

# Questions and Answers about the EWEB petition

## What is the petition seeking to do?

The petition would allow voters in the City of Eugene the right to decide whether EWEB would have authority to issue \$85 million in bonds to finance the relocation of its maintenance yard from the riverfront to the west Eugene wetlands along Roosevelt Boulevard.

## What does signing the petition mean?

Signing the petition means that your voice is added to others seeking a public vote on this issue, it does not require that you support or oppose the bonds issue, merely the right to have a democratic decision of the citizens.

## Who can sign the petition?

Only people who are registered to vote inside the City of Eugene may sign the petition, EWEB customers who are not located inside the City may not sign and will not be able to vote yes or no should the petition be placed on the ballot. If you are not sure whether you live in the City limits or not -- since the exact boundary is complicated -- you can check your voters registration to see if you are registered in the City or in the County.

## What guidelines do petition gatherers have to follow?

1. Only 1 person per sheet (you can't have one person start collecting on sheet and hand off to another)
2. Need to witness all signatures (you can't leave at table unattended)
3. Circulator needs to sign, write name, address, date on bottom and sign **ONLY AFTER THE LAST SIGNATURE WAS** collected.

4. a copy of the entire resolution must be with the signature sheets for potential signers [www.greenwasheugene.com/eweb.pdf](http://www.greenwasheugene.com/eweb.pdf)
5. We must keep track of every financial expenditure, which should only be copies. Please keep accurate records and if you spent money on them or if they were donated.
6. Put Petition ID #08-02 in the upper right.

## Who can gather signatures?

Anyone can gather signatures, you do not need to live in the City limits to be able to collect signatures.

## How many signatures are needed, and what is the deadline?

4,208 valid signatures from registered city voters -- 5 percent of the electorate -- are needed before April 28, 2008. Since there are always some invalid signatures inadvertently collected as part of a petition campaign, more than this number will be required. If the petition campaign is successful, a special election of the City of Eugene will be held on this issue on September 16, 2008.

## How can I get a copy of the petition, and where do I send completed petitions?

You can download a copy from [www.greenwasheugene.com/eweb.html](http://www.greenwasheugene.com/eweb.html)  
Please send completed petitions to Box 51222, Eugene, OR 97405

Petition gatherers do not need to contact the organizers to collect signatures, but it would be helpful to inform the organizers if you plan to collect them in a public location so we can better coordinate volunteer energy. Contact us at [eweb@greenwasheugene.com](mailto:eweb@greenwasheugene.com)

## **What is EWEB planning to do?**

EWEB is planning to move its maintenance yard from their downtown facility to Roosevelt Boulevard between Beltline highway and Bertelsen Road. They do not plan to move their administration functions (located in the white building on the riverfront).

This relocation of their operations would shift their crews toward the edge of the city, although this would enable EWEB to be more centrally located if Eugene is further expanded out onto the surrounding farmland. EWEB's website on their planned Roosevelt Operations Center is at [www.eweb.org/News/projects/Roosevelt/index.htm](http://www.eweb.org/News/projects/Roosevelt/index.htm)

## **How much is EWEB planning to spend on their new complex?**

The initial estimates from EWEB were about \$70 million. The bonding authority that EWEB has been given by the City Council is for \$85 million. Construction cost increases with the skyrocketing prices of fuel and materials make it likely that the real cost will be higher, still. EWEB ratepayers are ultimately responsible for paying back any bonds for this facility.

## **What is planned for the riverbank if EWEB moves?**

There have been several proposals for construction projects on the riverbank to replace the EWEB maintenance yard. The Arlie company, a local real estate speculator, has sought to acquire this property for many years. There has been considerable discussion in the media about the potential for the site to be used for a hospital. The exact fate of this publicly owned property after EWEB remains unknown at this time.

[www.greenwasheugene.com/eweb.html](http://www.greenwasheugene.com/eweb.html)

## **How did the City Council vote?**

When the City Council gave EWEB the authority to issue the bonds, Councilor Bonny Bettman forced a vote on whether to give the citizens of Eugene the right to vote yes or no on the bonds. Her measure was defeated by 5 to 3. Bonny Bettman, Betty Taylor and Alan Zalenka voted to give the citizens of Eugene the right to vote on these bonds. Andrea Ortiz, Chris Pryor, Jennifer Solomon, Mike Clark and George Poling voted to block the citizens of Eugene from voting on these bonds. Mayor Kitty Piercy stated that if there had been a tie, she would have voted against giving the citizens the right to decide this issue.

## **What would the petitioners like to see EWEB do instead?**

The twin crises of Peak Oil and Climate Change require that our public utility make steps to reduce energy consumption and increase renewable energy production. The money that is to be invested in the Roosevelt Operations Center could be spent instead on solar energy for many of the rooftops in Eugene, which would make the community more energy independent. We could have a local factory to make solar panel (for hot water and / or electricity) equipment for this amount of money, which would create lots of green jobs. There is also a tremendous need to insulate homes and businesses to reduce energy waste.

A majority of EWEB's electricity is from hydroelectricity, mostly from the Bonneville Power Administration's dams on the Columbia River but some also from EWEB's dams on the McKenzie River. Climate change is likely to reduce the region's glaciers that contribute to summertime water flows, so investing in solar power is critical for avoiding energy shortages.

prepared by Our Utility, Our Vote  
Josh Schlossberg, Treasurer

