Media Release

Portland Water Bureau

For Immediate Release

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**Water Bureau Announces Second Woman Chief Engineer in 150 Years**

Thirteen-year Water Bureau veteran Jodie Inman takes the helm as Water Bureau’s Chief Engineer on April 22. Selected after a competitive process, Inman is the second woman in the role in 150 years. Outgoing Chief Engineer Teresa Elliott will retire later this summer.

“I’m honored to be the second woman in this role. I think it speaks to the efforts that the Water Bureau, the City, and the industry are making in being more inclusive. I’m thankful to have worked in places that have had females in leadership and encouraged growth, including Teresa as the previous Chief and Gabriel Solmer as our Administrator.” said Inman. “For me, leadership is about building relationships and seeking to understand people’s perspectives. At some point, a decision needs to be made but I want to be there for meaningful dialogue.”

Inman said she is invigorated by working on some of the most critical infrastructure investments in the Water Bureau’s recent history, the Bull Run Treatment projects and Willamette River Crossing, while maintaining a strong focus on affordability.

“These projects are an opportunity to provide reliable and safe drinking water to our customers and future Portlanders,” Inman said. “I am honored to lead the teams improving seismic resilience, for life and safety, but also to support economic recovery. I will ensure that we have the tools to adapt to factors like climate change and future regulations—not to mention the highly important everyday work of maintaining, repairing, and replacing our aging infrastructure.”

Inman recently held the position of Interim Chief Engineer for three months. She began at the Water Bureau with the engineering planning group, where she supervised a professional and technical staff in support of project planning, asset management, and hydraulic modeling. From there, she worked as an engineering supervisor on special projects. She leaves behind her most recent position of engineering manager in the design group.

“I’ve worked on a wide diversity of projects that have allowed me to build relationships around the bureau and have given me a well-rounded perspective,” she said.

Inman recognizes that one of the greatest opportunities before the City is our challenge to end historic and systemic racism. She plans to build on the bureau’s work by incorporating equity throughout all processes, from project selection to how communities engage to identifying equity impacts through construction.

“Our projects and capital work provide real opportunity to make a difference, through support of local minority and women firms and promotion of living wage jobs for those same historically underrepresented groups.”

### About the Portland Water Bureau

The Portland Water Bureau serves water to almost a million people in the Portland area. Portland’s water system includes two great water sources, 53 tanks and reservoirs, and 2,200 miles of pipes. With 600 employees working on everything from water treatment to customer service, the Water Bureau is committed to serving excellent water every minute of every day.