

### **Character of the Area**

[Case File: T3-2022-16220]

The proposal to construct a large, overpriced and unnecessary “Legacy” water treatment plant in the rural part of East Multnomah County should not be allowed. First and foremost, it does not meet Multnomah Counties own guidelines for this protected portion of the County. It does not fit into the rural attributes set aside by Multnomah County for this area. Based on information I have heard and read this proposed water treatment plant raises significant concerns due to the potential safety concerns and negative impact it will have on wildlife, the safety of school children, and its detrimental impact on the families who have invested their life-savings into living in this protected part of Multnomah County. I say it is unnecessary because less expensive options can easily solve the current issues required to be addressed, and approximately 30% of Portland Water Bureaus customers plan to leave in the near future. I believe this is a “Legacy” project, to immortalize those individuals currently in charge of the Portland Water Bureau. I believe that this monstrosity will eventually prove to be an encumbrance to those that follow the current leaders, leaving both Portland and Multnomah County in financial distress.

School Children's Safety: The proposed construction of such a large water treatment plant in the rural area of East Multnomah County would necessitate the transportation of dangerous chemicals, heavy materials and equipment via thousands of commercial truck loads driving by our schools each week. This increased truck traffic poses a significant safety risk to school children in the area. The influx of large vehicles on local roads will cause congestion and traffic hazards, increasing the chances of accidents. Tearing up and shutting down our streets to lay new water pipe will cause further delays to local residents and create hazards for our children. Moreover, the emission of hazardous pollutants from these trucks can contribute to air pollution, negatively impacting the respiratory health of the children and compromising their overall

well-being. Ensuring the safety of our school children should be a top priority, and allowing such a project in close proximity to multiple schools raises legitimate concerns that must not be ignored.

**Wildlife Impact:** The rural areas of East Multnomah County are rich in biodiversity and serve as crucial habitats for various wildlife species – especially Elk, Deer, Geese and Hummingbirds near the proposed plant. Constructing a large water treatment plant in this delicate ecosystem would undoubtedly disrupt their natural habitats. Noise pollution, land clearance, and alterations to local water and vegetation sources can cause significant harm to wildlife populations. The disruption of their natural habitats can lead to imbalances in the ecosystem, affecting the food chain and the overall health of the environment. Species dependent on the affected habitats may be forced to relocate, which can disrupt migration patterns and breeding cycles. In turn, this may lead to a decline in the overall biodiversity and ecological integrity of the region. I believe a full study needs to be conducted before any construction should begin.

**Mismatch with Rural Environment:** The rural part of East Multnomah County is characterized by its tranquil and scenic landscapes, which attract residents seeking solace in nature. The proposed construction of a large water treatment plant in this region would disrupt the serene ambiance that defines the area. The industrial infrastructure, such as large buildings, storage tanks, and pipelines, would clash with the natural beauty of the surroundings, resulting in visual pollution. The introduction of such an industrial facility would undermine the rural charm of the region, deterring visitors and potential residents who are drawn to its picturesque qualities. The local community's cultural identity and livelihoods, often tied to the natural and agricultural heritage, may also be adversely affected, leading to social and economic repercussions.

Considering the potential adverse effects on wildlife, the safety concerns for school children, and the incompatibility with the rural environment, it is clear that building a large water treatment plant in the rural part of East Multnomah County should be strongly discouraged. Alternative locations that prioritize environmental sustainability and minimize the impact on wildlife and communities should be explored. By carefully considering the long-term consequences of such a development, we can strive for a harmonious balance between progress and the preservation of our natural surroundings. It is essential to protect the rural integrity, safety, and ecological well-being of East Multnomah County for the benefit of both current and future generations.

Sincerely,

Dan Brink