



# Proposed Ballot Measure Tri-City Water Resource Recovery Facility Outfall Project

Clackamas Water Environment Services (WES), the regional wastewater treatment provider for the City of Oregon City, is proposing a ballot measure, which, if passed, would allow WES to install a new outfall pipeline. If the proposed ballot measure passes, the proposed new outfall would run from the Tri-City Water Resource Recovery Facility parallel to I-205 and under the OR 99E off-ramp. The proposed new outfall pipeline would run underneath Jon Storm Park and discharge into the Willamette River just north of the I-205 Abernethy Bridge.

The current outfall was constructed in 1984 and is nearing capacity during peak wet weather events. If the measure passes, construction would take place in 2023 and 2024. The proposed project, which is estimated at \$21,500,000, would be funded as part of WES' Capital Improvement Plan. WES has the funding for the outfall pipeline project. The proposed ballot measure, if passed, would not increase taxes.

The Oregon City Charter calls for a vote of the people regarding the easements and for the construction of permanent structures unrelated to park use. If the proposed measure does not pass, the project as proposed would not take place. Either way, tax rates would not change.

#### What is an Outfall?

An outfall is the discharge point of effluent, which is treated wastewater. An outfall is designed to maximize mixing and dilution of effluent. The mixing must meet state water quality standards for boating, swimming, fishing and aquatic resources.

### What would be the cost of the proposed project?

The proposed ballot measure, if passed, would not increase taxes. WES has the funding for the proposed outfall pipeline project which would include all project management and administration costs, engineering design and construction services, and construction. The proposed project, which is estimated at \$21,500,000, would be funded as part of WES' Capital Improvement Plan.

### What would be the proposed path for the outfall?

If the proposed ballot measure passes, the new outfall would run from the Tri-City Water Resource Recovery Facility parallel to I-205 and under the OR 99E off- ramp. The new outfall pipeline would run underneath Jon Storm Park and discharge into the Willamette River just north of the I-205 Abernethy Bridge.



### How would the proposed project affect fish, Pacific lamprey, wildlife and habitat resources?

If the proposed measure passes, construction crews would adhere to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Willamette River in-water work window. The in-water work rules were created to minimize potential impacts to fish, Pacific lamprey, wildlife and habitat resources. The proposed new outfall location would be upstream of the existing outfall which is near a cold-water refuge for migrating fish at the mouth of the Clackamas River. If the measure passes, WES would also deploy conservation measures to prevent impacts on seals and sea lions, which may be present if fish are abundant.

### How would the proposed project affect Jon Storm Park, if passed?

If the proposed measure passes, WES would construct the proposed outfall and restore Jon Storm Park to its original condition. In addition, it would provide for mitigation improvements identified by the Oregon City Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee who recommended mitigation going towards a tree inventory and some mediation of hazardous trees. Any remaining funds would be used for master planning of Jon Storm and Clackamette Parks. If the measure passes, WES would work with the City of Oregon City as potential impacts that might occur.

# How would the proposed outfall pipeline be constructed, if the measures passes?

Clackamas Water Environment Services is proposing a measure, which, if passed, would allow WES to obtain easements and construct an outfall pipeline underneath Jon Storm Park. The proposed outfall would be completely buried and not visible. The proposed outfall would be beneath the river and only the diffusers would protrude from the river's bottom, which would be in a deep segment of the river and would not interfere with boating, recreation or aquatic life.



## What would be the proposed timeline for the proposed outfall construction?

If the proposed measure passes, construction would take place in 2023 and 2024, with operation starting in 2024.

### What about archaeological findings?

WES' consultants are performing an archaeological investigation and working in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as working with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

### Why construct a new outfall? What happens to the current one, if the measure passes?

Built in 1984, the current outfall is nearing capacity during peak wet weather events. The new outfall would be large enough to provide service for decades to come. The existing outfall is structurally sound and would remain in place for use if needed.

### What if the proposed measure does not pass?

WES has built into its overall financial management approach the funding of a 5-year Capital Improvement Plan. The proposed outfall project is a component of that plan, and would be funded through WES' current rate structure. If the proposed measure does not pass, the project as proposed would not take place. There would be no change in tax rates, either way.

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