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News Release

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Portland Water Bureau Increases Groundwater Blend

Beginning today, October 1, the Portland Water Bureau will increase the blend of groundwater from the Columbia South Shore Well Field to approximately 60 percent. Drinking water from the Bull Run watershed and the well field will continue to meet all of Portland's water needs. Portland is not experiencing a water supply shortage. The bureau expects to return to 100 percent Bull Run water after the fall rains begin filling up the Bull Run reservoirs.

Public notification is not required, but the Portland Water Bureau informs the media and sensitive water users, as a practice, when it activates groundwater and when it has significant operational changes. The media and sensitive water users will again be notified when the Portland Water Bureau returns to 100 percent Bull Run water.

Due to a dry spring, above average summer temperatures, and available long-term weather forecasts, the Portland Water Bureau has been using the Columbia South Shore Well Field since July 16 to supplement the Bull Run water supply.

The Columbia South Shore Well Field is a high-quality water supply that meets or surpasses all federal and state drinking water regulations.

"Our job is to deliver high-quality, safe and reliable drinking water to almost one million customers. At the end of an unusually dry spring and summer, we are fortunate to have two water sources that can continue to supply water to all of our customers," said Portland Water Bureau Director Michael Stuhr.

As part of our ongoing supply planning, the Portland Water Bureau carefully monitors water levels, weather forecasts, and water use patterns to manage our water supply throughout the remainder of the dry season.

Weekly supply updates will be posted to www.portlandoregon.gov/water/summersupply. For more information about Portland's drinking water quality, call the Water Line at 503-823-7525.

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