no greater vote on substantive matters than other members. The president will also represent the Board as required within the community and coordinate among the Board as necessary in the conduct of Board functions.

<u>VICE PRESIDENT'S ROLE</u>: The Vice President's role is to perform the duties and responsibilities of the president in his/her absence or as agreed upon by the Board.

<u>GENERAL MANAGER - SECRETARY ROLE</u>: The General Manager - Secretary reports to the Board as a whole and is responsible for implementing policies and directions established by the Board.

<u>MEETING START TIMES</u>: The regular meeting of the Board will be held at 5:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, unless that Tuesday falls on or generally conflicts with a national holiday, in which case the meeting may be on the next business day or on another Tuesday in that month. If an additional regular meeting is required, the general preference will be to hold that meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month. The Board President and the General Manager - Secretary may reschedule these meetings, schedule additional meetings, or cancel any meeting of the Board by mutual agreement.

<u>PUBLIC MEETINGS</u>: Except as otherwise provided by law; all meetings of the Board shall be open to the public and all persons shall be permitted to attend. No quorum of the Board shall meet in private for the purposes of deciding or deliberating toward a decision on any matter; an executive session may be held only for those purposes allowed by law (ORS 192.610-690). All regular and special meetings of the Board shall be held whenever possible within the utility service district.

**QUORUM:** A quorum shall consist of three members of the Board. In order to pass a resolution, motion or other measure, an affirmative vote of at least 3 commissioners (a majority of the 5 commissioner positions) is required.

**VACANCY ON THE BOARD:** Should a vacancy occur on the Board, the remaining Commissioners will appoint a qualified elector to fill such vacancy. The appointment shall be made within 90 days.

**BOARD ATTENDANCE:** Attendance at all meetings of the Board is required of Commissioners. Prior notification of absence should be given to the Board or the Secretary whenever possible. The Board shall have the power to declare vacant the office of a member who shall absent himself/herself from three consecutive regular meetings without an excuse satisfactory to the Board.

**RECORD OF BOARD MEETINGS:** With the exception of Executive Sessions, audio recordings of all Regular and Special Meetings of the Board, will be made and retained for at least 12 years, and/or a written record will be

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prepared, in the form of minutes. The minutes will be a high-level summary (not a full transcript) to include: members of the governing body present; motions, proposals, resolutions, results of all votes and substance of any discussion undertaken by Board members, management and other presenters including consultants and members of the public who address the Board.

Written minutes shall be reviewed and adopted by an affirmative vote of the Board, consistent with the Bylaws, and made available to the public.

### **MINUTE CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS:**

<u>Corrections</u>: Individual Board members may make suggested corrections to the minutes of prior meetings if the proposed meeting minutes are factually incorrect in recording discussion or statements made at the meeting. If there is disagreement as to the accuracy of the requested correction, a verbatim transcription of that portion of the audio recording will be requested and used to determine the appropriateness of the request. If a majority of the Board agrees that the requested correction is accurate, the minutes will be corrected without use of a verbatim transcription.

If the minutes accurately reflect what was said, regardless of the accuracy of the statement itself, the minutes will not be corrected. In this instance, a Commissioner may ask that a clarifying statement be entered into the minutes of the current meeting.

<u>Additions</u>: A Commissioner may request that a point of discussion or statement made during the meeting covered by the minutes be entered into the minute's record. If there is disagreement as to the accuracy of the requested statement or fact, a verbatim transcription of that portion of the audio recording will be requested and used to determine the appropriateness of the request. If a majority of the Board agrees that the requested inclusion is accurate, the minutes will be edited and the additional information included without use of a verbatim transcription.

<u>USE OF RESOLUTIONS FOR BOARD ACTIONS</u>: Formal resolutions will be required when the Board takes actions of the following types:

- Rate increases or decreases;
- Approval of contracts for purchased power with a term of one year or more;
- Adoption of an Integrated Electric Resource Plan or update;
- Adoption of the Water Supply Plan or update;
- Adoption of a Water Master Plan or update;
- Adoption of Board Policies;
- Approval of the annual budget;
- Issuance of bonds or other debt instruments.
- Committees created and adopted by Board.
- Outside appointments adopted by the Board.
- Liaison appointments adopted by the Board.
- Advisory assignments adopted by the Board.

All other actions can be taken in accordance with the Bylaws using a simple motion and affirmative vote.



# **Eugene Water & Electric Board**

**Board Policy Manual** 

**Source:** Bylaws, Board Discussion, Board Approved 11/01/05; Revised 12/15/09, Resolution No. 0932; Revised as per bylaws 07/19/11, Resolution No. 1122; Revised 01/06/15, Resolution No. 1503; Revised 05/07/19, Resolution No. 1911.



**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD** 



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

FROM: Matthew Schroettnig, Power Planning Supervisor & Staff Counsel

DATE: May 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Oregon Renewable Portfolio Standard 2021 Compliance Report

OBJECTIVE: Information Only

#### Issue

In compliance with ORS 469A.170, the Power Planning department is providing the EWEB Board of Commissioners (the Board) with an annual update as to EWEB's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) compliance. The results are as follows:

- 1. For 2021, EWEB's RPS portfolio obligation, after applying resource exemptions, is zero (0) MWhs, and no REC retirement is required.
- 2. For 2021, EWEB's voluntary Greenpower program generated 18,520 MWhs of sales, resulting in the retirement of 18,520 RECs.

This report will be published on EWEB's website by June 1, 2022.

#### **Background**

In 2007, Oregon enacted Senate Bill 838, the Oregon Renewable Energy Act (Act), which created an RPS that all Oregon electric utilities must follow. The purpose of the RPS is to decrease Oregon utilities' reliance on fossil fuels for electric generation and increase their use of renewable energy sources. In 2016, SB 1547 further increased RPS targets for investor-owned utilities (IOUs) only.

The Oregon Public Utilities Commission (PUC) oversees IOU reporting and compliance with the RPS. However, consumer-owned utilities like EWEB are not regulated by the PUC. The statute governing RPS compliance reporting, ORS 469A.170, states: "A consumer-owned utility shall make the report to the members or customers of the utility." As such, EWEB reports the annual results of its RPS Compliance to the Board. Further, EWEB's long term RPS Compliance obligation is included in all Integrated Resource Plans (IRPs), which are also reported to the Board.

#### Discussion

# **EWEB's RPS Portfolio Obligation**

Oregon's RPS establishes an obligation for electric utilities, requiring that a percentage of their annual retail sales must come from qualifying renewable resources. The exact percentage required, and the year the compliance obligation begins, depends both on the size and ownership type of the electric utility, as shown in Figure 1, below. As a consumer-owned utility, serving more than 3 percent of the state's total retail electricity sales, EWEB is classified as a "Large Utility" when determining its annual obligation.

Figure 1. Annual percentage target of qualifying electricity by year

<b>Utility Type</b>	Utility Size	2011	2015	2020	2025	2040
Large IOU	3% or more			20%	27%	50%
Large Utilities	3% or more	5%	15%	20%	25%	
Smaller Utilities	From 1.5% to 3%				10%	
<b>Smallest Utilities</b>	Under 1.5%				5%	

# **Oregon RPS Compliance Rules**

The Act defines which types of renewable generation are considered "qualifying electricity." In general, qualifying renewable resources must have an on-line date of January 1, 1995, or later, with some exceptions. Further definition of qualifying electricity can be found in ORS 469A.010.

There are some allowable exemptions from compliance outlined in ORS 469A.060, which can reduce a utility's RPS portfolio obligation. These exemptions ensure that the RPS does not compel utilities to procure new qualifying electricity resources to replace existing non-fossil fuel resources, or Tier 1 energy procured through the BPA Regional Dialogue Contract.

Under the Act, utilities may choose to comply with the RPS financially, in lieu of retiring RECs, through the use of an Alternative Compliance Payment. The price for Alternative Compliance Payment is based on the cost of qualifying electric resources, as determined by the Board. EWEB does not currently use this path to meet its RPS compliance. Details for Alternative Compliance Payment are outlined in ORS 469A.180.

To limit the impact of the RPS on retail consumer rates, the Act outlines a Cost Cap. This Cost Cap provides an upper limit on the cost for incremental actions required to comply with the Act. Further information for how this Cost Cap is defined can be found in ORS 469A.445.

Per rules adopted by the Oregon Department of Energy, generation volumes qualifying for RECs are based on values recorded and reported to the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (WREGIS). WREGIS is an organizational database that receives monthly

<sup>1</sup> See link for a list of conditions under which pre-1995 resources are eligible to produce qualifying electricity, <a href="https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1547/Enrolled">https://olis.leg.state.or.us/liz/2016R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/SB1547/Enrolled</a>

A later amendment to the RPS allows for pre-1995 woody biomass to qualify, but the RECs will not be eligible for use in compliance until 2026.

generation volumes of renewable generation and serves as the regional system of record to issue, monitor, transfer, and account for Renewable Energy Certificates (REC). One MWh of renewable generation equals one REC. The RECs have identification numbers that indicate the generation project and the month the electricity was generated.

Excepting for limitations due to Cost Caps, or the use of Alternative Compliance Payments, compliance is demonstrated by retiring a quantity of WREGIS RECs equal to the compliance obligation. Once a REC is retired in WREGIS it is no longer available to be banked, sold, or used for any other RPS program.

EWEB's 2021 Oregon RPS Portfolio Obligation

Figure 2. EWEB Oregon RPS Portfolio Obligation Calculation							
Category	Calculation	Quantity	Unit				
Retail Sales to Customers	a	2,369,420	MWh				
Qualifying Electricity Target before Exemption	b	20%	Percentage				
RPS Portfolio Obligation before Exemption	$c = a \times b$	473,884	MWh				
Generation from Exempt Resources							
BPA Tier 1 net purchases	d	2,142,485	MWh				
EWEB hydro (owned)	e	223,508	MWh				
Mid-C hydro (contract)	f	12,680	MWh				
Total MWhs from Exempt Resources	g = d + e + f	2,378,672	MWh				
Percent of Retail Sales covered by Exempt Resources	$h = min (g \div a, 100\%)$	100%	Percentage				
Qualifying Electricity Target after Exemption	i = min(100% - h, b)	0%	Percentage				
RPS Portfolio Obligation after Exemption	i× a	0	$MWh^1$				

<sup>1.</sup> EWEB must retire 1 REC for each MWh of calculated RPS Obligation after Exemption to comply with the RPS

As detailed in Figure 2, above, EWEB's qualifying electricity target for 2021 is 20 percent of retail sales before exemptions. Under Oregon's RPS rules, if exempt generation in 2021 exceeds 80 percent of total retail sales, then EWEB can reduce the 20 percent qualifying electricity target by the amount the exempt generation exceeds 80 percent. If exempt generation exceeds 100 percent of total retail sales, then EWEB's qualifying electricity target is reduced to zero (0) percent.

Because EWEB's hydroelectric resources, including BPA Tier 1, are considered "exempt generation", these resources significantly reduce EWEB's current and projected qualifying electricity targets. As a result, EWEB's 2021 RPS portfolio obligation results in the retirement of zero (0) RECs in 2021.

## **Greenpower Program**

In accordance with the Act, EWEB offers voluntary renewable purchases to EWEB customers under the Greenpower program.

The Greenpower program allows customers the choice to voluntarily pay an additional one cent per kWh, which pays for the cost of retiring Greenpower RECs and contributes to the development and consumption of renewable energy in EWEB's service territory. Just as RECs would be retired to satisfy EWEB's RPS obligation, RECs are also retired to match the volume of sales under EWEB's voluntary Greenpower program, with one REC retired for every MWh of program sales.

In 2021, sales to EWEB customers under the Greenpower program totaled 18,520 MWhs. EWEB has retired an equivalent quantity of RECs from its portfolio. For additional information on EWEB's Greenpower program please see: Greenpower | EWEB.

#### Recommendation

None

# **Requested Board Action**

None



**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD** 

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

FROM: Rod Price, Asst General Manager; Julie McGaughey, Chief Customer Officer,

and Deborah Hart, Chief Financial Office

DATE: April 26, 2022 (May 3, 2022, Regular Board Meeting)

SUBJECT: Proposal - Monthly Smart Meter Opt-Out Fee for Residential Customers

OBJECTIVE: Information/Guidance

#### Issue

In 2018, the Board approved replacement of all water and electric legacy meters with modern smart meters. As part of this approval to install smart meters, the Board approved policy allowing customers the choice to Opt-Out of enabling smart meter communications, with the recognition that post deployment, policies and fees related to metering and billing would be reviewed.

## **Background**

Currently, mass deployment has been stalled due to supply chain issues, however EWEB is anticipating full deployment of smart meters in the coming year. Prior to the resumption of smart meter mass deployment, Staff proposes approval of a monthly Opt-Out fee for residential customers who choose not to have their smart meter communication enabled. Per policy, Commercial and Industrial customers are not eligible to Opt-Out due to meter technology differences.

The proposed Opt-Out fee would impact current and future residential customers who request to have the two-way communication features disabled. The fee would not apply to upriver Cycle 18 customers, where EWEB does not currently offer smart meter services.

Currently about 66% (102,000) of the smart meters have been deployed for both Electric and Water, with a 3.37% Opt-Out rate. At this current Opt-Out rate there would be approximately 5,000 meters with the communications portion of the meters disabled. There are several implications with having smart meter communications disabled:

- For EWEB billing purposes, a Meter Reader is required to visit the premises every month to collect usage reads. Currently the costs for manual reads are dispersed across our entire customer base.
- Customers are not able to receive any current or future benefits that smart meters can
  provide, such as remote stop and start service capabilities. Service changes requiring a truck
  roll will incur additional fees.

Approval of the Opt-Out fee prior to the return of mass deployment will allow customers a more

informed choice when deciding to Opt-Out or not, and likely result in a higher adoption rate of smart meter technology. Reducing the number of customers choosing to Opt-Out will help reduce our deployment costs, increase our efficiency in monthly billing processes, and allow more customers a streamlined move-in or move-out service. In addition, the manual expenses related to visiting customer premises will be born by the customers making the Opt-Out choice, rather than spread across the rest of the customer base.

While smart meters are not completely deployed, there is enough experience and data from our current installed population of smart meters to reasonably calculate our expected ongoing expenses associated with non-communicating meters. The proposed monthly Opt-Out Fee for residential customers is being developed and reviewed with the guidance and input from Energy and Environment Economics (E3) consultants.

E3 has decades of experience in advising and providing services on rate design to utilities across the U.S. and Canada. E3 has been providing analysis and guidance in the design of the fee that is consistent with best principles and industry standards.

Based on E3's recommendation, the fee under development is designed to cover the cost of manually reading non-communicating smart meters. The current options under consideration for the Opt-Out Fee range from \$15-\$27 and are intended to recoup the cost to the utility to manually read meters. The fee takes into consideration the reoccurring cost necessary to provide manual meter reading services including personnel, travel, vehicle and equipment usage, and administration cost.

In June, Staff will propose Opt-Out fee details for residential customers, with potential approval by the Board in the July meeting. Approval to implement a new fee prior to normal fall budget season times will provide customers six months' time to prepare for fees before they become effective in 2023.

## **TBL Assessment**

<u>Social</u> – Without an Opt-Out fee, all customers will bear the extra costs for the few customers who have requested to not have the two-way communication features disabled.

<u>Environmental</u> – Decreasing the number of customers choosing to Opt-Out will reduce trucks rolls and associated carbon emissions.

<u>Economic</u> – Decreasing the number of customers choosing to Opt-Out will increase normal operational efficiencies for billing and move in/out, as well as improving our emergency restoration response systems and processes benefiting all customers.

## **Requested Board Action**

No Board Action is required at this time. Comments/Feedback is solicited.

# M E M O R A N D U M



**EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD** 

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

FROM: Lisa Krentz, Generation Manager, and Karen Kelley, Chief Operating Officer

DATE: May 3, 2022

SUBJECT: Walterville Canal Flow Restrictions for 2022

OBJECTIVE: Information Only

#### Issue

In a Record of Decision implemented on January 10, 2018, General Manager, Frank Lawson formalized an operational decision regarding summer flows in the Walterville Canal, which is part of the Leaburg/Walterville Hydroelectric Project (FERC #2496). The decision states that, "In years with below median expected summer stream flows/snowpack, from May 20<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup>, EWEB will voluntarily adjust the power canal intake in order to maintain at least 10% more flow in the McKenzie bypass reach of the Walterville hydroelectric project than flows exiting the tailrace of the project."

## **Background**

EWEB owns and operates the Walterville hydroelectric project, with a nameplate capacity of 8 MW, on the lower McKenzie River under a license issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on April 27, 2000. Up to 2,577 cubic feet per second (cfs) can be diverted into the Walterville canal at the Walterville diversion under normal operations. Under the terms of the operating license, EWEB is required to maintain minimum instream flows of 1,000 cfs in the bypassed reach of the McKenzie River.

In accordance with the Record of Decision, in low flow years EWEB will adjust the flow going into the Walterville canal during the summer to maintain 10% more flow in the river than in the canal. Maintaining more flow in the river than in the canal will improve fish migration, water quality, and recreational use conditions in the bypassed reach. The primary impact to EWEB is financial through lost generation.

#### Discussion

Based upon snowpack data and summer flow forecasts available in early-April, the McKenzie Basin is projected to experience well below median streamflow during the upcoming summer. SnoTel data from the Natural Resources Conservation Service indicates that current snowpack in the basin is roughly 54% of median, and McKenzie River streamflow forecasts for the April to September period at Vida (the closest forecast station) are 83% of median.

Accordingly, <u>EWEB Generation will implement the Walterville Canal flow restrictions identified in the January 2018 Record of Decision on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Through October 31, 2021, EWEB will voluntarily maintain at least 10% more flow in the McKenzie Bypass of the Walterville Canal than in the canal itself.</u>

## **Requested Board Action**

No Board Action is required. This memo if for informational purposes only.