

To: Lisa Estrin, Multnomah County Land Use and Planning Division  
From: Terry Ciecko  
Date June 29, 2023  
Subject: Testimony in opposition to T-3-2022-16220 Portland Water Bureau

My name is Terry Ciecko. My address is 3630 SE Hosner Ter, Gresham, OR. 97080

I would like to begin by thanking Commissioner Lori Stegman for arranging this in person hearing

One of the critical criteria for approval of the filtration plant on productive farmland proposed by the PWB is that it will not change the character of the area. Many members of this community have written letters on how and why this project is absolutely not consistent with the character of our area.

I would like to add that character of the area and the character of the people who call this area their home, many of them for over 50 years, are inseparable. We are farmers, nurserymen, emergency responders, doctors, teachers and families with young children who are part and parcel of what determines the character of the area. I would include wildlife as part of our community as well.

Our community is facing an uphill battle the likes of which we have never seen. It will forever change the way we live, work and play. The sheer abundance of nature, open spaces and farmland are all worthy of protection.

It's literally astounding that this proposed change came about as a result of a small tweak or as the county put it "housekeeping measure" to the county code in 2019 after the city of Portland had selected our rural community as their preferred site.

Rather than conduct a thorough public process prior to amending the code as required by a policy in the county's own comprehensive plan, the county decided to forgo involving stakeholders.

Prior to amending the code, the filtration plant would never have been allowed in our community.

As a result our community is facing a tidal wave of change in the way we work, live and play; 5 years of heavy construction, polluting our clean air, digging up our roads, cutting down precious trees (300 known), the taking of citizens property by eminent domain and trashing our already impoverished roadways that were never designed to support industrial traffic. Emergency Services as well as the school buses will be greatly impaired due to 100's of thousands of heavy trucks related to construction . Once the plant is built we will be faced with heavy trucks carrying hazardous materials. Children walking or being dropped off or picked up at schools, bicyclists, joggers and walkers will face safety issues due to the lack of any shoulders on our roads.

To be sure the PWB had a suitable alternative site. In 2018 a memorandum, put out by the PWB, identified Powell Butte as a suitable site due to it's elevation, location within the urban growth boundary, greater opportunities for public education and community recreation facilities.

The presence of an existing reservoir was thought to offer significant cost savings. In fact Powell Butte met all the criteria. Just 2 problems: Fear of Public pushback and too many land use requirements within the boundaries of Portland.

It should be noted here that the proposed site in rural east Multnomah County requires no, none, zero environmental impact assessments or statements despite 1.25 million cubic yards of dirt that will be displaced during the course of the proposed project. To put it into prospective that is 378 Olympic sized swimming pools filled with dirt.

My biggest concern is the potential loss of life of someone in our community as a direct result of this plant being constructed.

Our community is looking to you to protect our children, our quality of life, our natural resources and the character of this area.

Thank you