

Next Steps in Diversifying Our Water Supply

**Only
1 or 2 days
of stored water
if something
goes wrong**

The quest for water reliability

EWEB's elected commissioners are taking action to improve the reliability of our water system. Here's the current situation: **In summer months there is only a one or two day supply of water if something seriously disrupts the drinking water system.**

Emergency interties with other communities cannot provide enough water to meet Eugene's minimum water needs.

Reliable *(adj)*
Can be counted upon to do what is expected; dependable.

Looking ahead to a new water source

Today, all of our drinking water is produced at the Hayden Bridge filtration plant on the McKenzie River. **In the future, the Willamette River will augment our primary source, reducing the inherent risk of relying on a single supply of drinking water.** Diversifying the water supply also gives EWEB greater flexibility to take existing facilities off line for maintenance and upgrades.



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At the Coast and Middle Forks of the Willamette River is Oregon Nature Conservancy's newest project—Willamette Confluence.

EWEB Commissioners have established a dedicated reserve fund to help pay for the initial stages of this investment to reduce financing costs as well as rate impacts. Although customers will see small annual rate increases over the next 10 years, our goal is to keep rates affordable while making timely investments to enhance the security of our water supplies and meet long-term community needs. Your water bill is an ongoing investment in water reliability. Even with the planned increases, EWEB's water rates will continue to be comparable to other Oregon water utilities.

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Willamette River filtration plant

EWEB has secured a permit to withdraw water from the Willamette River at a location upstream from Eugene and Springfield. The new intake will be downstream of the Buford Park / Mt. Pisgah Natural Area, a 4,500-acre community resource that is preserved for open space and native ecosystems located at the confluence of the river's Coast and Middle Forks.

As part of early filtration plant design work, water sampling at this site is under way. **Testing since April 2013 confirms the water quality at this Willamette River location is similar to the McKenzie River intake.**

Organizations including The Nature Conservancy and the Bonneville Power Administration are working with local partners to protect land and waters in the Mt. Pisgah area for future generations. With its history of innovative stewardship practices in the McKenzie Watershed, EWEB is ready to support these efforts.

Next steps

Having received state approval to use its water rights on the Willamette, EWEB is working to acquire a site for the new water filtration plant. After the property is secured, design will begin for the river intake and filtration facilities. EWEB will also be determining a cost-effective plan for operating the new plant.

Willamette Filtration Plant Schedule

2013	Water rights secured
2015	Site acquisition
2016-2017	Preliminary design & permitting
2018-2019	Final design
2019-2021	Construction

Safe drinking water is vital to our public health and economy. The EWEB Commissioners want to ensure everyone has an opportunity to learn more and provide input on decisions to invest in water reliability.

[Learn More](#)

Visit our website

eweb.org/waterreliability

Questions?

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