



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD



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

FROM: Karen Kelley, Chief Operating Officer
Mike Masters, Water Operations Manager
Wally McCullough, Water Engineering Supervisor

DATE: October 6, 2022

SUBJECT: Goal 6a: Willamette Water Treatment Plant Update

OBJECTIVE: Information

Issue

EWEB's 2022 Strategic Plan Organization "Goal 6a" addresses improving operational resiliency by completing a Willamette Drinking Water Treatment Plan. Constructing a water treatment plant on the Willamette River is currently the water utility's single largest planned capital project over the next decade. This project will extend over multiple years and regular updates will be provided to the Board documenting its status and progress.

Background

To reduce the risk of service disruption from having a single source of raw water supply, the Water Utility has been evaluating building a second water treatment plant for decades. The most recent effort focused on a treatment plant in Glenwood with a river intake just below the confluence of the Middle Fork and Coast Fork of the Willamette River. Water rights are in place and a preliminary design for the water treatment plant at the Glenwood location was completed in 2017. There were setbacks, however, with the land use approvals and the project was put on hold in 2018 to focus on distributed neighborhood emergency water distribution sites.

In 2021, EWEB restarted preliminary work on the water treatment plant with two concurrent efforts:

- 1) EWEB collaborated with the Springfield Utility Board (SUB) to secure a purchase option for an alternative Glenwood property for the proposed treatment plant along with access and pipeline easements which could serve both the original preferred property and the alternative property locations.
- 2) EWEB reached out to the City of Springfield management and Council to garner support for the proposed EWEB water treatment plant based on the regional benefits to the City. This culminated in a presentation at a City of Springfield Council Work Session in June 2022.

Progress on the land use and other efforts for the water treatment plant are discussed below.

Discussion

Recent efforts regarding land use approval, property improvements, and water supply for this project are discussed below:

Land Use Approval

Prior to constructing the proposed water treatment plant in Glenwood various land use approvals will be required from the City of Springfield. These include:

- Incorporating the proposed water treatment plant in the Public Facilities Services Plan (Metro Plan or PFSP), which requires approval from the City of Eugene, Lane County, and the City of Springfield.
- Amendments to the Springfield Development and Glenwood Refinement Plans.
- Property annexations
- Site Plan Reviews

An amendment to the PFSP was initiated in 2021 by the City of Springfield. EWEB is partnering with the City of Springfield and the City of Eugene to include the water infrastructure, including the second water treatment plant, in the PFSP. This is a long process which is anticipated will be complete in early 2023. The remaining land use approvals are still needed, however.

To garner the City of Springfield's support for the project, EWEB worked with the City Manager, Mayor, and Council to describe the benefits of the project and answer their questions and concerns. EWEB is thrilled to report that as of early September, the City of Springfield has given EWEB verbal support to proceed. As a result, EWEB developed a scope of work and is working to retain a consultant to assist with navigating the land use approval processes. A contract should be in place and work should begin on the various land use applications in early October.

Property Improvements

A secondary access and a water pipeline path to 22nd Ave in Glenwood will be needed for the proposed water treatment plant and the required easements were acquired in EWEB's 2021 discussions with SUB. For the access, one area required road work to make it passable by a vehicle. *(This area is at the top of the hill, near the cell tower where several commissioners met last winter).* A contract for this work was approved by the Board in August and the work is nearing completion with a minor amount of grading and erosion control remaining.

Water Supply

EWEB has been working with several other Willamette Valley water providers on acquiring long-term access to water stored in the 13 Federal reservoirs in the Willamette Basin, with EWEB's goal being to supplement its current water registration and permit for the Willamette Plant. This has been a decades long process requiring congressional approval. Final approvals which allowed the utilities to start the process of gaining access to this water was obtained in 2021.

This is a brand-new process, which has not been implemented before. It requires the reallocation of stored water from irrigation use to municipal use and requires working with the Oregon Water Resources Department, the Federal Bureau of Reclamation, and the Army Corp of Engineers.

To establish precedence, EWEB agreed to be the first to navigate the process for a relatively minor amount of stored water in Cottage Grove and Dorena Lakes. If successful, EWEB and the other providers, hope to use the defined process to acquire additional stored water in the future. This effort will take time to complete, and the level of effort is undetermined, but the group has had recent successes and on September 21, 2022, EWEB's final permit application for use of the stored water was submitted to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Next Steps

The following activities are anticipated to occur by the end of 2022.

Confirmation of Preliminary Design Report

EWEB staff and consultants will be reviewing the recommendations presented in the 2017 Preliminary Design Report to confirm their present validity. Items to be reviewed include both level of service goals and the treatment process. These will be reviewed with respect to any changes in:

- Water Quality,
- Regulatory requirements, and
- Industry trends

River Water Intake Value Engineering

Concurrent with the 2017 Preliminary Design Report for the Water Treatment Plant, a preliminary design was completed for a river intake and related facilities, which will now be reviewed to optimize scope and budget. Options to be reviewed are primarily related to the location of the pumping and electric facilities. Over the next several months EWEB will be evaluating the options to determine the most cost-effective approach recognizing the long permitting time required for “in river” work.

Also, note that as EWEB gets further into the land use process and the project gets better defined, specific graphical timelines will be developed and presented to the Board to enhance and simplify the update reporting.

Recommendation/Requested Board Action

Information item – no action requested.