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**Comment from: PWB Treatment Plant - 143189**

1 message

**Webform via Multnomah County** <webmaster@multco.us>

Thu, Jun 29, 2023 at 10:56 AM

Reply-To: Webform &lt;webmaster@multco.us&gt;

To: LUP-Comments@multco.us

Submitted on Thursday, June 29, 2023 - 10:56am

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Testimony:

My name is Jennifer Coker, and I am the Public Works Director for the City of Sandy, Oregon. I have 23 years of experience as a professional civil engineer licensed in Oregon, Washington and California, and have decades of experience as a consulting engineer and Utility owner designing and building infrastructure, including treatment plants. Currently, Sandy owns and operates both a water treatment plant and wastewater treatment plant which are both good neighbors. I am submitting public testimony on behalf of the City of Sandy Water Utility in support of the Portland Water Bureau proposed Filtration Plant and Pipelines Improvement Projects.

Need for the Project – 9.0 Utility Facilities Community Service Conditional Use Permits for Utility Facility for the Water Filtration Facility, various Pipelines, Finished Water Intertie Facility, Lusted Hill Distribution Main.

The Portland Water Bureau supplies water to over 1 million customers and provides redundant backup water to utilities in the region which is a vital community service.

The Portland Water Bureau is under regulatory pressure by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to meet a bilateral compliance agreement for the treatment of cryptosporidium in the Bull Run surface water supply. The City of Sandy has signed the same agreement which requires compliance by September 30, 2027. If facilities for treatment of cryptosporidium are not constructed by September 30, 2027, the City of Portland will no longer be able to provide Bull Run water without stipulating the water is not safe for consumption without boiling or other home treatment. The impact of not having safe water for the community and economy of the region is enormous. It is critical for the public and economic welfare of the community to build this once-in-a-generation project as quickly as possible.

#### Partnership of Sandy and Portland

In 2013 the City of Sandy's water resources were no longer adequate to supply the growing population in the urban growth boundary, and Sandy connected to the City of Portland by becoming a wholesale water customer to provide critical water supply augmentation. To this day, Portland has supplied key water when our own supplies have been restricted in August and September due to senior water rights; mechanical or electrical failures in our system; or emergency situations such as wildfires. The stability of Sandy and the health and welfare of our citizens is directly tied to the ability of the Portland Water Bureau to provide us with safe, reliable drinking water.

The City of Sandy does not have another supplemental drinking water source that can be developed in time to meet the September 2027 deadline. If the filtration plant is not approved, City of Sandy will be facing huge increases in costs with the requirement to build a second treatment plant to treat Bull Run water, and our citizens will be facing years of water supply shortages until funds can be raised, and the years of planning, land use, design and construction are completed. Constructing a larger regional plant such as the proposed plant is the best use of public funds due to economies of scale that make the regional population as a whole have more affordable rates.

#### City of Sandy Resiliency

City of Portland and the Bull Run water supply is critical to Sandy's economy, our plans for growth and economic development and the stability of providing basic services to our citizens. Furthermore, the growing risk of wildfires to the region underlies the need to prepare backbone infrastructure to meet this risk. This filtration plant is designed to operate during a wildfire as well as for the months that follow including treatment of ash that runs off the watershed the following winter, treating the ash and debris and continuing to supply the region with uninterrupted safe water. This treatment facility will provide key resiliency to the region and community as a whole for decades to come. The current

system cannot provide this level of security and is a huge risk that this project will mitigate.

#### Filtration Plant Impact to Neighboring Properties

Treatment plants once constructed are quiet neighbors, and thoughtful design including screening, noise reduction, location of treatment facilities inside buildings, architecture, habitat, odor treatment, safety/security, remote operations to limit staffing and traffic, and light/dark sky design can make the completed facility nearly invisible to neighboring properties. I have personally designed treatment plants that do this, and have visited plants all over the world that are well designed and disguised. Finally, traffic control, dust control, limitations of construction work hours, and coordination and outreach efforts will mitigate the impact of the construction. There is no denying that there will be increased traffic due to construction, however the benefits that this facility will provide to the region of community resiliency are worth the temporary impacts that construction will cause.

#### Conclusion

The deadline for completion of this facility is four years away, which is not much time for all the work that must be done. We support the construction of the vital community facility and request that Multnomah County approve the Land Use Application.