



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
City of Newport, Oregon
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MEMO

DATE: October 2, 2023
TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Spencer Nebel, City Manager

SUBJECT: Status report for the four-week period ending Friday, September 15

We have officially transitioned into fall. During the past four weeks, I took some vacation time to visit family in Michigan, otherwise it was a busy period.

Highlights of activities over the last four weeks include the following:

- Mayor Kaplan and I met with the Housing Authority, County, and others, regarding the next steps in proceeding with strategic goals for the HB 4123 five-year strategic planning process. Council received an update at the September 18 Council meeting, and will be seeing a draft plan later this fall to address homelessness in Lincoln County over the next five years.
- Participated in a routine Department Head meeting.
- Met with DJ Fox, our new wastewater treatment plant supervisor, on her first day. I am very grateful to have her skillset to run the wastewater treatment plant. We appreciate the efforts of Andrew Grant to get DJ up and running.
- I met with Mayor Kaplan to discuss various processes and procedures as Mayor. I look forward to working with Mayor Kaplan to continue moving issues forward with the City Council. Again, congratulations to Jan Kaplan as Mayor of the City of Newport!
- Participated in a work session with Council on August 21. The City Council heard a report of the plans to proceed with a microbial source tracing study for the Nye Beach outfall; discussed an outreach plan for the Bayfront Parking Management Strategy; and, discussed various steps regarding the development of climate action sustainability objectives.
- Participated in an Urban Renewal Agency meeting.
- Participated in the August 21 regular City Council meeting.
- Held bi-monthly meetings with Jason Malloy, Rob Murphy and Lance Vanderbeck to discuss various departmental issues.
- Met with Justin Scharbrough, Matt Hall, Steve Baugher and Rebecca Morrow to discuss our lawn watering policies. As our wastewater rates increase, we continue to have requests for some sort of accommodation for watering gardens and lawns. One of the options Council could consider, is to use a second meter

for purposes of outdoor watering. We will be bringing this topic to Council as part of an overall water strategy matter.

- I spoke with Peggy Hawker on a number of Dig Deep issues we had during the month.
- Met with the Jason Malloy, Rob Murphy and Tom Sakaris regarding results of reviewing an internal employee complaint.
- Rob Murphy, Tom Sakaris, Barb James, Jody York and I met to review the options for proceeding with a general contract for annual fire sprinkler inspections. As we have done with the fire alarms, we are trying to consolidate all of the inspections for various City facilities into one contract to assure that the work is being completed on an annual basis, as required. We have selected a contractor to proceed with these inspections.
- Held a bi-monthly meeting with Laura Kimberly to discuss Library operations.
- Aaron Collett and I met with the Jason Holland and Don Jones to discuss the bids for the Performing Arts Center phase VII capital improvement plans. One bid was received that exceeded the budget. In discussing the issue with Jason and Don, I suggested that we utilize the funding that Council appropriated for the chiller project to meet the fiscal needs to proceed with this bid. Jason was going to meet with the OCCA Board to determine whether they would support that. This would allow OCCA to shift to raising funds for the chiller and allow the phase VII project to proceed. With the significant investment to date in this project for design, it would be unfortunate if this project could not move forward. Furthermore, OCCA is going to lose one of its grants if the project is not underway by the end of the year. I think this seems like an appropriate action to take.
- Prepared agenda items for the September 5 City Council meeting.
- Conducted a phone screen of a candidate for the public works director position.
- Held a bi-monthly meeting with Steve Baugher to discuss various issues in Finance.
- Was on vacation on Monday, August 28 through Friday, September 1.
- City Hall was closed on Monday, September 4 in observation of Labor Day.
- Participated in a Lincoln County meeting on the winter sheltering plans for this upcoming winter. As you are aware, the County would like to operate two winter shelters -- one in Newport and one in Lincoln City. These shelters would offer nightly housing through the winter months instead of just offering shelter during extreme weather events. The proposal is to provide group housing utilizing two churches and a building that's being acquired by the Housing Authority. The City Council approved funding for this the program at the September 18 City Council meeting.
- Met with Erik Glover and Jason Malloy regarding steps to address the challenges faced by the Library with a particularly belligerent individual camping onsite. As it was reported at the City Council meeting, we had previously set up a meeting to include the District Attorney and CIS to review our ability to enforce certain provisions of the camping policy. This has been a very frustrating situation which has temporarily improved due to the individual camping at a different location. It is important to get some clarity as to how far we can go to address violations of the camping ordinance, and other state laws, regarding trespasses and violations of parking and camping rules.

- Met with Mayor Kaplan to review the agenda for the City Council meeting held on Tuesday, September 5. The work session included a presentation by County Commissioner, Kaety Jacobson, and Health and Human Services Director, Jane Merrill, on a county-wide proposal for winter sheltering; discussed the possibility of utilizing radar cameras for speed enforcement; received an update on public access of GIS information; and, reviewed a report on landing fees at the airport.
- Participated in the regular City Council meeting of September 5.
- Held a bi-monthly meeting with Aaron Collett to review various Engineering issues. Engineering has hired an administrative support person for their department. This will help facilitate matters for that department.
- City Attorney David Allen has been leading the efforts to address liability issues regarding the aquatics center ground settlement issues that have taken place. Technical teams from various defendants and experts hired by the City were on-site to bore down under the pool to soil test the ground to determine the cause of the settlement. Technical crews spent two days conducting this work. I appreciate the efforts of City Attorney, David Allen, coordinating a resolution of these issues, as well as the Parks staff for addressing the closure of the pool, draining it, refilling it, and getting it back into operations.
- Met with the Newport Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Wayne Patterson, to discuss repairs to the City-owned Chamber of Commerce building. One issue discussed was regarding the current building lease which provides that the Chamber do all building maintenance. The Chamber will be asking the City Council to consider certain major improvements to the facility. A report will be forthcoming at a future meeting on the issues with the building, and discussing strategies on how to address these issues.
- Held a staff meeting of the City Manager's Office staff to discuss various operational issues.
- Erik Glover, Barb James, and I met to review proposals to serve as the City's insurance of record. Our new purchasing policy requires that the City periodically go out for proposals for that service. Initially, we requested three-year proposals, but opted not to award a contract. A request for one-year proposals was sent out for consideration. We have selected a new agent for the balance of this fiscal year.
- Mayor Kaplan and I participated in a prep meeting for the presentation regarding Big Creek Dam before the Siletz Tribal Council.
- Jason Malloy, Jovita Ballentine and I met to discuss ongoing concerns with 412 NW 6th Street. Jason is going to draft a response to a complaining neighbor regarding this property.
- Derrick Tokos and I met with Pastor Luke Frechette and representatives of the South Beach Church regarding the possibility of extending the lease for the church. We indicated that we are proceeding with proposals for the redevelopment of the site, and based on the current schedule, it is unlikely we would be able to recommend extension of that lease. If there is a delay in the possible development of the site, South Beach Church might approach the City Council on a short-term extension of the lease. They are proceeding with construction of a new church, but the construction and occupancy of a new church will not occur by December 31. They are also exploring other rental options for a temporary church facility.

- Met with Mike Cavanaugh to finalize the Ocean to Bay trail signage project. A route utilizing sidewalks has been identified so that the trail stretches from Agate Beach to the Bayfront. There will be a combination of signage and sidewalk pencil markings identifying this trail for people to make the trek from the ocean to the bay.
- Erik Glover, Steve Baugher, Rebecca Morrow and I met to reinstate our review of water and sewer policies. We anticipate bringing a report to the City Council at a future work session of specific modifications to our current policies and practices. These are long overdue, and will put the City in a better position moving forward.
- Held bi-monthly meetings with Steve Baugher and Erik Glover.
- Participated in a monthly meeting with Jason Holland to discuss various issues with the PAC and VAC.
- Erik Glover and I met to continue the development of our final plan for workplace culture changes. We are going to schedule a follow-up meeting with Department Heads to create a draft plan that will be presented to the City Council later this year.
- Met with Melanie Nelson to select a date for the next round of public works director interviews
- Met with Trish O'Dell about traffic concerns relating to the extension of Biggs Street through 60th Street.
- Mayor Kaplan and I participated in a meeting with County Commissioner Claire Hall, County Administrator Tim Johnson Housing Executive Director Karen Rockwell, CSC Executive Director Pegge McGuire, and City Manager of Lincoln City Daphnee Legarza, to review various steps relating to the five-year plan for addressing homelessness in Lincoln County.
- Participated in our local staff meeting of emergency preparedness.
- Met with Aaron Collett and Steve Baugher on the financing for the phase VII improvements to the Performing Arts Center in preparation for the September 18 City Council agenda packet. Council authorized an award at this meeting.
- Derrick Tokos and I met with Adam Springer and Marvin Selfridge regarding addressing the property issues at Hoover's Bar in South Beach. The City is interested in potentially acquiring one of the buildings located on the Hoover's Bar property, as well as moving a billboard sign that encroaches within the right-of-way. If we can come to terms on these issues, this would help facilitate the entrance plans for the Urban Renewal District.
- Participated in a Department Head training session in dealing with office gossip. Notes from the gossip session include the following:
 - Gossip has to meet that a number of standards including the following:
 - 1.) Gossip is targeted at an individual or group.
 - 2.) The nature of the gossip is negative.
 - 3.) Credibility is affected based on what is being said.
 - 4.) The information sharing is not important to the organization.

Gossipers have a high need to belong by sharing stories about other people, this helps fill that need. It is important that individuals have a zero tolerance to gossip. It is important to avoid gossip. Actions of individuals speak louder than words. Voids of information can get filled with misinformation.

As individuals we are all subject to gossip from time to time. It is important to be aware of the consequences and determine whether you want to take a direct or indirect approach to addressing the gossip. Also, it is important to pick your battles because gossip can impact reputation and careers.

If you hear gossip about others, it is appropriate to defend them, change the topic, ask the direct question “ why are you telling me that?” or leave the conversation. When confronting someone regarding a rumor they are spreading, it is always appropriate to do it in a private setting. Do not accuse, attack or try to intimidate the person sharing the rumors. This this will likely result in an attack back from them. Be clear on your purpose in confronting a rumor, which should be to stop or correct the information. Be clear on expectations, don't bring others into the discussion (for example “ it's been told to me.... “) This brings others into the field of conversation which is not productive towards addressing the issue.

You can also deal with rumors in an indirect approach. Share with the individual initiating the rumors what the true facts are, but do not accuse them of being the basis for these rumors. It should also be noted that silence equates to acceptance of the rumors as being truthful. Letting rumors stand unanswered is not appropriate when rumors are damaging. When dealing with an individual who is the source of a rumor, the following five steps are recommended:

- 1.) Schedule a time to talk to that individual.
 - 2.) Practice what you going to say to that individual.
 - 3.) Determine if you want to confront them directly or indirectly about the rumors.
 - 4.) Sometimes these exchanges can become emotional, so be prepared.
 - 5.) Do not refer to others in your discussion with this individual.
- I spoke with a city manager from California who has expressed interest in the city manager's job here in Newport after my retirement. His has vacationed in Newport in the past, and plans to visit again in December. I indicated I would be happy to meet with him when he is in Newport.
 - Held bi-monthly meetings with Jason Malloy, Rob Murphy and Lance Vanderbeck.
 - Met with an employee in Finance regarding requested unpaid leave.
 - Participated in a planning session for one of the programs that will be held at the LOC conference in Eugene. I will be participating as a panelist. Derrick Tokos has also been requested to be on a panel.
 - Erik Glover and I participated in the OCWCOG's regional City Managers' meeting which was held in Toledo.
 - Derrick Tokos and I participated in the belated dedication of the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation Marine Studies building on September 12. The dedication was led by Edward Feser, Provost and Executive Vice President of Oregon State University, and included remarks from Rob Cowan, Jack Barth, Lisa Balance, David Gomberg and Caron Ogg. During the ceremony remarks, the City was acknowledged for its role to address regulatory issues related to building a tsunami evacuation site in South Beach, as well as the general support

of the City to move this project forward. Family members from the Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation were present. Wayne Valley attended Oregon State University in the 1930s. He was the founding member of the American Football League and principal owner and general manager of the Oakland Raiders from 1961 to 1971.

- Erik Glover, Barb James, Sonia Graham, Melanie Nelson and I met to discuss the split use of Dorinda Howden's time between the 60+ Center and City Manager's office. Dorinda helps on agenda preparation days and Council meeting days in our office and provides support to the 60+ Center on Tuesdays. We wanted to clarify alternate days/times when either facility may use Dorinda's help, and to whom Dorinda should report to.
- Met with Steve Stewart on his interim role as Acting Public Works Director. This role has been divided between Steve and Justin. Unfortunately, Justin has been out for a period of time on a medical issue. Matt Hall is designated to fill in when Justin is out for the field crews. It will be good to get a public works director back in position.
- Participated in a full HB 4123 meeting with Mayor Kaplan and Councilor Jacobi, who serves as alternate on the Advisory Board. The group heard an update on the proposed options for establishing a homelessness navigation center in Lincoln County.
- Prepared agenda materials for the September 18 City Council meeting.
- Met with DJ Fox, Steve Stewart and Barb James on an employee issue at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Mayor Kaplan, Aaron Collett, Steve Stewart and I met in Siletz with the Siletz Tribal Council to provide an update on the Big Creek Dam project. Mayor Kaplan provided a presentation to the Tribe, and Aaron, Steve and I were available to answer questions that followed. Overall, we had a good dialogue with the Tribal Council and the Council seems very supportive of the City's effort to move forward with the new dam. The Tribe is particularly supportive of the concept of a larger reservoir that would reduce the reliance on the Siletz River. They have requested regular updates from the City on this project. Mayor Kaplan did a very good job presenting his remarks to the Tribal Council. A copy of his remarks is included in the attachments for your review.
- Steve Stewart, DJ Fox and I met to review the contracts with SolidsDude contracted services (Andrew Grant), since we now have DJ in the wastewater treatment plant supervisor's position. We will likely continue a support agreement while DJ continues to become familiar with the plant operations. Overall, I believe DJ was a great find for this position. I appreciate Andrew Grant's assistance in keeping things moving forward with the wastewater treatment plant during the time prior to hiring DJ.
- Laura Kimberly and I met regarding the bilingual community engagement specialist job description. We will be providing a report to the City Council on how we plan to utilize this new position to further engage our Spanish-speaking residents within the community. I am also looking at modifying Laura Kimberly's position to be responsible for the City's outreach programs, as well as the Library responsibilities. This would extend our efforts in a more organized way across all departments of the City for outreach to marginalized communities.

- Conducted phone screens for two candidates for the Public Works director. It is my intent to offer a full interview to both candidates.

Upcoming Events:

- I am attending the ICMA Annual Conference in Austin, Texas, from Saturday, September 30 through Wednesday, October 4. Council has excused my attendance at the October 2 City Council meetings. I will be leaving on Friday, September 29. I will be back in the office on Monday, October 9.
- The LOC Annual Conference will be held in Eugene from Thursday, October 12 through Saturday, October 14. Mayor Kaplan and Councilors Goebel, Hall, and Jacobi are registered, along with Erik and myself.
- City offices will be closed Friday, November 10, in observation of Veterans' Day.
- City offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 24 and 25, in observation of Thanksgiving.
- On November 15, 2023, the City of Newport will be hosting an LOC Small Cities meeting at City Hall beginning at 11 AM.
- City offices will be closed a half day on Friday, December 22 and a full day on Monday, December 25, in observation of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.
- City offices will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024 in observation of the New Year's holiday. The City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Attachments:

- Attached is the testimony provided by Mayor Kaplan to the Tribal Council on September 15, as well as the PowerPoint slides giving a description of the project.
- Attached is a communication from Samaritan Health Services regarding a meeting of the neighbors regarding the water tank that is proposed to be built in the Fall Street right-of-way between SW 10th and SW 11th.
- Attached is the labor market report from the State of Oregon Employment Department with various statistics for the five-county Northwest Oregon region.
- Attached is a news article from The Oregonian indicating that Newport was one of the two spots that made the best beach towns in America.
- Attached is an article from The Oregonian outlining the City Council's approval of an ordinance making drug abuse illegal in public, including jail time for this activity. This ordinance was approved acknowledging that state law will need to change before it can be put into effect. This may be something other Cities want to do to pass a message along to the legislature that drug use in public places is posing a problem for our communities. If any Councilors are interested in pursuing that, please let me know and we can spend some additional time taking a look at what Portland did.
- Attached is an article from The Yachats News about the City receiving \$100,000 grant to help the City become more energy resilient. In reading the fine print of the grant, the Mayor indicated that it may be better for Yachats to cut its losses and not accept this grant. It is always important to understand the responsibilities and conditions with any grants prior to applying for these funds. Grants often provide important resources to help move a project forward, but there are often

significant conditions that need to be accepted if a grant is awarded to any local unit of government.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S. R. Nebel", is positioned above the printed name.

Spencer R. Nebel, City Manager

cc: Department Heads

**Public Testimony Prepared for Mayor Kaplan to Deliver to Tribal Council at
the September 15, 2023 Council Meeting Regarding the Big Creek Dam Project**

Chair Pigsley and Members of the Tribal Council, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with an update about the City of Newport's Big Creek Dam Project. It is an honor for us to be here with you.

We are here today to provide an update about the City's work on this project since we last provided a formal update to you in 2020. In addition, we also will want to hear from you regarding the frequency and methods in which you would like to be kept informed as this critical project moves forward.

I wanted to share a brief history of the Big Creek problem and solutions to address the problem. In 2010, the City initiated design of a new water treatment plant located just to the south of the Lower Big Creek Dam. Ground borings were conducted and it was determined that the soils in the vicinity of the dams were high in silts and liquefaction would occur during a seismic event. There were concerns that the same soils might exist under the Big Creek Dams. In 2011, additional borings were conducted at both dam sites. In 2013 a report on geotechnical investigation and seismic evaluation concluded that the same soils existed under the dams and deformation and failure of the dams may occur with even a moderate seismic event. The State of Oregon concluded that both dams were potentially unsafe.

Since that time, the City has reviewed various options including alternate water sources, dam repair or dam replacement. The City Council received a report in June 2015 that evaluated options to

address the problem and determined that the best alternative is to replace the two earthen dams with a roller compacted concrete dam. Preliminary design was initiated to determine the feasibility of constructing this dam.

In 2018, the City brought together a team of experts from other engineering firms, the State of Oregon and others to provide a technical evaluation of the preliminary design considerations. Through this effort a number of design considerations were recommended including increasing the volume of water that can be stored in the reservoir. Considering input from tribal staff through the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership, the City also incorporated the concept of increased storage capacity into a value engineering study it conducted in 2018 to reduce reliance on the Siletz River.

Had the Tribe not provided this feedback through the partnership activities, the City might not have considered the increased storage option, or been able to justify the increased cost to construct a taller dam.

In 2021, the state dam engineer increased the original safety designation of the upper dam from “Potentially Unsafe” to “Unsafe” due to the discovery of advanced seepage occurring at the spillway. Since the seepage was identified, the City has addressed the most immediate problem with short-term solutions to help prolong the viability of the earthen upper dam while the proposed new dam is being designed and constructed.

That same year, through the efforts of Representative Gomberg and Senator Anderson, the City was awarded \$14M in state lottery bonds for the 2021-2023 biennium budget cycle. To date, the state has appropriated \$4M of the \$14M authorization, with the remaining \$10M expected to be appropriated later this year. This is allowing the city to

proceed with various aspects of design and permitting for replacing the earthen dams and will allow us to ramp up our public outreach efforts with the Tribe and others to gain insight from various stakeholders on how best to accomplish this project.

We have also had some great news on eligibility of funding for actual dam construction as well. In 2022, US Congressman Kurt Schrader included the project in a House Bill for the Water Resources Development Act, requesting a \$60M Authorization for the dam project. The Bill passed the House but was not included in the Senate version of the bill. The City pushed in November 2022 to ask the federal delegation to keep the project in the final Joint Bill, which combines the priorities for both House and Senate Chambers. After much hard work by U.S. Senators Wyden and Merkley and their staff, and with the support of the Siletz Tribe and others, the project was included in the Joint Bill (WRDA 2022), which was passed and signed by President Biden in December 2022.

As you know, receiving authorization through Congress and getting funds appropriated are two very different things. The authorization only means the City has “permission” to request up to \$60M in federal funding; the hard work to secure federal funding has only just begun. In May 2023, City representatives went to Washington DC to work with Senators Wyden and Merkley, and Congresswoman Hoyle to find workable solutions to the funding limitations. We also met with representatives of FEMA, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to discuss the federal grant programs that the City plans to pursue in 2023 and 2024 to help reach the authorized \$60M federal cost-share.

Representative Gomberg and Senator Anderson helped get a water rights bill (HB 3211-A) passed this year and signed by the Governor,

which will help expedite the transfer of water storage rights on Big Creek to accommodate the location of the proposed new dam.

I want to thank you for the consultation, recommendations, and support the Tribe has provided since the inception of this planning process. This support has been critical in receiving State and Federal commitments for this project. It's important to me that you know how much we value your input.

You've made other critical contributions, including active participation in several planning meetings in 2021 and 2022 to explore the region's best possible fish passage mitigation projects. The Tribe's collaborative efforts and engagement have been very helpful during the preliminary planning phase, and we look forward to continued consultation as the planning evolves.

We know that protecting –and enhancing—the flows in the Siletz River is a major driver for the Tribe as it considers long-term implications of the Big Creek Dam Replacement Project. The City Council remains committed to a long-term strategy to reduce the impact on the Siletz River, and leave the River better protected in the future than it has been in recent years.

While we work toward a long-term solution, the City will continue its modified practices on drawing water from the Siletz River. The City's longstanding practice was to wait until the water levels dropped in the Big Creek Reservoir, then pump water from the Siletz River to refill the reservoir. This resulted in pumping water from the Siletz when the river was at its lowest level. We are now pumping water earlier in the year when the flows of the Siletz are higher and turning off the pump station when the water levels are lowest in the river, relying on stored

water in the reservoirs to make it through the dry season. A larger reservoir will reduce the reliance on the Siletz River in the future.

Water connects us all. I want you to know that the Big Creek Dams Project goes beyond securing our City's water future. It will also help secure the future of the natural environment for the Tribe and every person in this region.

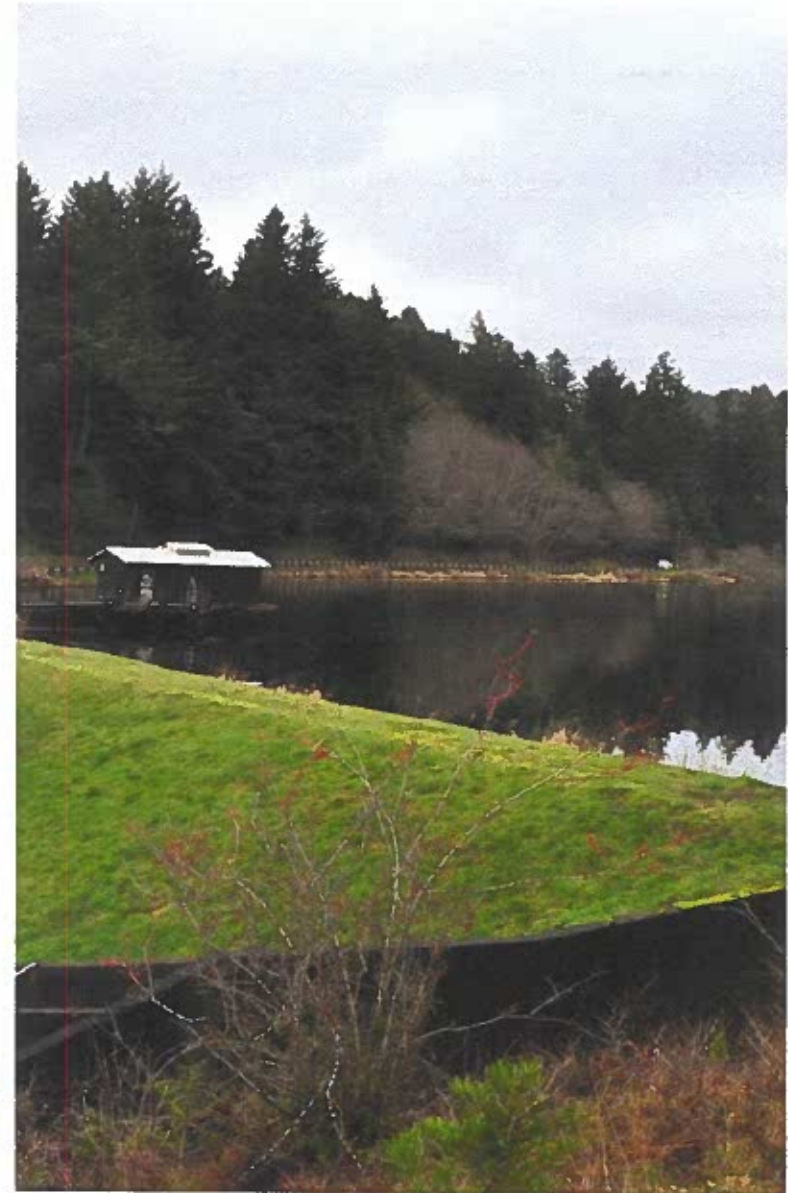
Because of this critical connection, the City respectfully requests the Tribe's continued consultation and guidance about environmental considerations throughout the design phase. In addition, now that the project is progressing again, we are committed to keeping the Tribe informed with project updates. Let us know how we can best collaborate on the dam project as we move forward.

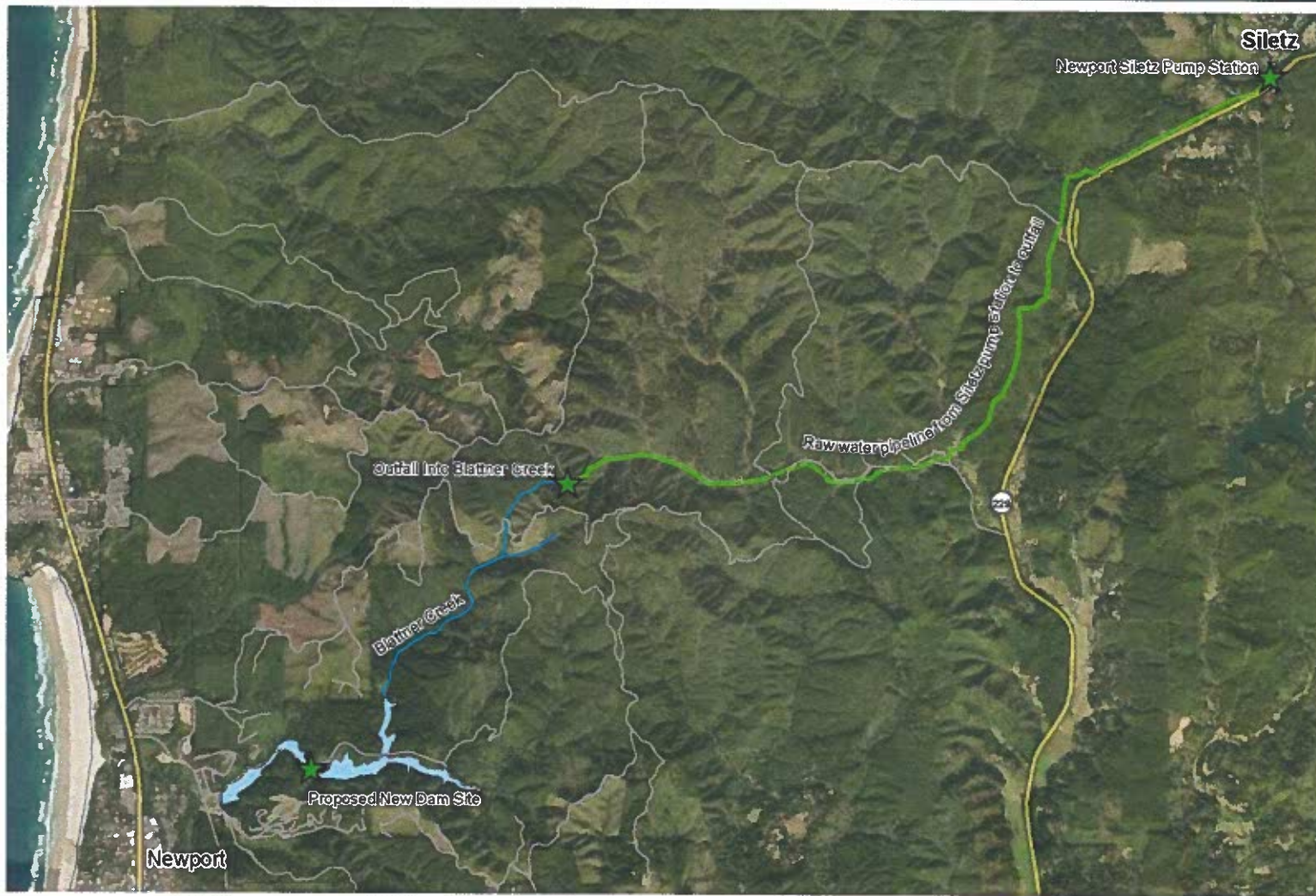
Today I am joined by the City Manager, Spencer Nebel; City Engineer, Aaron Collett, and the Water Treatment Plant Manager, and Acting Public Works Director, Steve Stewart, who are happy to answer any operational or design-related questions you might have. Also present is Renee Morris from our consultant HDR who will be focusing on community outreach as we go forward with the permitting and design of this critical project.

Thank you for this opportunity and your time today. We look forward to seeking consultation from the Tribal Council on a more regular basis.

BIG CREEK DAMS PROJECT UPDATE

Confederated Tribes of the Siletz | Tribal Council
September 15, 2023

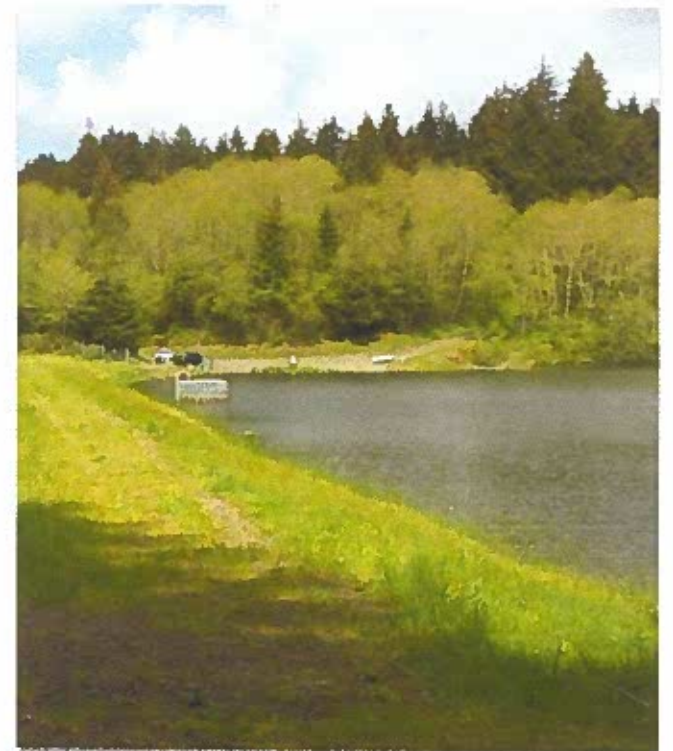






BACKGROUND

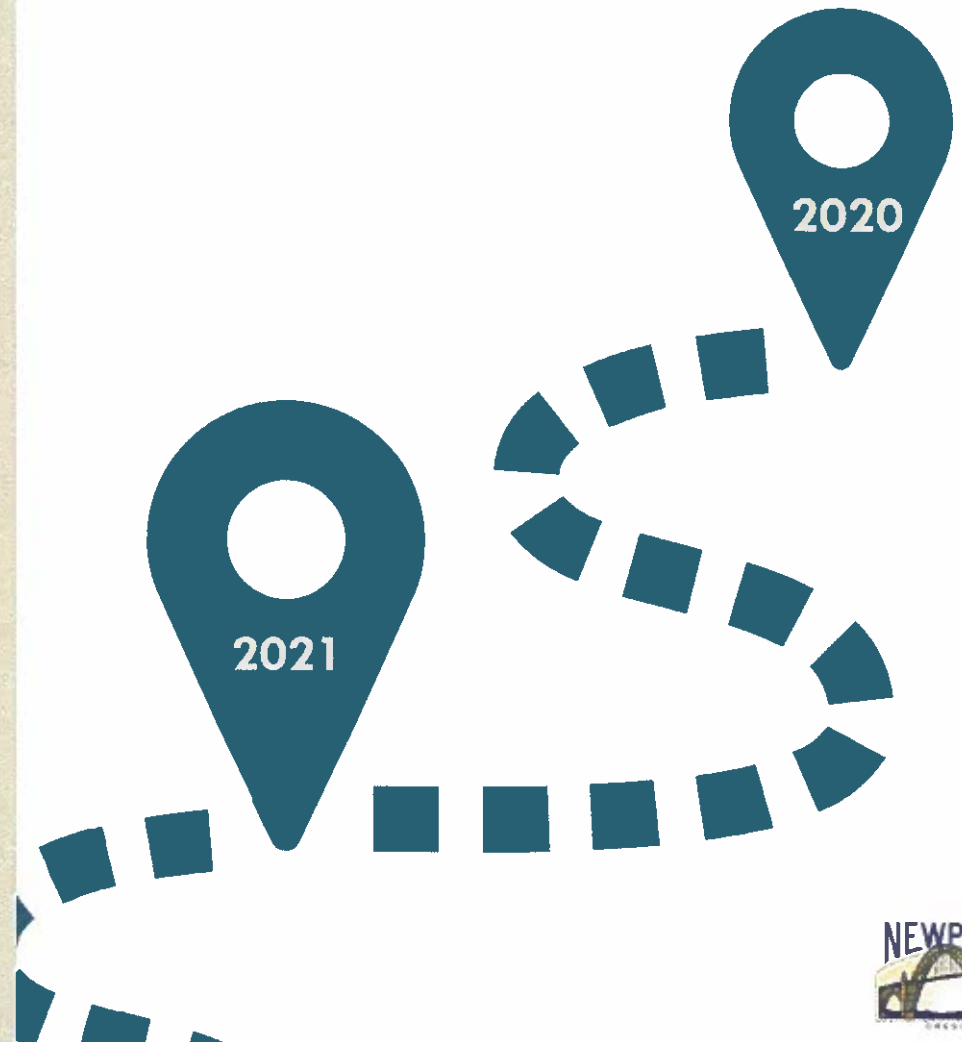
- ⚠ One of the top four high-hazard dams in the state
- 📁 Extensive fundraising and outreach efforts
- 📖 Preliminary design and alternative evaluations to address the problem
- 📊 Value engineering study completed in 2018 to identify the best mitigation option
- 💧 A plan to increase the new dam's storage capacity for additional water supply





SINCE THEN: 2021

- Upper dam moves from “Potentially Unsafe” to “Unsafe”
- City awarded \$14M in state lottery bonds
 - \$4M appropriated
 - \$10M expected later this year (2023)





SINCE THEN: 2022 - 23

2022

- House Bill for the Water Resources Development Act requested a \$60M Authorization
- Project included in the Joint Bill (WRDA 2022)
- Bill passed and signed in December 2022

2023

- Funding limitation discussions in Washington DC
- Grant program discussions with FEMA, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- State Water Rights Bill (HB - 3211-A) passed



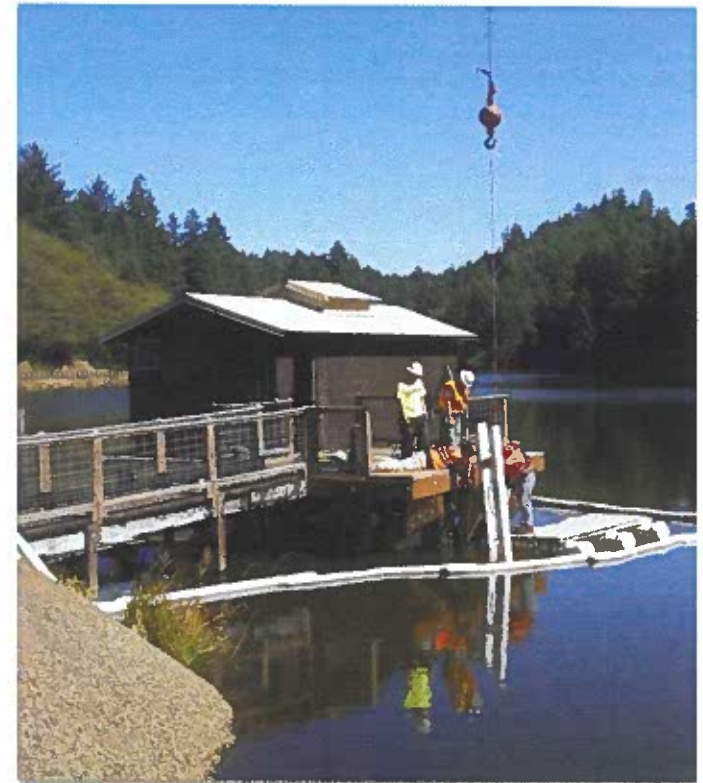


MODIFIED PRACTICE:

DRAWING FROM THE SILETZ

- Used to wait until water levels dropped
- Now, pump earlier in the year and turn pump stations off when the river is low
- City relies on stored water through the dry season

A larger reservoir will reduce the reliance on the Siletz River in the future





OUR PARTNERSHIPS



Collaborative efforts have been essential to planning



Protecting Siletz River flow is a major consideration of the project

City Council is committed to reducing project impact on the River and leaving it better protected in the future





CONNECTED BY WATER



Big Creek Dams Project secures the future of the natural environment for this region



The City respectfully requests your continued consultation and guidance



We are committed to keeping you informed with project updates

*How can we best
collaborate
moving forward?*



THANK YOU

MAYOR JAN KAPLAN

j.kaplan@newportoregon.gov



Aug. 31, 2023

Dear neighbor,

Please join us at a small group meeting to discuss the Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital's (Hospital) proposed project to build a seismically resilient water storage tank located on City property within the Fall Street right-of-way between SW 10th and 11th Streets. As you might know, an initial neighborhood meeting was held June 20, 2023 to discuss this project. The proposed water storage facility will:

- serve as a dedicated supply to the Hospital in the aftermath of a major seismic event that disrupts the City water distribution system, and
- supply the West Bayfront Pressure Zone water system during non-emergencies times.

Why is the Project Needed? A large-scale earthquake (eg. 9.0 magnitude) would cause significant damage to Big Creek reservoirs, the local treatment plant, and the City's drinking water distribution system. Drinking water would likely be unavailable to City residents for months.

A reliable potable water source would be vital for the Hospital to offer lifesaving care to City residents in the aftermath of this type of natural disaster.

Upcoming Meeting. Since the June meeting, we have received several important questions from residents in this community, including those about why this site was selected for the project. The Project team will hold a second neighborhood meeting to help explain the rationale for proposing this site over its alternatives. We know this is an important issue that impacts you and your family. We want to answer your questions and hear your concerns. We hope you can join us.

Meeting Date: Weds., Sept. 27, 2023

Meeting Place: Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital, Center for Health Education

Meeting Time: 5:00-6:30PM

Questions? So we can thoughtfully answer your questions about the project, please email us your inquiries in advance of the meeting. Please email your questions to Mr. Jon Conner at jconner@samhealth.org by Sept. 17. We'll do our best to address these questions at the meeting.

Sincerely,

Jon Conner
Director of Plant Operations
Samaritan Health Services

Technical Memorandum

Date:	8/30/2023
To:	Jon Conner
CC:	Aaron Collett, PE
Prepared By:	Scott Duren, PE
Reviewed By:	Jennifer Rogers
Project:	Fall Street Reservoir
Subject:	Alternative Selection Summary

1.0 Purpose and Background

The Pacific Communities Health District (PCHD), Samaritan Health Services (SHS), and City of Newport (City) have developed a project concept to improve the ability of Lincoln County to respond to a major seismic event by providing a seismically resilient water service for the Samaritan Pacific Communities Hospital (Hospital). If no action is taken, the City water system is vulnerable to extensive damage and unlikely to be capable of providing potable water for many months following a seismic event, leaving the City and southern Lincoln County with severely limited emergency health services for an extended time, right when it is most needed in the aftermath of a major natural disaster.

The preferred project for improving water resiliency at the Hospital would include the construction of a 375,000 gallon water storage tank within the Fall Street right-of-way between SW 10th and 11th Streets. The location of the tank is in a residential neighborhood and initial outreach to homeowners has led to questions regarding what other alternatives were considered and why the proposed location was determined to be the most favorable. This memo provides a summary of the alternatives that were considered and the reasoning for selecting the Fall Street location. PCHD, SHS, and the City want to be transparent in the considerations for the project.

2.0 Alternatives Considered

In late 2020, the project team conducted an initial screening of potential solutions to provide water resiliency for the hospital. Solutions included on-site storage, transferring water from off-site storage locations that are seismically resilient, or developing an independent supply for the

Hospital that could be used in emergency conditions. Of the preliminary alternatives evaluated, the use of an on-site tank for storage was the only alternative that passed all of the screening criteria, which included cost, reliability, and operational complexity. A summary of the alternatives and the fatal flaws are provided in Figure 1.



Figure 1. Alternatives Preliminary Screening

Several options were considered for a dedicated storage tank for the Hospital. Initial analysis was limited to locations within the Hospital site or on adjacent property owned by PCHD. Engineering concepts were developed for each alternative to assess construction costs, operational considerations, and identify any potential fatal flaws.

During this process, the City introduced the additional location within the Fall Street right-of-way as a location at a higher elevation that would improve the ability to integrate the tank into the City distribution system. Each of the locations that were investigated are provided in Figure 2 below.



1 Fall Street Right-of-Way

Benefits: Higher elevation improves pressures in Bayfront
Challenges: Impacts to neighbors, unknown geotechnical conditions

2 Hospital Parking Lot

Benefits: No property acquisition
Challenges: Pumping required to Bayfront, loss of limited parking

3 PCHD Vacant Lot

Benefits: No property acquisition
Challenges: Pumping required to Bayfront, smaller tank volume due to property geometry

4 Underground at Helipad

Benefits: No property acquisition, no visual impacts
Challenges: Pumping required to Bayfront, pump suction limitations, significantly higher costs

Figure 2. Locations Considered for Seismically Resilient Storage Tank

The ground surface at each of the locations on the Hospital or adjacent PCHD property are approximately at an elevation of 116 feet. The operational concept of the tank is to keep it full until an earthquake is detected, at which point it is isolated from the distribution system. To maintain water quality, the water in the tank should be turned over every 5-7 days. To do this, the City would modify the distribution system to route water provided in the Bayfront through the tank. Each of the locations near the hospital would require a pumping station to boost pressures into the Bayfront whereas the location on Fall Street is nearly 50 feet higher in elevation and would not require pumping. The City

All of the proposed tank locations near the hospital will require a pumping station that presents challenges and risks to the Bayfront distribution system.

indicated that existing piping in the Bayfront is in poor condition and there were significant concerns related to the potential for pressure surge and increased pipe breaks if a pump station was used. The City has also had challenges with pressure fluctuations with the existing gravity

supply in the Bayfront pressure zone that requires multiple pressure relief valves in series. The addition of a pump station supply into the zone will add complexity and potential for pressure variations. The locations near the Hospital would also require an emergency pump station to provide sufficient pressure under emergency operating conditions when the tank is supplying water.

The potential Alternative 2 location in the Hospital parking lot and the Alternative 3 location are anticipated to be significantly lower in capital cost as compared to a below ground tank underneath the Helipad. Location 2 and 3 are both anticipated to require excavation of the native soils down to 20 feet below ground surface so that they can be backfilled and compacted to improve the soils beneath the tank and to create a seismically resilient foundation. One of the challenges with Location 2 is that it would reduce the available parking at the Hospital. Location 3 is within a narrow parcel that can only accommodate a smaller diameter tank while meeting setback requirements, which will reduce the available volume for the hospital.

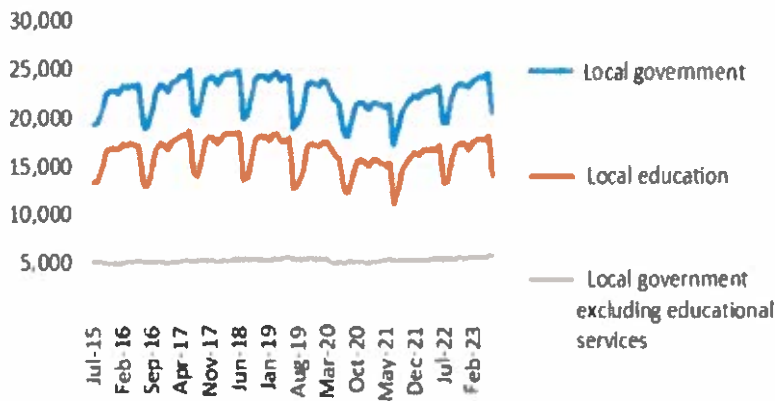
3.0 Conclusion

The selection of the Fall Street tank location was primarily driven by hydraulic considerations for integrating the tank into the City system. Each of the potential sites near the hospital would require a pumping station to boost pressures into the Bayfront whereas the location on Fall Street is nearly 50 feet higher in elevation and would not need a pump station. The City is concerned that a pumped supply into the Bayfront pressure zone would create pressure fluctuations that could damage aging water mains that are known to be in poor condition. While the challenges at Locations 2 and 3 are not fatal flaws, additional investigation and analysis would be necessary to demonstrate to the City that these locations can be integrated into the existing distribution system without creating new operations challenges.

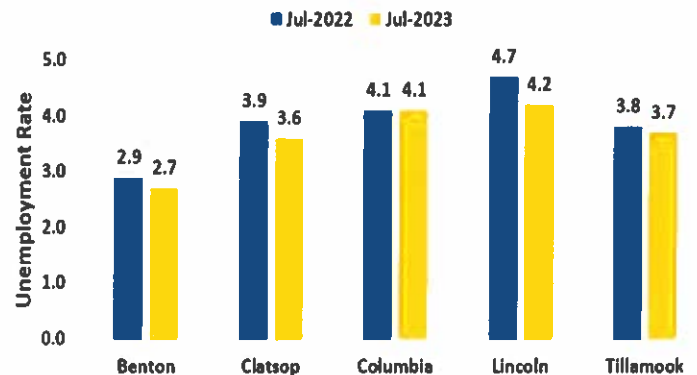
Northwest Oregon Economic Indicators

For Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln & Tillamook Counties August 2023 (July 2023 Data)

Components of Local Government Employment,
NW Oregon, July '15-July '23

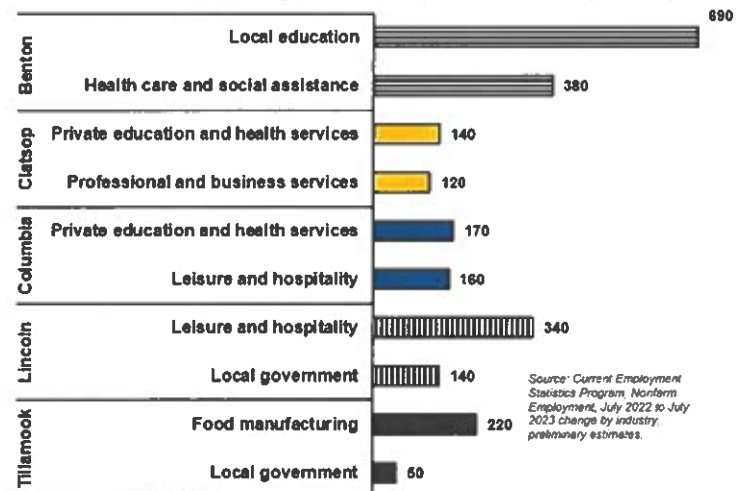


Local Area Unemployment Rates
(Preliminary Estimates, Seasonally Adjusted)



Source: Oregon Employment Department Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Industries Adding the Most Jobs in Past Year by County



Source: Current Employment Statistics Program, Nonfarm Employment, July 2022 to July 2023 change by industry, preliminary estimates.

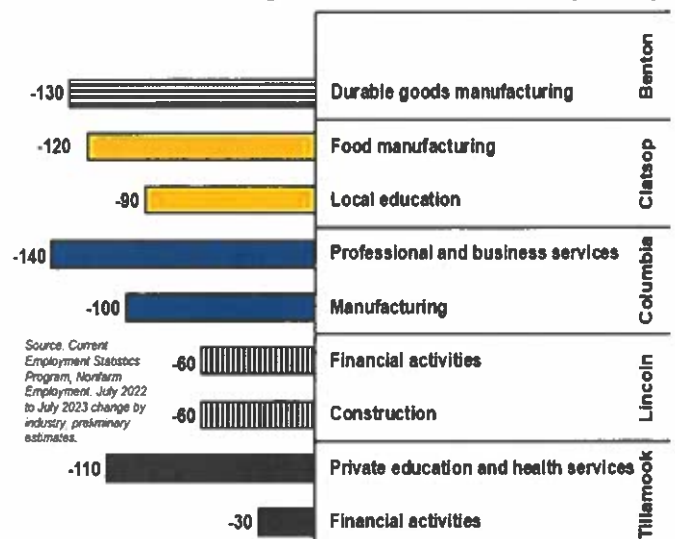
Graph of the Month

This month we are taking a look at the primary components of local government employment. As teachers leave work for summer vacation, the employment levels in government sharply decline. However, the change in government employment over the year is minimal, which tells us that this decrease in employment was expected and is a normal seasonal movement. The graph above shows how this seasonal fluctuation in education really defines the local government sector as a whole. Much like we saw a large decrease in government employment in July, expect to see a large increase in September as teachers return.

Key Takeaways

Unemployment rates continue to decrease across the region, nearing record lows. Summer seasonal employment shifts are in full swing. Leisure and hospitality continues towards its peak employment levels, surpassing last year's employment levels in Lincoln and Columbia counties. On a month-to-month basis, much of the NW lost jobs, primarily due to decreases in local government employment. For more information on why that decrease in employment is expected, see the graph of the month above.

Industries Losing the Most Jobs in Past Year by County



Source: Current Employment Statistics Program, Nonfarm Employment, July 2022 to July 2023 change by industry, preliminary estimates.

For more economic or labor market data or to be added to this monthly email list, contact:

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TRENDING

Two Oregon spots made the list of best beach towns in America

Published: Sep. 02, 2023, 7:00 a.m.



A flock of sanderlings flies along the surf at the Bandon State Natural Area. Jamie Hale/The Oregonian

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By [Lizzy Acker | The Oregonian/OregonLive](#)

Summer may be on its way out but that doesn't mean it's too late to go to the beach. Especially not the Oregon beach, which is barely ever warm anyway.

But, where to go along Oregon's long and beautiful coastline? Well, according to a new list from [Trips to Discover](#), you might want to head south. That's because Bandon in Coos County [was recently listed among the website's "20 Best Beach Towns in America."](#)

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If You're a S

Or, if you want to go a little less south, try the other Oregon destination on the list: Newport.

The list, which includes warm and sunny beach destinations in Florida, California and Hawaii among others, isn't a ranking so much as a roundup of great beach towns, which means Bandon and Newport are basically listed at the same level as Carmel-by-the-Sea and Haleiwa.

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Why did they pick Bandon?

"The spectacular seaside beauty of Bandon has been drawing visitors since the mid-19th century, some of which decide to never leave," wrote Trips to Discover of its choice. "This tiny town on the southern coast of Oregon is a quintessential beachside destination with shorebirds, ospreys, geese, and bald eagles hanging out in a pristine salt marsh just east of downtown, while tufted puffins, murres, and cormorants frequent the waters of the ocean just off Coquille Point."

It's true, Bandon is a year-round destination for wildlife viewing and cute town visiting. And, it has one of the best golf courses in the world.

If you're inspired to visit the southern Oregon coast town, now that it is on a national list, here are 20 things to do while you're there.

As for Newport, wildlife and views are also mentioned, as well as the many fun activities for kids and families.

"It's home to numerous kid-friendly attractions like the Oregon Coast Aquarium and the Hatfield Marine Science Center along the Bayfront," Trips to Discover wrote. "You can also watch sea lions and spend time on idyllic sandy beaches building sandcastles, flying kites, and all the other usual beach-type activities."

Heading to Newport? We've got 20 fun things to do there, too.

— Lizzy Acker

503-221-8052; lacker@oregonian.com; [@lizzzyacker](#)

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Portland City Council passes open-use drug ban



The Portland City Council passed an open-use drug ban Wednesday with a unanimous vote.

By [Paulina Aguilar](#) and [Chandler Watkins](#)

Published: Sep. 6, 2023 at 4:51 PM PDT | Updated: Sep. 6, 2023 at 10:18 PM PDT



PORTLAND Ore. (KPTV) - The Portland City Council passed an [open-use drug ban Wednesday](#) with a unanimous vote.

The ordinance won't alter BM 110, which was passed by voters in 2020 and decriminalizes the possession of hard drugs and will go into effect as soon as it's authorized by the Oregon Legislature or a court approves the ban.

The Portland City Council passed an open-use drug ban Wednesday with a unanimous vote.

While there's already an ordinance to ban drinking alcohol in public, the new ordinance would add controlled substances. Those who violate the ordinance could face a fine up to \$500 or spend six months in jail.

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SEE ALSO: [DEA agent charged in death of Salem cyclist](#)

During public testimony, local business leaders from across Portland expressed their frustrations in how drug use has affected them.

Jeff Miller, CEO of Travel Portland, says in 2019 hotel occupancy was 85-90% in the summer. Now four years later, occupancy is at 63%. Miller says he believes the decrease in hospitality is linked to drug dealing and usage.

"Most cities rebook 70% of those conventions in Portland. We've rebooked 30%. They said we're not coming back. Portland is too dangerous," says Miller. "If leisure in business travel do not come back you as a city, and we as an organization will see those revenues dropped dramatically."

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David Friedericks of Portland Fire & Rescue Station 1 says his station alone responded to a total of 76 overdose calls over Labor Day weekend and calls the high volume of calls is disheartening.

"In some cases we treat the same patient in the same week. And we know through our partners of AMR, that the same patient has overdosed multiple times in a day," says Friedericks. "I know that even when we try to help, our help is unwanted, wares on all of us."

Tony Vezina of 4D Recovery Services says he doesn't think the ban will be efficient.

"It may just kind of hide addicts. I was an addict; I was on the street before I had to hide," says Vezina. "It may create a limited intervention that is only applied to people we can see in downtown Portland smoking in front of businesses using fatal or high addictive drugs."

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Vezina believes there needs to be a sensible intervention and bring in additional resources to prevent people from getting addicted provide treatment are and provide long-term recovery support.

"Today is actually a very important day in the history of Portland," Commissioner Mingus Mapps said. "All five members of council came together basically to ask the state legislature to give us the authority to regulate something as straight forward as whether or not you can smoke fentanyl on sidewalks, in parks, public parking garages."

ie new

;) who
will be talking in our colleagues down in Salem and to the Governor, urging them to take this up in the short session. I believe this is a no brainer, that the legislature can knock out literally in an afternoon. Then once they do, that actually gives the city of Portland and every other city council across the state

of Oregon the power to begin to regulate when or where people do hard drugs. Frankly, I would anticipate most jurisdictions, including the city of Portland, would say please do not smoke fentanyl on public sidewalks, in public parks, in public school grounds and public garages."

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"I think there is going to be multiple steps here," Commissioner Rene Gonzalez said. "One is we are asking the legislature to take this up in the next legislative session. Second, I hope this gets the focus back on behavioral health in the region and how important it is to both get a sobering station up and running and other behavioral health assets in the City of Portland. We need to keep an eye on those pieces. Third, folks who are selling fentanyl and meth on the streets of Portland we need to go after in a very real way from a criminal justice perspective. All those things need to happen simultaneously. Not just one. It's going to take multiple steps to address this issue."

SEE ALSO: [Judge allows flavored tobacco ban to move forward in Multnomah County](#)

Commissioner Dan Ryan says he hopes the city and Multnomah County can also work together to address the issue.

"What's next is that the Mayor and the Chair, the city and the county, need to work together," said Ryan. "Community safety is a joint effort. We are the first responders. The county is where we take people to treatment centers, to jail if necessary. That's where the judicial system is, the courts. We need to work together on this as a team. I really hope the Mayor and the Chair bring us together and have a special session of our own locally. I really hope the state legislature gets it right in the short session. We obviously did it backwards; what we needed with Measure 110 was treatment centers first and then we could look at the decriminalization."

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Fox 12 was not able to speak with Commissioner Carmen Rubio following the council meeting. She did provide the following statement:

"Public spaces are created to provide all Portlanders, regardless of who you are, with safe and secure places to gather and enjoy each other and our city. I support the need to restrict public consumption of controlled substances, just like we regulate the public consumption of alcohol and cannabis. This ordinance will allow our police officers to stay focused on the most dangerous drugs currently on our streets."

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567-2023

Emergency Ordinance

***Amend Public Order and Police Code to add provisions regulating the consumption of controlled substances on public property (amend Code Sections 14A.50.010 and 14A.20.060)**

Referred

The City of Portland ordains:

Section 1. The Council finds:

1. The City Code currently prohibits the open consumption of alcohol on streets, sidewalks, and public rights-of-way.
2. On November 3, 2020, Oregon voters passed Measure 110, which reduces penalties for drug possession, making Oregon the first state to decriminalize the personal possession of controlled substances.
3. For possession of smaller amounts of controlled substances, Measure 110 reduces the penalty from the criminal misdemeanor level to a new, Class E violation.
4. The City has a compelling interest to ensure public spaces are free from the open consumption of controlled substances, in the same way the City Code already regulates the open consumption of alcohol in public.
5. The City also supports alternatives to criminal punishment whenever practical when enforcing the City Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Council directs:

- A. Portland City Code Sections 14A.50.010 and 14A.20.060 are amended as set forth in Exhibit A.

Section 2. The Council declares that an emergency exists to address immediately the impacts to the public health, safety, and welfare caused by the open consumption of controlled substances in the same manner as the open consumption of alcohol; therefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage by the Council.

Introduced by

[Mayor Ted Wheeler](#)

Contact

Stephanie Howard
Mayor's Director of Community
Safety

✉ stephanie.howard@portlandoregon

Requested Agenda Type

Time Certain

Date and Time Information

Requested Council Date

June 28, 2023

Requested Start Time


3:45 pm

Time Requested

1 hour

Changes City Code

Documents and Exhibits

 [Exhibit A \(https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/council-documents/2023/draft-ordinance-public-order-police_1.docx\)](https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/council-documents/2023/draft-ordinance-public-order-police_1.docx) 15.95 KB

Impact Statement

Purpose of Proposed Legislation and Background Information

This ordinance will modify existing City code (14A.50.010) to add certain prohibited acts in public spaces related to the use and consumption of certain controlled substances. The city has seen a sharp rise in the public consumption of fentanyl and methamphetamine to the detriment of the safety and livability of the City.

Financial and Budgetary Impacts

The change does not call for hiring above and beyond current programs, nor does it call for the expansion of any program.

Community Impacts and Community Involvement

This ordinance will impact the health, safety, and welfare of Portlanders.

100% Renewable Goal

Not applicable.

Budget Office Financial Impact Analysis

This action amends City Code to prohibit or to consume a controlled substance on public property, or any street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way. Violating the provision will result in conviction that is punishable by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or by both. The ordinance also adds language to City code that alternatives to criminal punishment may be imposed whenever practicable. It is difficult to quantify the potential impacts to the City's budget that would result from the proposed code changes. However, the changes could result in increased costs if enforcement reaches levels that impact city services and programs impacted by the time, place, and manner restrictions. Calls for persons violating the proposed code changes are expected to be treated as low-priority calls, in most instances. The calls are not expected to draw officers away from responding to higher priority calls.

At this point, it is expected that the Circuit Courts will be addressing the citations. According to the Mayor's Office, they also have agreed to support the District Attorney's efforts to identify alternatives to criminal or financial penalties for those cited. Due to timing constraints, CBO was unable to explore the alternative strategies that could be offered to people convicted under the proposed code changes.

Agenda Items

567 Time Certain in [June 28, 2023 Council Agenda](https://www.portland.gov/council/agenda/2023/6/28)
(<https://www.portland.gov/council/agenda/2023/6/28>)

Referred to Commissioner of Finance and Administration

Exhibit A

14A.50.010 Alcohol and Controlled Substances on Public Property and Public Rights-of-Way.

A. It is unlawful for any person to drink alcoholic liquor, or to consume a controlled substance as defined by ORS 475.005, upon any public property, or any street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way.

B. It is unlawful for any person to have in ~~his~~their possession while upon any street, sidewalk, or other public right-of-way any bottle, can, or other receptacle containing any alcoholic liquor which has been opened or a seal broken or the contents of which have been partially removed.

C. This Section does not apply to prohibit the consumption of alcoholic liquor in sidewalk cafes which have been issued permits under Chapter 17.25 of this Code, or to medication being taken at the direction of a prescriber, as defined in ORS 414.351.

D. This Section does not prohibit the use of alcohol in the street area where a Community Event Street Closure–Alcohol Allowed permit has been issued by the Bureau of Transportation under PCC Chapter 17.44 provided the Permittee is in compliance with all applicable Oregon Liquor Control Commission requirements.

E. As used in this Section, “consume” means to inject, ingest, inhale, or otherwise introduce into the human body.

14A.20.060 Penalty for Violation.

Unless a different penalty is specifically provided, any violation of any provision of this Title shall upon conviction be punished by a fine of not more than \$500, or by imprisonment of not more than 6 months, or by both. However, no greater penalty shall be imposed than allowed under Oregon law. Further, it is the City’s intent that alternatives to criminal punishment may be imposed whenever practicable for any violation of City Code.

Written Testimony Submissions - Agenda Item 567

Agenda Item	Name	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
567	Josie Kressner	Support	I support this ordinance for the safety of all persons in Portland. It makes so much sense that I'm left wondering why this was not passed back in 2021 when Measure 110 passed. City Council, please pass it.	No	06/23/23 10:22 AM
567	Philip A. Cox	Support	This change in ordinance is critical in battling drug addiction and homelessness in Portland. I am in full support.	No	06/23/23 10:33 AM
567	Anonymous	Support	I support this.	No	06/23/23 12:57 PM
567	Javier Sodo	Support	I support this common sense measure. If public alcohol consumption is prohibited why would we allow public use of illicit drugs? Vote yes.	No	06/24/23 2:07 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	Please make it illegal to consume illegal drugs in Portland. Look at where Portland has gone since measure 110 passed. I know drug addicts who had to leave Portland because it's too easy to get and so drugs here. I have seen people literally shooting up in public while walking with younger children and disabled students. We can do better for EVERYONE. Please make it illegal to do illegal drugs in public. What kind of message are we sending to our kids?	No	06/24/23 2:26 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	I am in support of this change. Our city is being destroyed more and more each day. People are starting to fear for their safety.	No	06/24/23 3:21 PM
567	Linda B	Support	Get the drugs off the streets	No	06/24/23 3:50 PM
567	Peggy MCDaniel-HAND resident	Support	Please do make public use of drugs illegal. It's become dangerous- so much more than a public nuisance. In addition we need immediate multiple treatment facilities and laws that make it easier to commit folks for long stays so they have a chance at a real life.	No	06/24/23 4:51 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	Fully support this measure. I believe this will be good for the Portland community and will get us back on track. Measure 110 has led to a proliferation of open drug use	No	06/24/23 8:15 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	We are in support of the proposed agenda item 567. In the past few years, we have witnessed increased drug use on Portland public sidewalks, in front of businesses, at crosswalks, and by bus stops. Any citizen who chooses not to engage in or promote drug use as a way of life should not be imposed upon or have to be exposed to it in public places. NO child or young person should have to repeatedly see these types of behaviors as common or acceptable practices. NO person or creature should have to be physically exposed to potential harm from the residual smoke, syringes, or other debris left on the street by users. As Portland residents, taxpayers, and volunteers in local clean-ups, we respectfully ask that the everyday families who make up the majority of our community be considered as important to Portland's survival. Please support 567 as a first step in improving the quality of life for us all.	No	06/24/23 9:15 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	Almost weekly I have to call my neighbor across the street with small children to provide a warning. Drug users sit and inject themselves at the end of their driveway. The Dad then has to go pick up all the drug paraphernalia and bloody needles before the kids come out to play. This is in the Hollywood neighborhood which used to be great place to live but is now overrun with drug dealers and users.	No	06/24/23 11:06 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	There's a Nike store in Ukraine but PORTLAND is now too overrun with drug dealers and criminal gangs to operate a safe store. A beautiful city destroyed by drugs. Be brave and save this city..	No	06/24/23 11:38 PM

Agenda Item	Name	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
567	Anonymous	Support	My bike was stolen by the druggies in my neighborhood. My replacement bike stolen too. Springwater Trail full of users and dealers. NE Portland transit stations used by drug dealers. Can't get to work on time because Max has to stop to air out due fentanyl use. Transit and biking now a fail because it's too dangerous. DO SOMETHING.	No	06/24/23 11:44 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	Why are we enabling young people to overdose and die daily on our Portland streets? The loss of life is tragic. This madness must be stopped.	No	06/24/23 11:47 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	When Vera Katz was mayor we made the news for OHSU tram,, east bank esplanade, top livability rankings in the U.S. Now Portland makes the news daily as a city overrun with drugs, guns, and criminals. What will be your legacy?	No	06/25/23 12:01 AM
567	Anonymous	Support	How is Portland ever going to become a vibrant, safe city again if drug users are the only ones who feel safe walking the streets? I volunteered for SOLV downtown and it was scary. I've now given up going to art museum, symphony, and Chinese Garden. It saddens me but after a methhead tried to grab my backpack and rage at me for walking by I'm just too scared. It saddens me. I worked downtown for 10 years. But that was when it was safe and clean. Those days are gone due to 110.	No	06/25/23 12:25 AM
567	Mark Jamieson	Support	I am writing to support "outlawing use of drugs in public ". If we can't get rid of measure 110 then let's work with what we have. If there is a problem with jail space or treatment facilities then why not use Wapato. Wasn't that a jail that Multnomah thought they needed? I know Bybee Lakes uses part of that property. Jail for those that don't want treatment, treatment for those that don't want jail. Sounds like a win win to me. There is certainly enough money slaughtering around to help the homeless, how about treating the cause of homelessness!! I know drug addiction is not the only cause of homelessness but if you remove this population you will be left with mental illness, poverty and criminals taking advantage of the situation. Patricia Ancharski	No	06/25/23 9:30 AM
567	Anonymous	Support		No	06/25/23 11:43 AM
Sent from my iPhone					
567	George Crawford , frustrated resident	Support	I am tired of my kids riding their bikes past people smoking various drugs in the Hollywood neighborhood. Please push towards protecting kids/seniors so they can safely use/navigate sidewalks, transit and parks.	No	06/25/23 12:49 PM
567	Kerry Duff	Support	Our family fully supports this ban. Open air drug use attracts crime to neighborhood parks, including shootings. People addicted also need a push to get sober. It's a win win for everyone in the city.	No	06/25/23 2:53 PM
567	James Rollins	Oppose	I live in NW Portland. My wife, my two children and I regularly witness people smoking fentanyl, meth, and have twice seen people shooting up, all within a 4 block radius of our house near Couch Park (note that my youngest also goes to school at MLC, adjacent to Couch Park). Children see this and think "Hey, that must be OK! No on is stopping them!" We're witnessing lives being destroyed in real time and teaching our kids how easy it is to spiral down that particular drain with them. Please ban public use of hard narcotics. Please also ban public intoxication. We need to restore some order to this once beautiful city.	No	06/25/23 3:17 PM
567	Christine Hertzog	Support	Addicts need to be accountable for the harm they cause society. We shouldn't have greater penalties for smoking cigarettes in public spaces.	No	06/25/23 3:52 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	It seems like common sense to ban public hard drug usage - please vote to do so. Measure 110 has (foreseeably) backfired in a major way. Outlawing is just the first step, however, as enforcement also needs to happen.	No	06/25/23 5:42 PM

Agenda Item	Name	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
567	Kara Shane Colley	Support	It is illegal to smoke pot in public. The mayor wants to add fentanyl and meth to the list. This makes so much sense. I totally support this.	No	06/25/23 7:30 PM
567	Dora DeCoursey	Support	Very much in favor. We should do what we can so that de-criminalization of drug possession does not lead to encouragement of drug use. Our public spaces should be safe, clean, and used for the wholesome purposes for which they were created. They need to be healthy places for children to be. Open drug use, like open alcohol consumption, is associated with litter and unsafe or anti-social behaviors toward self and others. Open drug use sends bad messages to kids.	No	06/25/23 10:39 PM
567	Theodore Buehler	Support	I support making public consumption of illicit drugs illegal. Thank you for doing this. It's fine with me if people want to take advantage of decriminalized hard drugs, but that doesn't mean you have the right to do it in public. Help keep public spaces civilized. Ted Buehler 105 NE Beech St, Portland OR 97212 13-year resident of Portland.	No	06/25/23 11:15 PM
567	James Kennett, NW Portland Hostel	Support	I support this ban on open air drug use.	No	06/25/23 11:42 PM
567	Michael Rosa	Support	I strongly encourage our entire council to unify and ban open air use of illegal drugs in all public places, including parks, near schools, public walkways, places of businesses, and along local, state and federal office buildings. It's ridiculous that us Portlanders have to even ask our council to do this because it is just common sense. Rampant open-air drug use and drug dealing has become normalized and no matter where one goes in this city, it's there in our faces. A very large cross-section of our homeless community has no incentive to stop their use of illegal drugs wherever and whenever, and it's our city's fault for being complacent and not establishing boundaries. Why do the actions and activities by a tiny fraction of residents in our city, our homeless folk, negatively impact the rest of us. It certainly is a horrible example for our youth to see how there are no ramifications	No	06/26/23 7:49 AM
567	Harry Baggen	Support	I'm angry that I have to walk over used drug paraphernalia and/or having to avoid a sidewalk of illegal tents and individuals using drugs on SW Oak St when all I want to do is go to Powell's or a restaurant near Burnside. I'm angry that I have to pick up used syringe and other drug items in our public parks or near my home. I'm angry that something wasn't done sooner by our council. Now's your chance to rectify this.	No	06/26/23 10:31 AM
567	Anonymous	Support	My wife and I moved to Portland last year to be close to our family and to help care for our new grandson. We have visited the city many times over the years, always considering it a good place to locate when we retired. We still love the city and, in particular, the Woodstock neighborhood where we now rent. However, the environment in many areas has clearly deteriorated. And now we are living within a block of an open-air drug market. Throughout the day we see new "visitors" to the site on SE Ramona and 46th, who then smoke/shoot-up drugs in clear site on nearby sidewalks and/or vehicles. We are more than supportive of money directed to drug rehab, but the situation at present makes us fearful to even take our grandson for a walk.	No	06/26/23 12:51 PM
567	Anonymous	Support with changes	The open drug use in the city streets is out of control. It seems like we crossed the line from empathy to privilege. The majority tax payers are the ones dealing with the consequences, filth, crime, assault and harassment, witnessing and even smelling these drugs on a daily basis. What about looking out for the folks that actually follow the rules and pay taxes for once! What about looking out for our kids and youth whom should not be subjected to this scenarios making them apathetic to these situations in the future. There needs to be a middle ground. This is a start.	No	06/26/23 4:34 PM

Agenda Item	Name	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
567	Anonymous	Support	<p>I am neutral on this item (I wish there was a neutral option in the position bubbles when filling out the form).</p> <p>I'll give two strong requests for carveouts in this ordinance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sisters of the Road has posted something on twitter to advocate for safe spaces to use drugs if/when this ordinance is passed. I support this. Providing a safe place to shoot up, providing clean needles, needle drop off, and narcans, these things can save a life. Drug addiction is terrible. Death is worse. 2. I would like language added that upon successful rehabilitation the individual that was fined or jailed under this proposed ordinance may have the bad mark on their record completely removed. 	No	06/26/23 4:39 PM
567	Michelle Stevenson			No	06/26/23 5:37 PM
567	Martha Fitzsimon	Support	BRAVO! A great step forward in cleaning up Portland. No more open drug use on sidewalks, buses, max train, streetcar, parks... nuttin' nowhere please!	No	06/26/23 5:53 PM
567	Jonathon J Nelson	Support	Strong support. We need to mitigate the proliferation of hard drug use on our streets. It is imperative to helping Portland become a vibrant city again.	No	06/26/23 6:08 PM
567	Anonymous	Support		No	06/26/23 8:55 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	Public drug use is destroying my neighborhood in Southeast Portland. I live near the intersection of South East 46th and Ramona. And it's an open air fentanyl dealership...please take it down	No	06/26/23 10:39 PM
567	Anna Gorman	Oppose	This is performative cruelty. What would be helpful are safe injection sites that would provide clean syringes (lessening transmission of bloodborne diseases) and would test the drugs for fentanyl and other adulterants (reducing overdoses). This has been proven to be effective elsewhere. Fining the impoverished and throwing them in jail because they can't pay is inhumane. Also, Portland Street Response should be fully funded and operational so that they can help addicts find the medical care and support they need. Addiction is a medical issue and should be treated as such. Let's not waste money on punitive actions that have never worked. You keep saying the police aren't the ones who should deal with this stuff so why do you keep requiring them to deal with addiction and mental illness? Support social workers, support PSR, support safe injection sites, support rehabs, support mental health clinics, support wrap around supportive housing because these are all things that actually work.	No	06/26/23 11:42 PM
567	Anonymous	Support	Please pass this common sense limit on the rampant drug abuse in Portland. My nephew from Philadelphia visited to look at Reed College and Lewis & Clark. We visited downtown Portland and the open drug use was so flagrant and depressing, my nephew said Portland is worse than Philly and he's not going to college here.	No	06/27/23 8:40 AM

Agenda Item	Name	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
567	Anonymous	Support with changes	<p>As a small business owner, I've had multiple drug users injecting or lighting up in front of my store. I am supportive of finding resources for individuals who are struggling with addiction, and whatever compassionate way forward. But just letting someone shoot up in front of businesses isn't an answer. It is costing me money as tourists don't want to walk down a block where there's such rampant drug use.</p> <p>Ban this public drug use but also a few things to add...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enforce efforts to stop DUIs. I'm sorry but I know too many friends who drive blackout drunk in Portland and feel there is no repercussions because police won't pull them over. Or if they do get pulled over - they only get a warning. At the same time we ban public drug use - ensure the alcohol part of this is being taken care of. 2. Audit, hold responsible, demand answers, and whatever else you can do to ensure every tax dollar is spent responsibly when it comes to substance abuse treatment programs. Many nonprofits have massive salaries for administrators, or their employees barely work. Every single dollar is important and needs to be held to account. No new taxes. <p>This city needs to get a handle on its drug induced problem and start criminalizing open use and dealing. The consequences of what some voters thought would be a positive move with measure 110, has left this city in absolute shambles. It has led to open air drug markets, tent cities, chop shops, blocking of sidewalks for kids and those with disabilities, and kept neighbors up at all hours-on edge, with fear and anxiety in their own homes. The mental toll this has taken on all of us who love or loved Portland is absurd! There are drug zombies out at all hours of the day- stealing from neighbors for their next fix, crapping in peoples yards and leaving their used needles in parks to poke playing children (ironically, most likely the needles they got from the city for free). They're smoking or shooting up drugs in the open, shouting into the abyss, blocking sidewalks, and so high that they're running around naked with their dangus hanging out. These idiots are essentially being given MORE rights, sympathy and leniency than your law abiding, hard working Portlander. I get a parking ticket, but an open air drug market- for a year in same street doesn't get touched? STOP feeling bad for these thieves, dealers and addicts. That is only making it worse.</p> <p>Maybe restructure that budget and get rid of so many of these redundant "non-profits" that are propping up this cycle of drug use/homelessness just so they land their next city contract. Instead, use that money to hire people to actually enforce the laws. Prioritize it. Clean up our city.</p>	No	06/27/23 8:59 AM
567	L	Support	<p>Please pass this agenda. No more drug usage on public property! No more fentanyl usage.</p> <p>This controlled substances ban is dangerous and will further harm those that are struggling and unhoused. Banning something will not help the problem and will only lead to more fatalities and harmful situations due to people not able to test substances or have clean tools. Think of prohibition, banning things does not solve the problem. Treatment and prevention is way more effective and less costly than criminalization. Safe use sites and more care for mental health resources seems like a MUCH better use of time, energy and money.</p>	No	06/27/23 10:03 AM
567	kellyann lanspa	Support		No	06/27/23 10:34 AM
567	Anonymous	Oppose		No	06/27/23 11:46 AM

Agenda Item	Name	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
567	rachel mulder	Oppose	ted wheeler's dangerous measure will only further isolate and harm already vulnerable members of our community. most of us are two compounded crises away from homelessness. this is discriminatory and will only cause harm and more damage to our communities. there have been methods of providing safe places for people to use as well as other ways to support and nourish our communities rather than isolate and punish. please listen to sisters of the road. we need the people experiencing these crisis to guide us towards what our city needs to do to help, not ted wheeler's short sighted and privileged perspective. please, we must protect our most vulnerable neighbors. note NO!	No	06/27/23 11:56 AM
567	Anonymous	Oppose	this will kill people. Ted wheeler wants to commit genocide on the houseless community in Portland. This will force people already isolated to further hide from the public. THEY ARE NOT A BURDEN. HOUSELESS PEOPLE ARE PART OF THE COMMUNITY. We need to keep them alive. SAFE CONSUMPTION SITES NOW! NARCAN NOW! HOUSING NOW!	No	06/27/23 1:00 PM
567	Sierra Dill	Oppose	We CANNOT afford to move backwards—we have already gone down this path for far too long—criminalizing substances and or substance users does not solve the problem. Far from it, it actually just makes everything worse. If the goal is to reduce visible consumption of substances, let's focus time, energy and money towards getting folks HOUSED. There are sooooo many empty buildings in downtown, convert those spaces into affordable housing to get people in off the streets. Houseless folks deserve basic right & dignities, shelter, safety, food, water. We cannot ignore this any longer. Criminalizing public use of substances, just like banning daytime camping, just like anti-homeless architecture is the equivalent of placing a bandaid on a bullet wound...it's a step in the WRONG direction. The creation of safe injection/use sites would be one alternative solution that would actually move towards treating addicts and houseless folks in a humane and dignified way. I say, let's go for that.	No	06/27/23 1:27 PM
567	Michael Goldman	Oppose	This ban will disproportionately harm communities that are already being targeted by discriminatory practices. Research shows how clean use sites reduce overdose deaths. Please consider using the resources that would go into this ban for more addiction treatment resources, rather than further stigmatizing and victimizing our most vulnerable community members.	No	06/27/23 2:01 PM
567	Lou Anne Henriques	Support	I understand the 6/28/23 agenda item to disallow drug use in Portland's public places is #567 but I do not see that # as a choice on agenda item #s above. Please enter my support for it. Thx!	No	06/27/23 4:44 PM
567	Lou Anne Henriques	Support	I understand the 6/28/23 agenda item to disallow drug use in Portland's public places is #567 but I do not see that # as a choice on agenda item #s above & it won't send w/o a choice, so I picked 566. Please enter my support for the measure I described above. Thx!	No	06/27/23 4:47 PM

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Yachats wins \$100,000 state grant to help make it more energy resilient when emergencies occur

JULY 31, 2023





[Dave Wilson, West Coast Drone Services](#)

Aerial photo shows the main city of Yachats campus stretching from the library and wastewater treatment plant to the Commons along U.S. Highway 101 that will be the subject of an energy resiliency study to help out in the case of emergencies.

By GARRET JAROS/YachatsNews

YACHATS – Preparing for emergencies big and small is just common sense – whether at the household level with Band-Aids in the medicine cabinet and a spare tire and jack in the car – or at the municipal level with somewhere for community members to shelter during a catastrophe.

With that in mind, the city of Yachats received a \$100,000 grant in June from the Oregon Department of Energy that will help fund an “energy resilience” study to see what can be done to create a self-sufficient hub.

The state program is designed to support renewable energy and energy resilience development for tribes, public bodies and consumer-owned utilities. Yachats was one of 39 recipients from 52 applicants across Oregon.

Yachats has the grant earmarked in part for planning a “resilient” civic campus, according to the grant application. The proposed 15-acre project site would encompass city hall, the library, Commons, wastewater treatment facility, pavilion and park.

The study will assess existing facilities and anticipate upgrades that leverage renewable energy, according to the grant application. It will consider options to create a micro electricity grid that connects buildings and renewable power sources as improvements are made to facilities.

The renewable energy sources under consideration are photovoltaic panels, solar thermal panels, ground source heat and anaerobic digestion of wastewater from the treatment plant. The primary investigation will be to determine how users connected to this microgrid can store and share energy for the surrounding utility grid as incremental upgrades are made on city facilities.

After those basics, sorting out all that the study proposes to address is akin to unraveling a plate of spaghetti. Neither mayor Craig Berdie nor interim city manager Rick Sant could get ahold of all the strands, implications or costs during a short discussion of the resiliency study during a July 19 city council meeting.

Berdie noted that \$10,000 was already paid to consultants in preparing the grant application and that it appears the city would have to pay another \$40,000 on top of the \$100,000 grant to complete the study. And that if he was reading it correctly, once the study was complete, the city could obtain a \$1 million grant to implement the proposed renewable projects, but that implementation may easily run as much as \$5 million.



“So we need to be very careful about this,” Berdie said. “This may be something we decide to cut our losses on. If we invest \$50,000 to get \$100,000, and then we get another grant for a million but it requires us to spend \$5 million, I’m not sure where we are at.”

Berdie

Berdie conceded he may have misread the document, and Sant added he had the same concerns but thought maybe they had misread those details. A reading by the YachatsNews came up with the same conclusion.

Sant simplified all the study proposes to accomplish by calling it a “disaster preparedness thing” and suggested council wait for a presentation by the planning

commission to help explain it better.

"Right now I just want Jacqueline (Danos) to track down info, give us a clearer idea of what we are dealing with and then if she says, 'Yeah this makes sense,' then we can ..."

"That's sounds like a great plan and I appreciate that," Berdie said, jumping in before Sant could finish. "I don't want to panic anybody but when I read it, it got pretty ..."

"I thought the same thing, this is the craziest thing I've ever seen," Sant said.

While a decision to move forward or not with the resiliency study has yet to be determined – if it is OK'd – it must be completed in six months to meet state requirements.

Broader plan

Danos, who is also member of the planning commission, brought the grant idea to the city concerned about how the community would fare during a large emergency.

"A lot of people don't understand what's resiliency, they don't get what it is and why we need to even do this," Danos said. "They think it's a waste of time."



Danos pushed past the notion the study is just about creating a renewable energy hub that provides the basics for Yachats residents during an emergency like drought, windstorm, landslide, storm, earthquake, flooding, wildfire or tsunami.

Danos

"It's more than that," she said. "It's resiliency under the guise of energy. Yeah, it's the grid and it's energy and making sure that if we have an emergency we can still power up. But resiliency is more than that. It's economic resiliency, long term economic resiliency for the city as well. We have to look at it on a broader view than this is just about putting some solar panels up somewhere."

It also goes beyond supplying the energy needs of the civic campus, passing excess energy on to others in the community or selling it back to the electric company, she said.

"If you look at communities as a holistic living entity, living entities need to be able to bounce back from a myriad of different issues," Danos said. "So resiliency isn't just energy, it's the future economics of the community. It's future water sustainability."

She used an example of planning ahead while street work is being done, when there could be an opportunity to put in extra lines or conduit for the future – for something like water recycling or high-speed internet.

"It's a planning grant," she said. "It's not an actual grant for any work. We can leverage this planning grant to see if we can put some of these ideas and these long-term planning ideas into focus."

"It really is a chance for the city to take a good holistic look at planning a broader view," Danos continued. "How do we use this and leverage this information or leverage what we learn from this to maybe apply for another grant down the line to do something for water, to do something for something else? How can we leverage what we're learning doing this beyond what this just is?"

- *Garret Jaros is YachatsNews' full-time reporter and can be reached at GJaros@YachatsNews.com*

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COMMENTS



Alex Cox says

[August 2, 2023 at 10:05 am](#)

It might be worth pointing out that Yachats has an Emergency Preparedness Committee, and that the committee hasn't been consulted or told anything about this grant, nor of the city's decision to spend \$10,000 applying for it. One of the committee's members observed at our most recent meeting that all the buildings mentioned are in the tsunami flood zone, and that in the event of a tsunami, this \$5 million investment will likely be destroyed. Of course, consultants gotta consult, but on the basis of this article I think the mayor is right, and the city should cut its losses at \$10,000.