

The Bull Run Filtration Project will remove *Cryptosporidium* and other contaminants from the Bull Run water supply, producing cleaner, safer water for the nearly one million people who use our water today and for future generations. The project is required by the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and must be completed by September 30, 2027, per a bilateral compliance agreement with the Oregon Health Authority.

Learn More

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portlandoregon.gov/bullrunprojects

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Bull Run Filtration Projects Implementation Resolution

At the Nov. 13 Portland City Council Meeting, the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) presented a [resolution](#) to City Council to adopt a set of priority values, expectations, and the recommended option to guide the design and implementation of the City of Portland's Bull Run Filtration Projects.

- Between 2012 and 2017 PWB operated under a [unique variance](#) for *Cryptosporidium* regulations.
- After multiple *Cryptosporidium* detections between January – May 2017, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) notified PWB they would be revoking the variance.
- In August 2017 PWB presented treatment options, including comparative costs, to City Council.
- City Council selected filtration to treat the Bull Run Water supply ([Resolution No. 37309](#)) to comply with the Oregon Health Authority order to treat for *Cryptosporidium* and to provide other significant water quality benefits.
- A Bilateral Compliance Agreement with OHA was signed in December 2017 which included a schedule for the filtration facility to be in operation by September 2027.
- In December 2018, City Council approved [Resolution 37402](#) acknowledging granular media as the filtration technology, with a capacity of 145 to 160 million gallons per day (mgd), and site located in east Multnomah County.
- After extensive planning work, PWB presented a range of options and cost estimates, from minimum compliance to full implementation, at a [September City Council work session](#).



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- The resolution [presented at the Nov. 13, 2019 City Council](#) meeting included a recommended option that will provide PWB further direction on how to proceed with the Filtration Projects.
- The recommended option included:
 - **Target capacity of 145 mgd** to meet most projected peak day demands through 2045
 - **Conventional treatment** including flocculation, sedimentation, and filtration to best handle turbidity events
 - **Ozone** for enhanced water quality and protection from a wide range of current and future risks
 - **Clearwell** (on-site water storage) sized for operational flexibility
 - **Two pipelines into and out of the filtration facility** to maximize gravity flow, reduce future impacts to the filtration facility neighborhood, and provide a more resilient, easier to maintain system
- The difference between the recommended option and full implementation (presented at the [September 2019 Council work session](#)) is capacity – reducing the size by 15mgd and the cost estimate by \$30 million.
- The cost estimate for the recommended option is \$820 million.

- PWB is smoothing the rate impact of this project over the next 8 years - gradually increasing each year to avoid rate spikes.
- The projected typical residential monthly water bills over time:

Water Bill Increase	FY20-21	➔	FY27-28
Current Forecasted Water Bill	\$ 45.25	Gradually Increasing to	\$ 74.60
Recommended Option Increase	\$ 0.51		\$ 6.93
Total Estimated Water Bill	\$45.76		➔

- The projected extreme low-income residential monthly water bills over time:

Water Bill Increase	FY20-21	➔	FY27-28
Current Forecasted Water Bill	\$ 9.05	Gradually Increasing to	\$ 14.92
Recommended Option Increase	\$ 0.10		\$ 1.39
Total Estimated Water Bill	\$ 9.15		➔

- Cost estimates in the early stages of City projects, such as the Bull Run Filtration Project, use a [Project Estimate Confidence Level Rating Index](#) whenever Council approval is necessary before the project scope and specifications are fully known.
- When the design and engineering phase is less than 50% complete, the term “low confidence estimate” is used and project contingencies may range up to or exceed 50%.



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- The design phase for the Filtration Project will begin in 2020 and as the project scope and specifications become more defined, the range of project costs will narrow.
- Project estimate range of accuracy is expected to be within 10%-15% when the project reaches 90% or greater completion of the design and engineering phase.
- City Council will vote on a design contract that includes a \$51 million not-to-exceed maximum ceiling. A future construction contract will have a guaranteed maximum price in 2022 when all project costs will be known.
- PWB will hire consultants for this one-time project to supplement limited internal staff and expertise needed.
- This project will have a Community Benefits Agreement to support creating opportunities for Disadvantaged, Minority-Owned, Women-Owned, and Emerging Small Businesses (DMWESB) firms. The Program Management consultant has committed to achieve 22% participation and the Design consultant has committed to achieve 20% participation.
- The Portland Water Bureau purchased the Carpenter Lane site in 1975 to use for a future water system; the site was selected for the filtration facility in 2018. An analysis of the site selection can be found in the [Bull Run Filtration Project Preferred Alternatives Report](#).
- Applicable land use codes allow the proposed use as a conditional use. Conditions that will need to be met generally relate to consistency with the area and construction and operational impacts on surrounding areas.
- PWB is committed to implementing best practices to limit impacts and is working with the local community on a Good Neighbor Agreement and other measures.
- Wholesaler revenue currently makes up 10% of water sales revenue. At this time only Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) has given PWB clear indication that it is departing.
- With TVWD's departure, wholesaler revenue will only make up 6 to 7% of water sale revenue.



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- We have a robust and expanded financial assistance program to be responsive to our community's needs including:
 - A dedicated financial assistance service team to provide customer service, data gathering and analysis and increase face-to-face outreach with the communities we serve.
 - Recently expanded income qualifications and greater discounts are available for people experiencing extreme poverty.
 - Increased amount on crisis vouchers to help a household get through an unexpected financial crisis that can disrupt any household budget.
 - Up to \$500 assistance annually to income-qualified customers living in multi-family dwellings at risk of eviction, administered through Home Forward's rental assistance program because utility bills are already included in rent.
- PWB continues to seek efficiencies in bureau operations and programs and explore financing options to manage rate impacts.
- Decisions on the Bull Run Treatment Program are guided by community values established through community engagement.
- Community values were developed through interviews with stakeholder groups, focus groups, statistically significant telephone surveys, online surveys completed by more than 1,800 water customers, open houses, and community forums. More than 183,000 people were reached through social media during the values engagement process and feedback continues to inform the program.
- Top community values include:
 - WATER QUALITY - Provide safe, reliable, drinking water to a large population in the metropolitan area.
 - RESILIENCE - Advance the Water Bureau's ongoing efforts to provide a more resilient system.
 - COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT - Implement the project in a manner that is sensitive to community and environmental impacts.
 - COST & VALUE - Provide best value for customers.
- City Council voted and approved the [resolution](#) and an [ordinance for a design contract for the filtration facility](#) at their [Nov. 27 Council Meeting](#).
- Sign up to be notified by email about project updates including meetings and events at: www.portlandoregon.gov/water/BRTPnews



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