

City Manager's Report

Information and Updates for the Mayor and City Council

October 7, 2022

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

MEETING/EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Council Meeting	October 19	3 p.m. Work Session 7 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chambers / Virtual
Council Meeting	November 2	5 p.m. Work Session 7 p.m. Regular Meeting	Council Chambers / Virtual

[VIEW THE FULL COUNCIL SCHEDULE](#)

PUBLIC AGENCY AND COMMUNITY PARTNER UPDATES

Water Resources Update

Utility Department Director Mike Buettner prepared the following summaries of some important water-related initiatives relevant to our community.

OWRD Groundwater Allocation Policy Meetings

The Oregon Water Resources Department is hosting a series of five public meetings across the state to inform stakeholders about revisions to Oregon's groundwater allocation policy. City staff attended the September 28th occurrence to participate in the public meetings and to provide comment on the



proposed revisions. Staff comments focused on ensuring clarity and stability of regulations for municipal water providers in Central Oregon.

The proposed revisions include three key changes:

1. Requires that OWRD staff find that groundwater is available within the capacity of the resource prior to issuing a groundwater permit. This is a change from the previous approach that also allowed the issuance of a groundwater permit when there was insufficient information about the aquifer to affirmatively find that water is available.
2. Reevaluates the definition of whether existing uses of the aquifer are sustainable. This is a change from the current definition that focuses on a predetermined threshold of decline.
3. Revisits the connection between groundwater and surface water (this concern was addressed 20 years ago in the Upper Deschutes through the mitigation program, but no other basin has a similar program).

Learn more about the OWRD effort here: [Groundwater Allocation Project](#)

Understanding Deschutes Basin Groundwater Levels

The City of Bend partnered with other Central Oregon Cities Organization (COCO) water providers to commission an analysis of groundwater levels in the Deschutes Basin. The analysis, titled *Understanding Upper Deschutes Basin Groundwater Levels*, is a 16-page primer that provides an overview of the key issues impacting the Deschutes Basin and a clear set of summary conclusions. The commissioned analysis was provided to Oregon Water Resources Department to aid in their efforts to update groundwater allocation rules.

Read the COCO analysis here: [Understanding Upper Deschutes Basin Groundwater Levels](#)

Deschutes River Conservancy Raise the Deschutes Seminar Series

The City of Bend will be highlighted at the November 2nd occurrence of the Deschutes River Conservancy's Raise the Deschutes Seminar Series. The seminar series engages the public on key water issues in the Deschutes Basin and challenges that exist to ensuring a sustainable and resilient water supplies. City staff will cover Bend's rich water history, the city's shift toward greater water conservation and efficiency, and how it is preparing for a less certain future.

Learn more about the DRC series here: [Raise the Deschutes Seminar Series](#)



PROJECT AND PROGRAM UPDATES

CouncilAll Email Summary

88 total emails were sent to CouncilAll between September 20th and October 3rd. The top themes and concerns included:

- Houselessness
- Noise

For more information, view the current [CouncilAll Summary Report](#).

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Monthly Social Media & Media Report

For the month of September, the top community topics and themes observed in media and social media by Communications Department staff included:

- Houselessness: Continued discussion and media coverage around the camping code, the roundtables and the community input process.
- Bend Airport Closure: Media coverage of the upgrades and paving project occurring at the airport.
- Safeway Shooting: Reaction and response to the shooting at the eastside Safeway.

For more information, including media coverage of the City and social media engagement, see the [Monthly Social Media and Media Monitoring Report](#).

Equity Department Updates

This week, it was announced that Mickie Derting will be acting as Interim Director of the Equity Department as Anna Allen transitions into her part-time consultant role. Over the next few months, Anna will be solely focused on developing a Work Plan for the Human Rights and Equity Commission (HREC).

In her interim director role, Mickie will be focusing on supporting our external equity initiatives which include:

- Serving as the HREC Liaison (in partnership with Community Relations Manager, Zavi Borja).
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- Leading the process to re-assess the Equity Department structure. These findings will guide the recruitment for future Equity Department leadership.
- Assisting with the Accessibility and Equity Manager recruitment. This was the position previously held by Cherissa Alldredge.
- Coordinating the future Equity Department leadership recruitment
- Managing Equity Department staff
- Taking on other external equity department director responsibilities transitioned from Anna, including overseeing HREC recommendations to Council, community requests/partnerships, etc.

Zavi Borja, Community Relations Manager in the Communications Department, will continue to align his work with the Equity Department and HREC of lowering barriers to engagement and improving access to participation in the public process and City government. Zavi will be working closely with Anna around the listening sessions portion of the Work Plan development, ensuring diverse and inclusive participation and engagement. He is also providing support with community requests and partnerships.

Joshua Romero, in his new role as our Employee Experience & Engagement Manager, will be taking the lead on supporting our internal equity initiatives, which include:

- Leading the internal DEIA Taskforce
- Supporting the DEIA Action Plan
- Coordinating DEIA lunch and learns
- Coordinating equity focused trainings

VIEW PREVIOUS CITY MANAGER'S REPORTS



Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Meghan Goss at mgoss@bendoregon.gov or 541-323-7165.

