



LWV Corvallis

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March 29, 2017

To: Mayor Traber, Members of the City Council, City Manager Shepard

From: League of Women Voters of Corvallis, Laura Lahm Evenson, President

Re: Strategic Plan

The establishment of a Water Systems Advisory Board was recommended in the Public Participation Task Force report issued in June 2014. The League is very supportive of this recommendation and believes it should be included in the Strategic Plan now being developed.

The reasons for our support are as follows:

1. Water supply, safe drinking water, storm water management, and wastewater treatment all have significant long-term effects on the lives of all Corvallis community members, yet there is no citizen advisory board to provide ongoing public input into essential, yet costly, projects in these areas. The only exception is the Rock Creek Watershed, for which Council receives input from the Watershed Management Advisory Board.
2. Without a standing citizen advisory board to cover other water-related issues, the Public Works Department must obtain citizen input through task forces, public hearings, and project-specific outreach for proposals dealing with drinking water, treatment of wastewater, storm water management, streams, and for input into projects to be included in the Capital Improvement Program.

The proposed Water Systems Advisory Board would provide advice to the City Council and staff in the following areas:

1. Water quality and treatment;
2. Wastewater treatment and release;
3. Storm water management, including piped drainage systems, streams, and mitigation structures built on both public and private lands;
4. Equipment and piping inspection and repair planning;
5. Input to Capital Improvement Program for all related potential projects;
6. Natural features and city watersheds management and issues that relate to water within the city; and
7. Status of the water infrastructure and resources, and work on long-term water planning.

We urged the Council to establish this Board several times before as the League's water position states that *"Public involvement should be encouraged throughout the water management and planning processes. The processes should be transparent and include educational components."*