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Media Advisory

June 2, 2014
For Immediate Release

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Portland Water Bureau to demonstrate earthquake resistant pipe

WHEN: Tomorrow, Tuesday, June 3, 2014, from 10:00 AM to 12 Noon.

WHAT: A Portland Water Bureau demonstration and installation of an innovative Earthquake Resistant Ductile Iron pipe (ERDI) with moveable joints. Onsite will be representatives of the Kubota Corp., the pipe manufacturer, and representatives of a number of Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver, BC, drinking water providers.

WHERE: SW Council Crest Drive, between SW Patrick Way and SW McDonnell Terrace (West Hills near landslide hazard area). Meet in Healy Park.

WHY: The Portland Water Bureau is investigating ERDI pipe in response to the recommendation of the Oregon Resiliency Plan to improve the ability of the water system to remain usable after a seismic event. ERDI pipe has joints that allow the pipe to elongate or contract as the joints flex during seismic events and other earth movements, such as landslides.

The Portland Water Bureau has two pilot projects to evaluate the installation of the ERDI pipe. At the SW Council Crest Drive location, the bureau is installing 585 feet of 8-inch diameter pipe. The second location, where 845 feet of 6-inch and 8-inch diameter pipe has already been installed, is on SW Northwood Avenue near SW Hessler Avenue.

The Water Bureau chose to use the GENEX brand of Kubota Corp. pipe for its pilot project. No U.S. pipe company is currently manufacturing ERDI pipe. The GENEX pipe has a 45-year history of zero failures in earthquakes in Japan. Kubota Corp. provided the tools and onsite training to Water Bureau staff on how to install it. The cost of the pipe order is \$140,000.

The briefing will start promptly at **10:00 AM** in Healy Park on Council Crest Drive.

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