



MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: Todd Heidgerken, Willamette Water Supply Program Director
503-642-1511; info@ourreliablewater.org

Open Houses Set for Willamette Water Supply Program's Possible Pipeline Routes

WILSONVILLE, OR — The City of Wilsonville, 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 through Wilsonville. The first open house will take place at Wilsonville City Hall on Tuesday, October 28, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at 29799 SW Town Center Loop E, Wilsonville.

The first 20 open house attendees will receive a free 3-gallon container that holds enough water to sustain one person (or pet) for three days in an emergency.

TVWD and Hillsboro are partnering to develop the mid-Willamette River at Wilsonville as an additional source of drinking water for their customers. The Willamette River Water Treatment Plant is jointly owned by the City of Wilsonville and TVWD. The City of Sherwood also purchases water from the Willamette River Water Treatment Plant.

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. The cost to install a new water pipeline through Wilsonville to serve TVWD, Hillsboro and potentially other partners, will be paid by ratepayers in those service areas, not by the City of Wilsonville or Wilsonville ratepayers.

Although construction for most of the pipeline will not begin for several years, this and other 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.

TVWD and Hillsboro are planning additional open houses for the project that include:

- Beaverton, Thursday, October 30, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Beaverton City Library, 12375 SW Fifth Street
- Aloha, Wednesday, November 5, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Mountain View Middle School Cafeteria, 17500 SW Farmington Rd.
- Sherwood/ Tigard/ Tualatin, Saturday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Al’s Garden Center, 16920 SW Roy Rogers Rd.,
- Washington County, Tuesday, November 18, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Tualatin Valley Water District Office, 1850 SW 170th Ave., Beaverton
- Hillsboro, Thursday, November 20, 6:00–8:00 p.m., Hillsboro Main Library, 2850 NE Brookwood Pkwy.

For those who can’t attend an in-person open house, 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 the ways 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 for community members of 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.