

Liz Fancher, Hearings Officer – T3-2022-16220

Date: 5/17/2025

RE: Portland Water Bureau S.32

We are writing in response to Portland Water Bureau's submission from S.32 PWB Response to Upland Habitat Comments.

The PWB response:

N.19 testimony from Scott and Natalie Voruz, 37185 SE Dodge Park Blvd Boring, OR 97009
Comment: "We live on 5 acres on Dodge Park Blvd, directly down the slope from the proposed filtration facility location. Deer and other animals, to include fox, racoon, coyote, skunks, possums, etc. migrate from Bear creek, through our property, and up the slope to the proposed water filtration facility location on Carpenter Lane on a daily basis. Multiple sets of deer migrate through our property throughout the day. We often have deer resting in the shade along the treed border of our property. We have been purposeful in making our property a haven for wildlife. We have kept our fencing low so it is easily traversable, kept areas of natural grasses and vegetation, and provide high protein food in the winter. This all stopped in the fall of 2024 due to the filtration plant. Our property has complete security video and trail cam video coverage. We have seen a steady decline of all wildlife on our property. We are now going on several months without capturing a single deer on video. While the absence of deer is the most noticeable, we aren't seeing other wildlife either. Wildlife is non-existent. Again, this isn't just what we are seeing when we are outside, our cameras aren't showing any wildlife migration and we have 24/7 video recording. The Portland Water Bureau and Multnomah County both relied on written testimony from ESA Exhibit J.75 which stated, "many wildlife species that use nearby wooded and open areas are anticipated to either habituate to construction activity after an initial period of acclimation or translocate to other nearby wooded and open fields." My property would be Exhibit N.19 considered another nearby wooded and open field and the deer and other wildlife are gone. Absent. ESA also states that "Wildlife species are expected to continue using the protected habitat areas at the edges of the filtration site as a movement corridor. Again, this expectation is FALSE. The wildlife is gone. ABSENT. In exhibit I.96, ESA identifies the slope from my property to the proposed filtration plant as "the steep forested slope rising to the west contains areas mapped by Multnomah County as a district of Significant Environmental Concern for wildlife habitat." The project has decimated the wildlife using this slope to traverse from a water source at Bear Creek to the upper slope location. ESA also states that "Medium or large mammals that may be using the filtration site as a movement corridor are expected to be found along the edge or just within the forest along the hillslope which would provide cover from human activity. The movement

corridor on the hillslope and the top of the slope would be maintained.” Again, ESA’s expectations are incorrect. Wildlife has not continued to use neighboring areas. Wildlife has left. As a natural resource, wildlife has been adversely affected. During the brief pause of construction, we have not seen a return.”

Response: This comment relates to facility construction. The commenters live at 37185 SE Dodge Park Blvd. which is just over 0.5 mile southeast of the southeast corner of the 94-acre filtration site. It is misleading for the commenters to state that they are “directly down the slope” from the proposed filtration facility. Bear Creek is located to the south and east of the project site and no site or pipeline improvements are planned along this creek.

See the response above under Topic 2 (Disruption/Displacement of Wildlife due to Construction Activity).

The Portland Water Bureau’s response, drafted by ESA, that our comment is misleading because we live one half mile from the property is a clear example of the Portland Water Bureau’s inability to acknowledge the broad impact of the proposed water filtration facility to the natural resources in the area. It’s not just the natural resources of the facility site that is affected. Impacts are being felt for miles, or in our case, one half of a mile, the the distance a deer can travel in less than 5 minutes. Portland Water Bureau’s dismissive statement about Bear Creek not being located in the project’s scope of work also supports their inability to recognize and accept the negative impacts to natural resources in the surrounding area. Wildlife that relies on this creek as a life sustaining water source is being adversely impacted by the proposed filtration plant. Portland Water Bureau is irresponsible in dismissing the negative impacts to natural resources their project is causing and will continue to cause after construction by making false accusations that our comment is misleading. ESA continues their practice of subjectively manipulating data to support their paid client, the Portland Water Bureau. As supported in my original submission copied above, ESA’s subjective opinion on wildlife impacts, have proven to be inaccurate. We can therefore objectively conclude ESA’s opinion on the lasting impacts to wildlife habitat and natural resources are also inaccurate and should not be considered in this decision. They have been paid to provide an assessment that supports the Portland Water Bureau’s interests and have not supplied adequate scientific data to support their opinion.

In rendering your decision and analyzing conflicting testimony from experts on both sides as it pertains to the current and future degradation of natural resources, I implore you to consider the whole picture. Why would so many individuals, groups and government entities, many with no personal impacts of the proposed filtration facility, endlessly speak out against the project? Only those with direct financial and professional benefits support the project? The answer is clear. This project will forever negatively impact the community and our natural resources.

Only those who have a financial benefit from the project continue to support it. It's not even a positive project for Portland water customers in a city already in a financial crisis. As a former city councilor in another city, I can't even put the decision to move forward with this into perspective when they have less expensive options. This isn't good for anyone other than those who will make money off the project.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott and Natalie Voruz

37185 SE Dodge Park Blvd

Boring, OR 97009

Located directly downslope from the proposed filtration facility



LUP Hearings <lup-hearings@multco.us>

T3-2022-16220

1 message

Scott Voruz <voruz@msn.com>

Sun, May 18, 2025 at 4:12 PM

To: LUP Hearings <LUP-hearings@multco.us>



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Please add the attached document submitted during the rebuttal period.

Scott and Natalie Voruz



We are writing in response to Portland Water Bureau's submis.docx

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