



Eugene Water & Electric Board

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EMBARGOED UNTIL THURSDAY, MARCH 7

EWEB Breaks Ground on Emergency Water Station Near New YMCA Campus

The station will tap groundwater for use during an emergency; the Y next door can shelter/feed people after a disaster.

Eugene, Ore. – The Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB) is building an Emergency Water Station in Amazon Park just south of the new Eugene Family YMCA's Don Stathos Campus. Work on the station began last month and will be completed by early summer. A public demonstration will follow.

Contractors will navigate to the site through an access point in the southwest corner of the YMCA parking lot. The first phase of the project includes the installation of a new concrete pad, utilities, and backup power. Phase two includes piping, trenching and equipment installation. Most construction will be localized to a small section of Amazon Park. Later in the project, a section of park sidewalk will be temporarily rerouted to allow for pipeline tie ins. A handful of parking spots will be used in the Y's lot during construction.

This Amazon Park Emergency Water Station is the sixth such site built and operated by EWEB. Each site includes a well and submersible pump to pull water from deep underground for use during an emergency, like the Cascadia Subduction Earthquake, which could damage the pipeline network that delivers water to homes.

"We are thrilled to expand our Emergency Water Station program with the addition of this Amazon Park location," said Nathan Endicott, EWEB Staff Engineer and Project Manager for the effort. "Each station represents a key step in increasing our community's water resiliency."

The station's proximity to the YMCA is an added benefit. The Y, built to the highest seismic standards, can shelter people, feed people from a commercial-grade kitchen and stay powered with a generator after a large-scale disaster, such as a major earthquake.

"EWEB's Emergency Water Station is a critical addition to the south Eugene region and this new key emergency hub," said Brian Steffen, CEO of the Eugene Family YMCA. "We anticipate supporting the community by partnering with EWEB for emergency preparation programs as well as after a natural disaster."

In the event of a disaster, EWEB will mobilize at all Emergency Water Station sites. Residents in need of water should bring a container to fill and disinfect water before use.

Residents are encouraged to memorize the [location of the Emergency Water Station nearest their home](#). EWEB also urges residents to join their [Pledge to Prepare Program](#) to prep for extended, emergency-related outages of water or electric service.

The Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) advises Oregonians to become “2 Weeks Prepared.” This means having a plan and enough food, water and supplies to survive for at least two weeks following a large-scale disaster. EWEB’s Pledge to Prepare Program makes it easy and affordable for residents to gather needed supplies.

EWEB will host workshops on its Pledge to Prepare Program at the Y later this spring.

More information about Emergency Preparedness can be found on the EWEB website at <https://www.eweb.org/outages-and-safety/preparing-for-emergencies>.

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About the Eugene Water & Electric Board

The Eugene Water & Electric Board is Oregon's largest customer-owned utility. Founded in 1911, EWEB provides water and electricity to approximately 96,000 customers in the Eugene-Springfield area. EWEB’s service area covers 236 square miles with a population of more than 200,000 people, including major institutions such as the University of Oregon. A five-member elected Board of Commissioners governs the utility, which does not operate to earn a profit or to serve the investment needs of stockholders. Employing approximately 500 people, EWEB serves the people of Eugene by embodying core values of safety, reliability, affordability, environmental responsibility and community/culture. EWEB owns four energy generation facilities, including hydroelectric projects on the McKenzie and Clackamas Rivers, and leads watershed protection measures with local landowners and environmental organizations. With one of the greenest energy supplies in the nation, approximately 90% of EWEB’s power comes from carbon-free sources, and EWEB is committed to achieving a 95% carbon-free energy portfolio by 2030.

About the Eugene Family YMCA

The Eugene Family YMCA is one of the region's leading nonprofits strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. Each year across Lane County, the Y engages thousands of people regardless of age, gender, income or background—to nurture the potential of children, teens and seniors; improve health and well-being; and provide opportunities to give back and support neighbors. In 2022, the Eugene Family YMCA awarded \$492,451 in financial assistance. The YMCA has been serving the Eugene-area since 1887. The new Y was built to the highest seismic standards to withstand a large-scale natural disaster. In addition to being able to provide shelter, the new Y can feed people with a commercial-grade kitchen and remain powered with a generator.