

PORTLAND UTILITY BOARD

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To: Mayor Ted Wheeler

Commissioner Mingus Mapps

Commissioner Carmen Rubio

Commissioner Dan Ryan

Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

Michael Jordan, Bureau of Environmental Services

Re: PUB support for increased funding for Portland Harbor
Community Grants

Date: November 4, 2021

The Portland Utility Board (PUB) serves as a community advisory board for the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and the Portland Water Bureau (PWB). At our September 16, 2021 Board meeting, members of the Portland Harbor Grant Committee shared their experience reviewing this year's proposals, interviewing applicants and awarding funds. The Grant Committee members, themselves volunteers, recognized that the budgeted grant funds are insufficient to fund the high-quality proposals they received. They asked PUB to support a significant funding boost for the Portland Harbor Grant Program.

PUB wholeheartedly endorses the amendment to Ordinance No. 189696 that authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Environmental Services, or the Director's designee, to increase funding for the Portland Harbor public involvement program by \$1,500,000 for grants and other public involvement activities to support meaningful participation through the remedy design phase – likely FY 2024-2025 – and allows individual grants to exceed \$5,000, with inflation increases.

PUB believes the community engagement that the Portland Harbor Grant Program facilitates is a cornerstone of the harbor's ecosystem restoration. The program's goals also closely align with PUB values: clean and safe water, a healthy ecosystem, and a belief that those most affected by racial and economic inequalities should be afforded culturally appropriate opportunities to speak for themselves. The Harbor Grant Program has successfully demonstrated its ability to create these meaningful opportunities for community members most connected to the river. These communities bring lived experience and expertise that deserve fair compensation and PUB stands solidly with The Harbor Grant Program in their ask for more funding.