

To: PUB Members  
From: Melissa Merrell, PUB Analyst  
Re: Discussion Guide – member comments regarding filtration  
On: August 14, 2018

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At the August 7 PUB meeting, PWB provided an overview of the outreach activities and their alternative analysis for four components of the filtration project: procurement method, location, capacity, and treatment technology. PWB presented this information in a work session to City Council on August 14. Related ordinances will be part of the Council agenda on August 22 and there will be an opportunity for public comment at the time if PUB chooses to provide input.

When this issue was before City Council in Summer 2017, PUB recommended the City use a value-based approach to reach decisions on treatment. Key values included

- safety of the residents, protection of public health, and compliance with federal regulations,
- long-term view of the needs of the City including long-term reliability and supply resiliency,
- balance long-term benefits relative to cost and the chosen technology should be implemented at a reasonable cost to customers with known and predictable rate impacts,
- with full knowledge that this decision will need to be made with imperfect and limited information, all available time should be taken to minimize uncertainty and risk,
- decisions should be made in partnership with the residents of Portland and with a commitment to full engagement throughout the process, and
- the decision should demonstrate a commitment to watershed health and protection which is the best defense for ensuring water quality.

During and following the board meeting on August 7, PUB member feedback included:

### **Process Improvements**

PUB members recognize and congratulate the work that PWB staff have done over the last year and the process they used to evaluate the alternatives. One member participated in part in the analytical review and the presentation to the board demonstrated a thorough and thoughtful process.

### **Community Outreach**

Last year PUB recommended PWB proactively talk with community members about filtration. PWB staff and PUB members attended several neighborhood coalition meetings in the fall and PWB conducted several stakeholder interviews, an online survey, and used several social media platforms over the last year.

PUB members appreciate the improved conversation. They also note some concerns and offer suggestions for continued improvement. Specifically, members

- Noted the reliance on digital communication and concerns with the limited reach to communities without access.
- Requested more information on the Short-term Communication Plan
- Request that community forums similar to last fall continue and PWB talk with communities about their preferred options. PUB would like to be a partner for those meetings.
- Suggest PWB present these options and their process both to the stakeholders who were interviewed as part of the process but also other interested parties such as state regulators.
- With the identification of the preferred location of Carpenter Lane, recommend PWB expand the pool of stakeholders to include conservation groups working in the watershed as well as renewable energy groups.

### **Communicating Preferred Options**

PUB members had two suggestions for enhancing communication of the preferred options:

- Creating tables that simply the trade-offs to communicate to the public. For example, a table that showed each location option and its measure against the evaluation factors.
- Using examples of other local treatment plants to illustrate the options and highlight the pros and cons of each treatment technology to reinforce the preferred alternatives.

### **Equity and M/W/D/ESB Participation**

Members and PWB staff talked about the benefits of the preferred contracting method, Construction Manager/General Contractor, in enhancing PWB's ability to set and meet M/W/D/ESB participation goals. This is an item of interest to members they will monitor.

### **Cost**

PUB recommended these decisions be made balancing long-term benefits relative to cost and implemented at a reasonable cost with known and predictable rate impacts. Members acknowledge that the work to date hasn't yet allowed PWB to narrow the range of the estimated project costs (\$350 million to \$500 million) but encourages costumer impact continue to be part of the evaluation factors as the project continues.