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## Media Release

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### **Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership Kick-off Meeting – Regional Water Planning**

The Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership has scheduled a kick-off meeting for a collaborative regional water planning effort on Thursday, September 29 from 4-7 pm at the Newport City Council Chambers. Members of the public are welcome and encouraged to attend the meeting.

Wisely managing water resources is critical for the future of our region and the state. Although the mid-coast region receives nearly 70 inches of rainfall annually, we are currently experiencing water challenges, that if left unaddressed, will intensify over time. Low summer stream flows and limited storage create pressures to meet multiple water needs while maintaining stream flows critical for fish and wildlife. Several water suppliers in the mid-coast region are currently struggling to meet drinking water demands and studies indicate that other water suppliers could have insufficient supplies by as early as 2020. Reliable water supply is also essential to support local industries, especially the fishing, tourism and forest product industries. Because it takes time to thoughtfully consider the competing needs of our water resources, the time to act is now.

To address these challenges, the City of Newport and the Oregon Water Resources Department have teamed together to convene the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership. The Partnership includes diverse interests representing local and tribal governments, community water districts, local businesses, industries, and conservation groups. Working together, the Partnership, will develop an integrated plan to meet long-term water quantity and quality needs, address aging infrastructure and prepare for vulnerabilities including drought, earthquakes and tsunamis.

The Mid-Coast region is one of four areas piloting local integrated water resources planning in Oregon. This new program, which was recommended in the statewide Integrated Water Resources Strategy, supports communities in finding cooperative solutions that consider the water needs of people, the economy, and the environment.

Find more information online at: [www.midcoastwaterpartners.com](http://www.midcoastwaterpartners.com)

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