



LUP Hearings <lup-hearings@multco.us>

Testimony Regarding PWB/Multco REMAND HEARING

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Subject: Evidence of Environmental Disruption by Portland Water Bureau Filtration Plant

I would like to provide evidence regarding the disruption of a functioning natural system—specifically, the forested habitat and wildlife corridor surrounding our property—caused by the construction of the Portland Water Bureau Filtration Plant.

Prior to the inception of the filtration plant, our property regularly supported a rich, vibrant ecosystem that included seasonal visits from elk herds. These elk were seen annually on and around our land, a clear indication of a healthy, functioning habitat. Since the start of the construction, however, we have not seen any elk. This abrupt absence suggests displacement due to noise, habitat disruption, and other environmental stressors introduced by the project.

Additionally, our area used to be filled with the sounds of birdsong throughout the day—another indicator of a healthy wildlife presence. With the start of heavy construction activities, the constant bird chirping noticeably ceased, aligning with the start of machinery operations and habitat disturbance. Recently, with the halt of construction activity, bird activity and song have returned, suggesting that wildlife is attempting to reclaim the area in the absence of ongoing disruption.

The area in question is a functioning natural system, supporting both wildlife habitat and forested ecosystems that are integral to the larger watershed. These habitats are not only important ecologically, but also serve as agricultural resources, carbon sinks, and natural sound barriers. The environmental degradation resulting from construction activity poses a threat to:

Elk and other migratory species relying on intact corridors for movement and foraging;

Bird populations and pollinators affected by noise, air pollution, and vegetation loss;

Soil and water health, as construction disturbs the filtration and nutrient cycling functions of the forest floor;

Forested resources, which are critical for erosion control, microclimate regulation, and biodiversity.

I respectfully request that these observations and concerns be acknowledged in the environmental review and mitigation planning of the filtration plant. A full and transparent analysis should include wildlife displacement, habitat fragmentation, and loss of natural soundscapes, alongside standard water quality and infrastructure considerations.

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Exhibit N.8