

For Immediate Release

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Open houses set for the Willamette Water Supply Program

Tualatin Valley Water District (TVWD) and Hillsboro Water invite the public to attend an open house to learn more about the Willamette Water Supply Program and provide feedback on possible pipeline routes. The open houses begin in Wilsonville on October 28 and will be repeated throughout urban Washington County. A brief presentation will occur 30 minutes after each open house starts.

<i>Community</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Wilsonville	Tuesday, October 28 (6:00–8:00 pm)	Wilsonville City Hall (29799 SW Town Center Loop E, Wilsonville)
Beaverton	Thursday, October 30 (6:00–8:00 pm)	Beaverton City Library (12375 SW Fifth Street, Beaverton)
Aloha	Wednesday, November 5 (6:00–8:00 pm)	Mountain View Middle School Cafeteria (17500 SW Farmington Rd., Aloha)
Sherwood/ Tigard/ Tualatin	Saturday, November 15 (10:00 am – 12:00 pm)	Al’s Garden Center (16920 SW Roy Rogers Rd., Sherwood)
Washington County	Tuesday, November 18 (6:00–8:00 pm)	Tualatin Valley Water District Office (1850 SW 170th Ave., Beaverton)
Hillsboro	Thursday, November 20 (6:00–8:00 pm)	Hillsboro Main Library (2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy., Hillsboro)

TVWD and Hillsboro are partnering to develop the mid-Willamette River at Wilsonville as an additional source of drinking water for their customers. Currently in the initial planning stages, the new water system will include an expanded Willamette River Water Treatment Plant, additional water storage tanks, and more than 30 miles of pipelines installed from Wilsonville to Beaverton and Hillsboro. The pipelines will be placed in existing public rights-of-way in most locations.

Although construction for most of the pipeline will not begin for several years, the open houses provide an opportunity for people to provide feedback on the possible routes and learn more about the Willamette Water Supply Program. “We want to hear from people about what’s important for us to consider when planning the pipeline route,” explains program director Todd Heidgerken.

For those who can’t attend a meeting, an online virtual open house is also available through November 28. To participate in the virtual open house, visit www.OurReliableWater.org.

The open houses are just one of a number of ways that the Willamette Water Supply Program is seeking to understand community concerns and opportunities. Earlier this year, staff from the Willamette Water Supply Program held a number of focus groups in Beaverton and Wilsonville to get insights into people’s views of the pipeline routes. Focus group participants said traffic congestion due to construction was a worry to them and they preferred pipeline routes they perceived to be least disruptive to their daily commutes. Many participants said the pipeline should be of high quality and durability to reduce disruptions in the long run. Focus group attendees also reported they saw a benefit in improving roads and updating sewer/stormwater infrastructure at the same time the pipeline is being constructed. Community feedback from the open houses and focus groups will be used to help select a preferred pipeline route in early 2015.

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