

Water Budget Context and Notes – provided by Cecelia Huynh

Notes on the Preliminary FY 2020-21 Budget Table –

- For the “Significant Changes Anticipated” column, we have noted “yes” if changes to the program efforts are anticipated. We have noted “no” if there are no anticipated changes to program delivery. Note that additional staffing support or funding to assist with the execution of an existing plan or costs expected to increase above inflation, i.e. chemical costs are not considered ‘significant’.
- For the “Potential Hot Topic” column, we have identified the project within the Program Offer that may be of interest to PUB.
- For the “Equity improvements” column, we have noted “yes” if we anticipate equity improvements in the next fiscal year within the Program Offer.
- For the “Brief Description of Anticipated Changes” column, we have included a brief description of the anticipated change and the reason.

Water Budget Process

- The Bureau has been working to develop new performance measures for the Program Offers. The FY 2020-21 Program Offers update will include the new measures, with at least one measure for each offer.
- The Bureau began its FY 2020-21 budget development in September with internal budget guidance to Group Directors to stay within existing service levels and to tie any additional funding or staffing requests to one or more of these areas -- 1) addresses affordability, 2) supports the Strategic Plan, or 3) necessary to support Program Offer performance measures.
- The Bureau’s Management Team met for a week to review the budget requests in late October. The Management Team reviewed individual Group budgets and the proposed Program Offers. Within each program offer, the bureau checked that adequate resources were allocated to meet performance targets, discussed equity opportunities, and considered additional funding and/or staffing requested.
- In addition, the Bureau has been working on the direction for the Bull Run Treatment Program – obtaining Council’s direction on values for the filtration plant and the raw and finished water pipelines. The funding decision for the Bull Run Treatment Program would have significant impact to the FY 2020-21 budget process.
- The Mayor’s budget directive to the Water Bureau is to absorb at least 25% of the estimated rate increase associated with the updated filtration plant costs. Once the Council has voted on a recommended design option, the Bureau can calculate what offsets are necessary to achieve the Mayor’s budget guidance.