



Media Release

Portland Water Bureau

For Immediate Release

November 6, 2024

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Portland transitions to primary water source, the Bull Run Watershed

Secondary groundwater source provided supplemental water supply during a dry autumn

The Portland Water Bureau has returned to providing 100% [Bull Run](#) water to Portlanders. Since October 10th, the Portland Water Bureau has been supplementing the Bull Run supply by blending our secondary water source, groundwater from the [Columbia South Shore Well Field](#), with the Bull Run supply to meet customers' needs during a warm, dry autumn.

It can take up to two weeks after a transition like this for customers receive 100 percent Bull Run water at their taps, depending on the location.

Careful management of the groundwater system allowed us to provide clean, safe drinking water to the region despite this year's unseasonably dry fall weather.

"Providing clean and safe drinking water to the region during dry seasons, which are becoming longer due to climate change, requires extensive planning," Portland Water Bureau Director Edward Campbell said. "We're working hard to keep the water flowing no matter the weather."

Water system investments matter

Our ability to reliably provide clean, safe water for future generations depends on sustaining investments in our water system. Ratepayer funding makes it possible for the bureau to tap two sources of clean, reliable water to adapt to a changing environment.

Portland Water is planning a new filtration facility and pipelines to keep our water safe and abundant for the nearly one million people who depend on it today and for future generations.

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portland.gov/water/access · 503-823-4000 (Relay Service: 711)

“When you pay your water bill, you’re investing in our community’s ability to maintain our resilient water system,” Director Campbell said.

Thankful for the water experts who make it happen

Supplying drinking water to nearly one million Oregonians requires a dedicated, highly skilled workforce. The Portland Water Bureau employs about 600 people.

“The complex work to keep our water safe and abundant is easy to overlook when you turn on the tap,” said Kimberly Gupta, Director of Operations. “Public servants including certified operators, engineers, construction crews, customer service staff and lab techs work hard every day to continually protect our health and safety.”

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, 54 tanks and reservoirs, and 2,250 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.