



CITY OF TUALATIN

Staff Report

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Sherilyn Lombos, City Manager

FROM: Lindsay Marshall, Management Analyst, Public Works

DATE: May 11, 2026

SUBJECT:

Resolution #5955-26 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Clean Water Services for Recycled Water

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of Resolution #5955-26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

WMCP

In November of 2024, the City of Tualatin submitted the Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) to the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) in accordance with wholesaler water contract. WMCPs provide an opportunity to develop a strategy for managing water supplies in the most efficient manner possible and for meeting existing and future demands. A WMCP is considered a long-term water management and conservation tool which includes evaluation of different conservation and management actions that suppliers can undertake. Per the wholesale contract, the City is only required to complete Chapter 3: Water Conservation Element, which is submitted to the PWB every five years. Completing Chapter 3 of a WMCP not only fulfills our contractual obligation to PWB, but also aligns with the City's Climate Action Plan Action 4.1.7 (Establish citywide water conservation program) and identified City Council interests.

The water conservation element has two main measures (basic and enhanced) and two main components, each which include benchmarks (specific actions that a water supplier commits to doing, along with a schedule to implement and/or carry out the water conservation activities within the next five years). For the enhanced *Reuse, Recycling, Non-Potable Opportunities* measure, where water suppliers evaluate and consider implementing programs to make use of water reuse, water recycling, and non-potable water opportunities, the City's proposed benchmark was to explore opportunities for recycled water use via "Purple Pipe."

Recycled Water - "Purple Pipe"

Water reuse is the process of capturing wastewater, stormwater, or gray water, and cleaning it to provide one or more community benefits. Water reuse is often used interchangeably with recycled water. In Oregon recycled water is commonly used for irrigating green spaces and farmland, industrial processes, and habitat restoration.

Clean Water Services (CWS) is a leader for water reuse in Oregon, producing 125 million gallons of recycled water annually. CWS produces the highest level of non-potable water called Class A water, which undergoes a three-step process where it is filtered, cleaned and disinfected to meet state regulations. Class A water is safe for many of the same uses as ground and surface water; it looks and smells like tap water, but it is not treated

for human consumption. Most of the recycled water is returned to the Tualatin River, but some is used for irrigation. When used for irrigation, recycled water is often identified by signage and purple sprinkler heads and pipes (hence the nickname “Purple Pipe”).

Recycled water has many community benefits, including cost effectiveness when compared to potable water usage rates, watershed health, reduced dependence on drinking water for non-consumption purposes, and more control and flexibility in supply. Relying on potable water for non-consumption usage will become more expensive as our communities grow and summers become longer and drier. Recycled water provides a sustainable alternative that is more cost effective in the long term.

OUTCOMES OF DECISION:

The IGA allows CWS to construct and maintain purple pipeline and deliver water to the NE section of Tualatin Community Park. The City will use recycled water for irrigation of Tualatin Community Park, as appropriate, and pay \$1.00 per hundred cubic feet during terms of the agreement. This IGA specifically outlines connections to the NE section, while the continued expansion of “Purple Pipe” to remainder of Tualatin Community Park and beyond will be specified in future agreements with CWS.

ALTERNATIVES TO RECOMMENDATION:

Council can choose to not approve the resolution and recycled water will not be connected in the NE corner of Tualatin Community Park.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

CWS will pay for the construction and maintenance of the recycled water connection. The City will pay \$1.00 per hundred cubic feet (CCF or unit) during terms of the agreement.

In 2026, the City used 847 units irrigate the NE portion of Tualatin Community Park. Assuming similar irrigation and forecasted wholesale water rate increases over the next five years (\$2.788/unit in FY 26/27 to \$7.319/unit in FY 31/32), the City will spend approximately \$21,602 to irrigate the NE portion of the park with potable water. However, if the City is able to use recycled water, exclusively, to irrigate that same area, the City would spend \$4,235. This represents an 80% cost savings.

SUPPORTED PLANS AND PRIORITIES

This IGA directly supports:

Tualatin’s Climate Action Plan, Action 1.1.9 “Support Clean Water Services in implementing the strategies included in their Thermal Load Management Plan. This program serves to help maintain the Tualatin River Watershed and mitigate the urban heat island effect by providing shade to reduce stream temperatures and diverting effluent through projects like purple pipe.”

2026 Tualatin City Council Priorities, Action 5.6 “Explore expansion of sustainable maintenance practices on City facilities, parks, and managed lands.”

Water Management Conservation Plan, Enhanced Measure *Reuse, Recycling, Non-Potable Opportunities* (this measure is also supported by Tualatin’s Climate Action Plan 4.1.7).

ATTACHMENTS:

- Resolution #5955-26 Authorizing the City Manager to Execute an Intergovernmental Agreement with Clean Water Services for Recycled Water
- Presentation – Recycled Water IGA
- City of Tualatin Purple Pipe IGA_Draft