



MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

Rely on us.

TO: Commissioners Brown, Carlson, Morris, Schlossberg, and Barofsky
FROM: Willamette Treatment Plant Project Team (Karen Kelley, Chief Water Operations Officer)
DATE: March 25, 2026 (April 7, 2026, Board Meeting)
SUBJECT: Willamette Treatment Plant Progress Report
OBJECTIVE: Information

Issue

One of EWEB's 2026 Strategic Goals is to "work with the Board to decide Willamette Drinking Water Filtration Plant conditions of continuance and scope based on completed project prerequisites". This project is complex, of high community interest/impact, and as discussed at the October 21, 2025, work session, regular (potentially monthly) updates will be provided to the board to show the progress made in each area of work. This memorandum (memo) provides an update on the previous month's progress towards developing a second source of supply on the Willamette River.

Background

EWEB is one of the largest communities in the Pacific Northwest that relies on a single source of supply to provide potable water for domestic, fire suppression, and emergency uses. EWEB is pursuing development of a second source of water on the Willamette River and is working on several aspects of the project at once, including working towards completing a preliminary design (30% design), obtaining land use and environmental permitting approvals, and implementing a communication strategy.

Discussion

The following work items were moved forward this month:

- Preliminary Design
 - Staff completed the last 5 workshops and drafted technical memorandums for the Intake and Treatment Plant preliminary design. Draft preliminary design report will be submitted to staff by the end of April.
 - Completed preliminary site layout drawings.
- Land Use
 - The Lane County and Springfield Planning Commissions took action at the March 17th Planning Commission Meeting and unanimously recommended, without conditions, advancing the Development Code and Refinement Plan text amendments to the County Commissioners and City Council for approval.

- EWEB's application received 21 comments of support and none in opposition (see Attachment A).
- Environmental Permitting
 - US Army Corps of Engineers provided provisional approval of the Removal/Fill Permit. The approval is contingent on issuance of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) 401 Certification.
- Communications
 - Provided project briefings to the Eugene Chamber of Commerce and the Springfield Chamber of Commerce.
 - Scheduled a presentation to the Eugene Chamber Local Government Affairs Council (LGAC) for April 9.
 - Met with Down to Earth Distributors and Peterson Cat to discuss potential impacts of the pipeline construction and ways to mitigate.
 - Participated in listening sessions with MRT on the future of the Willamette Confluence property upstream of the intake.
 - Sent notice of land use public comment opportunity to project interest email list.
 - Provided information to Lookout Eugene for a story on the land use hearing.

Scheduled intake site visit in early April with adjacent neighbors.

Requested Board Action

This memo is for information purposes only. No action required.

Attachment A

Willamette Treatment Plant Public Comments

Joint Planning Commission Meeting: Glenwood Refinement Plan and Development Code Text Amendments

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City of Springfield
Community Development Division



Re: Support for EWEB's Willamette Water Treatment Plant in Glenwood

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing on behalf of the Eugene Family YMCA to express our strong support for the Eugene Water & Electric Board's Willamette Water Treatment Plant project in Glenwood.

As one of the largest nonprofit community centers in our region and an essential partner in emergency response, we rely on reliable access to high-quality water every day. Water is fundamental to our operations: we depend on it for our showers, drinking fountains, childcare programs, commercial kitchen and sanitation for the thousands of community members who walk through our doors each week.

We are proud of the strong partnership we have built with EWEB to advance community resilience. EWEB's Emergency Water Station was thoughtfully sited and constructed at the edge of YMCA property, complementing a facility that was built to the highest seismic standards and includes both a commercial kitchen and an on-site generator. Together, these assets position the YMCA's 5-acre campus to serve as a vital community resource in the aftermath of a major disaster.

In addition, the YMCA and EWEB have collaborated on a community-facing initiative to encourage individual emergency preparedness through EWEB's *Pledge to Prepare* program. In January 2026, an expert facilitator will lead three sessions designed to help participants become *2 Weeks Prepared* for emergencies by taking practical, achievable steps. Participants will also receive a free three-gallon water container, a HELP/OK sign, and a packet of emergency preparedness materials to support continued readiness at home.

These complementary efforts establish a strong foundation for local emergency response. However, our ability to function effectively as a community hub during times of crisis ultimately depends on EWEB's continued capacity to deliver clean, safe, and reliable water.

Currently, our community relies on a single water source and a single water treatment plant. This places us all at considerable risk: a significant natural or human-caused incident affecting the McKenzie River or the Hayden Bridge facility could result in an extended community-wide water outage. Such an event would severely limit our ability to provide our normal critical services such as child care, but also emergency services in the event that people are displaced from their homes.

We believe that establishing a second, seismically resilient water treatment plant in Glenwood is vital to our region's safety and long-term stability. A second source strengthens public health protection, supports continuity of essential community services, and aligns with best practices already adopted by comparable cities across the country. We also appreciate that EWEB has approached this project with thoughtful consideration for Glenwood's development goals and environmental stewardship.

We strongly encourage the City of Springfield to approve the land use changes necessary to advance the Willamette Water Treatment Plant. This project represents responsible planning and a shared commitment to ensuring that our community has dependable access to clean water—during day-to-day life and in the moments when it matters most.

Thank you for your consideration and for your attention to this essential community infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Steffen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Brian Steffen
CEO
Eugene Family YMCA



LISA FRAGALA
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
HOUSE DISTRICT 8

March 16, 2026

City of Springfield
225 Fifth Street
Springfield Oregon, 97477

RE: Springfield Development Code and Glenwood Refinement Plan text amendments; City of Springfield (811-25-000061-TYP4, 811-25-000062-TYP4), Lane County (509-PA25-05436)

(Submitted via email)

Dear Planning Commission:

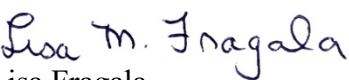
The Willamette Treatment Plant proposed by the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) will provide a critical second source of drinking water for 200,000 people and has the full support of the undersigned. As the state representative for House District 8, and as someone who has spent decades working in our schools and local communities, I know that access to clean, reliable drinking water is at the heart of Eugene-Springfield's quality of life. From families at home to businesses downtown, every part of our community depends on knowing that water will always be safe and available.

EWEB's ability to provide water is currently compromised by its reliance on a single water source and treatment plant, making the system more vulnerable to disasters, wildfires, extreme storms, and climate change. The Willamette Treatment Plant will mitigate these risks by providing a secure, seismically resilient facility capable of producing water through extreme disasters.

This investment reflects the collaborative spirit and forward-thinking planning that our constituents value and expect from their public institutions.

Thank you for considering the code and refinement plan text amendments necessary for the Willamette Treatment Plant. Your support of EWEB's treatment plant project will provide our community with the resilience needed to withstand natural and human-caused disasters—keeping our residents, businesses, and institutions safe and thriving for generations to come.

Sincerely,


Lisa Fragala
State Representative
House District 8



March 12, 2026

City of Springfield
225 Fifth Street
Springfield Oregon, 97477

Springfield Development Code and Glenwood Refinement Plan text amendments; City of Springfield (811-25-000061-TYP4, 811-25-000062-TYP4), Lane County (509-PA25-05436)

Dear Planning Commission Members:

The City of Eugene supports the Eugene Water & Electric Board's (EWEB) plan to construct the Willamette Water Treatment Plant in Glenwood.

As Eugene's City Manager Pro Tem, safeguarding the health and safety of the nearly 180,000 people who call our city home, and the thousands of visitors we welcome each month, is my highest priority. This includes oversight of all the city's services and operations.

Eugene currently has a single source and single treatment plant for drinking water, which puts our community at great risk of experiencing a prolonged outage due to a natural disaster, accident or equipment failure.

Access to clean water is essential for a thriving community, and Eugene relies on EWEB water to thrive. And our business community – made up of over 300 companies large and small – need water to operate.

Diversifying our water sources by building a new treatment plant on the Willamette River will help Eugene achieve water resiliency. It will give EWEB operational flexibility to complete maintenance on their aging treatment plant during periods of low demand, and provide fire suppression, protect public health, and maintain economic stability during emergencies.

The benefits of a secondary water source are significant: minimizing water supply interruptions improve public safety, allow businesses to stay operational and keep people employed, and ensure community stability during times of emergency. Thank you for considering the development code and refinement plan text amendments necessary to move this project forward.

Sincerely,

Matthew Rodrigues
City Manager Pro Tem
City of Eugene



RWDonline.net

P.O. Box 8, Springfield, OR 97477

1550 42nd Street, Springfield, OR 97477

Phone: 541-746-1676

Fax: 541-747-0845

February 27, 2026

City of Springfield

225 Fifth Street

Springfield Oregon, 97477

**RE: Springfield Development Code and Glenwood Refinement Plan text amendments;
City of Springfield (811-25-000061-TYP4, 811-25-000062-TYP4), Lane County (509-PA25-05436)**

Dear Planning Commission Members,

I am respectfully writing in support of the Eugene Water & Electric Board's (EWEB) proposal to construct a new water withdrawal and treatment facility on the banks of the Willamette River.

Locating the plant in Glenwood on a plot of land that is seismically resilient and above the floodplain maximizes the investment for the community. Much of our local water infrastructure was built decades ago before we became aware of our earthquake risk, and severe weather and other natural disasters have also shifted the water planning paradigm. This plant would be built with modern risks in mind, adding an extra level of protection for all those connected to it.

Rainbow Water District (Rainbow) serves our own Lane County customers and supplies water to the Springfield Utility Board for use by city customers. Rainbow is connected to EWEB's water system through interties. These interties enable our utilities to share water in times of crisis. Allowing EWEB to build a second treatment plant in Glenwood would increase our regional ability to bounce back from a disaster, and give Rainbow a better chance of accessing shared water to benefit customers in north and west Springfield.

Local water utilities pride ourselves on working as a team to safeguard the health and wellness of the residents we serve. It is in this spirit of teamwork that we humbly ask for your approval of the code and refinement plan text amendments necessary for EWEB to build the Willamette Treatment Plant.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Jamie Porter, PE

Superintendent



November 1, 2025

City of Springfield
225 Fifth Street
Springfield Oregon, 97477

RE: Development code and refinement plan text amendments; Case No. 811-25-000061-TYP4 & 811-25-000062-TYP4 (City of Springfield) and 509-PA25-05436 (Lane County)

(Submitted via email)

Dear Councilors:

The Eugene Water & Electric Board's (EWEB) proposed Willamette Treatment Plant is a critical step necessary to secure a second source of clean drinking water for our community. The University of Oregon fully supports the project and the benefits it will bring to our entire region.

As our region changes, so do the demands on our infrastructure. A second water source is essential to ensure our community is prepared for the future and resilient in the face of emergencies and extreme weather events that are becoming increasingly common.

The University of Oregon is an economic and cultural engine for the region. Clean drinking water is essential to the university and the tens of thousands of people who work, study, live and visit here.

- University buildings are heated with central boilers that function by converting water to steam, creating heat and keeping faculty, staff, and students warm through the winter season. Access to water is critical to maintain these functions.
- Over 24,000 students, many of whom live in Springfield, rely on the University to provide reliable access to clean water for drinking and hygiene on campus.
- Our residence halls provide housing, access to drinking water and sanitation for over 5,500 students.
- Our kitchens provide meals to the greater campus community and require clean water to provide safe access to food.
- We conduct millions of dollars of scientific research on campus that requires access to clean water.

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- Thousands of annual visitors who come to our region for outdoor recreation and to cheer for our world-class athletic teams need clean drinking water.

Having only one source of water in the region puts critical university functions at extreme risk. Supporting EWEB's efforts to establish a second water source in Glenwood is a proactive step that demonstrates foresight, responsibility, and a commitment to protecting our community's future.

Thank you for your consideration of this project and the important resilience benefits it will provide to the University, the community, and the region.

Sincerely,



Jamie Moffitt

Sr. Vice President for Finance & Administration and CFO

University of Oregon

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1283 University of Oregon, Eugene OR 97403-1283 T (541) 346-3003 www.uoregon.edu



March 15, 2026

City of Springfield and Lane County Joint Planning Commission
Andy Limbard, City of Springfield
Jared Bauder, Lane County
(submitted via email)

RE: Glenwood Refinement Plan, Development Code Amendments, and EWEB's Willamette Facility

Dear Andy, Jared and members of the Commission,

On behalf of the Board and staff of McKenzie River Trust, I submit these comments on the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) proposal to construct a water withdrawal and treatment facility on the banks of the Willamette River in Glenwood. We are supportive of the amendments needed to allow for the siting of this community resource. We are excited to see how the facility will catalyze broader efforts in Springfield and Eugene to better connect the community to its watersheds.

We appreciate EWEB's attempt to mitigate the impacts of this proposed construction project on existing mapped wetlands, the riparian zone, and the river itself beneath the Ordinary High-Water mark. What has been proposed appears well-researched and to be consistent with common best practice. We appreciate the extent of the planning work that has been coordinated with David Evans and Associates, a firm that knows the mitigation process and knows the river well. Given the site's characteristics and the proposed mitigation, we have no great concerns about the underlying work being proposed to construct and operate the source water facility.

Perhaps more importantly, we are excited at the prospect of EWEB extending its significant watershed conservation investments into the Coast Fork and Middle Fork of the Willamette River, which converge approximately one mile upstream of the project site. McKenzie River Trust is the current owner of the 1,300-acre Willamette Confluence Conservation Area, through which both forks of the river run before converging that the actual confluence, just upstream of the EWEB site. Since the first mention of the new source water facility years ago, we have encouraged EWEB staff, Commissioners to expand and adapt the partnership that has invested in the health of the McKenzie Watershed to the Middle and Coast Forks of the Willamette. The partnerships in the McKenzie have contributed to a wide range of community benefits:

- Acquiring floodplain land for long term conservation
- Providing financial and technical support for watershed stewardship to farmers and residents
- Removing post-wildfire hazardous materials from the watershed
- Restoring floodplain connectivity and complexity
- Establishing and maintaining a water quality monitoring system
- Establishing and maintaining an emergency hazardous spills response program
- Supporting K-12 and higher education watershed learning opportunities and research

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info@mckenzieriver.org • www.mckenzieriver.org

EWEB has been a core member of the overlapping partnerships driving all of these efforts. Their financial support, technical expertise, and commitment to creative experimentation have all provided tremendous leverage for community conservation. This is to be expected for a utility that draws upon the McKenzie River for its core mission. We know that EWEB will be similarly driven to maintain and improve watershed conditions in the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River, given their vested interest in the health of the new water supply.

You are likely aware that we have made similar comments of support for the Springfield Utility Board's water treatment project being developed on the McKenzie River, also with strong encouragement for ensuring the health and long-term resilience of our rivers' floodplains. The placement of hardened infrastructure in a river or its floodplain should always be undertaken with great care, a healthy dose of humility, and with a commitment to the well-being of the larger watershed. The need for secondary or redundant water intakes and treatment for the Eugene-Springfield is clear. The site EWEB has chosen on the Willamette River appears to be well suited for such a facility. They seem to have proposed adequate mitigation for the site impacts.

We look forward to working with EWEB, Lane County, the cities of Springfield and Eugene, Willamalane, the US Army Corps of Engineers, and many other community partners to ensure that we give back far more to the watershed than we ask of it. With these growing opportunities to expand all aspects of source water conservation into the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River, we are encouraged to know that EWEB will continue to be a core partner in these efforts.

Please contact me if you have further questions about that collaborative work or about this letter of support for the project at hand.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe Moll". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Joe" and "Moll" being capitalized and prominent.

Joe Moll
Executive Director

Jerry Lidz · Mar 17, 2026 · 11:39am

I join other commenters in supporting EWEB's proposal. As has been pointed out in those comments, EWEB currently has only one source of water, on the McKenzie River, and that source is vulnerable to damage from upstream fires, spills of hazardous materials, earthquakes, etc. A second source of clean water for EWEB benefits not only Eugene, but also adds an emergency source of water for Springfield and some unincorporated parts of Lane County. Even without that, this is a good example of a situation where intergovernmental support among the three governments is very appropriate. Please take whatever steps are needed to make this proposal a reality. Thank you very much for considering my comments as well as the others you receive for this proposal. Jerry Lidz

5 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Hubert Prichard · Mar 17, 2026 · 8:13am

I agree with the establishment of a secondary water source. The risks of damage to the single source should be mitigated and backstopped as proposed.

5 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Tom Barkin · Mar 16, 2026 · 10:57pm

Eugene and Springfield are fortunate to have the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers available to insure the health of our communities. EWEB's proposed project will be one more example of our communities' ability to work together.

5 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Andy Howard · Mar 16, 2026 · 10:21pm

I urge the planning commission to support the EWEB proposal to develop a second water treatment plant in Glenwood. Whenever possible, governmental bodies should work in concert for the good of the greater community. Better security of the regional water supply against possible, even likely, future dangers certainly seems to be such a situation. Far better to deal with this issue now, instead of regretful hindsight in the future. I hope the board will take the responsible and forward-looking position by helping EWEB to advance their plans. Thank you for your considered attention to this matter.

5 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Chris Dunn · Mar 16, 2026 · 9:32pm

I strongly support the development of a second water treatment facility. This is an opportunity for the commission to plan ahead and enhance the resilience of our community.

5 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Richard Weinman · Mar 16, 2026 · 8:29pm

I support an additional water intake in Glenwood. It's rare that an opportunity comes up for an action to take place that has such critical long term health and safety benefits. Establishing an additional water source is one of those opportunities. Whether it's an earthquake, some sort of chemical spill or something else, another source of water would benefit the entire Eugene and Springfield area and future generations would be grateful for the forward thinking of today's community partners. Especially in this case, what's best for the community in the long run is more important and vital than any short term cost or inconvenience. This is something that should have been done long ago. I urge you to support this effort.

5 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Jennifer McConochie · Mar 16, 2026 · 5:35pm

Given the reality of climate change and the risk of fire, it makes sense to have an alternative supply of water for Eugene. I support the measure. Jennifer McConochie

5 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Craig Hickman · Mar 16, 2026 · 1:29pm

I support the development of the second source of water for EWEB. It seems the smart and reasonable thing to do.

6 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Kathryn Kruger-Hickman · Mar 16, 2026 · 1:13pm

I am writing to urge the Planning Commission to vote in favor of land use code amendments allowing EWEB to build a backup water treatment plant on land it owns in Springfield/Glenwood. This secondary plant is much needed as a resource in case EWEB's sole existing plant is damaged or needs to be shut down.

6 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Michael Sullivan · Mar 16, 2026 · 12:48pm

EWEB's proposed water treatment facility in the Glenwood area would make a vital contribution to the resiliency and safety of the Metro area. Wildfires, potential seismic events and surface water contamination all pose serious threats to the integrity of the existing water supply. The distribution and full build of water supply and treatment along both the Willamette and McKenzie Rivers would greatly enhance the flexibility and resiliency of the Metro wide water supply system. Please give your positive consideration and approval to the proposed Glenwood Refinement Plan Development Code Amendments to make the construction of EWEB's proposed facility in Glenwood possible. Thank you for your consideration Mike Sullivan

6 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Andrew Verner · Mar 10, 2026 · 12:53pm

As a neighbor of the new water tanks being built by EWEB on College Hill, I'm a firm believer in the need for a resilient water infrastructure. For this reason, I strongly support the need for a second EWEB water source, to be paid for exclusively by EWEB customers, and urge you to approve the code and refinement plan text amendments necessary for EWEB to build the Willamette Treatment Plant. The existing Hayden Bridge plant was built three quarters of a century ago when seismic codes were non-existent and the threats of extreme weather caused by climate change had not yet manifested, as they would in the 2020 Holiday Farm fire and the 2024 ice storm. There is little we can do to avert similar events or, God forbid, the Big One (earthquake), but we can at least be prepared. A second water source and water treatment facility will benefit not only EWEB customers but water users throughout the Eugene-Springfield area, given the interties with SUB and Rainbow. Please do the prudent thing and make the decision that will benefit the greatest number of people in the Eugene-Springfield area.

6 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

Bruce Abel · Mar 7, 2026 · 8:07am

We desperately need an additional source of drinking water in Eugene/Springfield. I strongly support this effort to approve all plans to expedite the planning and approval process. There is nothing more important to our future than access to clean drinking water. Our current source of water may be inadequate or compromised in the future and the time to address this issue is right now.

6 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

bob Stager · Mar 2, 2026 · 11:02am

How can I participate? I'm passionate about Oregon and Northwest water supply! You never know what natural disaster or manmade disaster will affect our water supplies. Old simple but wise statement "do not put all your eggs in one basket." Oregon's and Northwest past generations had the foresight to create some of the best water services for its people & future generations. We should & must do the same for future generations. EWEB not only is looking ahead for the best interest of the local population. It's also looking out for our ecosystem. "What is good for the Goose is good for the gander" EWEB has proven to be a reliable manager of our Water and Power needs. I have worked in the water supply systems in the NW since 1989 working with cities in Alaska, Washington and Oregon. It's amazing to see how well these entities take care of our water supplies and environment. We are defiantly in good hands with EWEB looking out for our best interest and generations to come!

6 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment

JOHN HAAKANSON · Mar 1, 2026 · 2:46pm

I write in support of the proposed water treatment plant, intake and associated water transmission systems in Glenwood, to be built and funded by EWEB. The region's water resiliency will be considerably enhanced when Eugene obtains a second water source. EWEB's Hayden Bridge plant is 76 years old and cannot be taken offline for seismic upgrades, which poses a severe threat in the event of an earthquake or other natural disaster. In addition, the region has had two close calls this decade, including the 2020 Holiday Farm fire, which burned close to the Hayden Bridge area, and the 2024 ice storm, when 2/3 of SUB's water customers were issued "boil water" alerts after Springfield's water system lost power, and EWEB's system was forced to run on a generator. Thank you for your service and your consideration. Best regards, John Haakanson

6 / 7 Planning Commissioners have viewed this comment