

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-18

A RESOLUTION DECLARING AN EMERGENCY RELATING TO THE UPCOMING DEEP DRAWDOWN OF DETROIT RESERVOIR

Whereas, on December 26, 2024, the National Marine Fisheries Service issued a Biological Opinion requiring the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to conduct deep drawdown operations at Detroit Reservoir to improve downstream fish passage; and

Whereas, elevated turbidity levels in the North Santiam River resulting from the deep drawdown present a severe threat to the operation of slow sand filters at the Geren Island Water Treatment Plant, which are the primary method for treating Salem's drinking water supply; and

Whereas, alternative water sources currently available can only marginally meet demand during the deep drawdown with minimal resiliency should a failure occur in any critical component of these alternative sources; and

Whereas, even a short time of water supply falling below demand can result in insufficient storage within the system for firefighting and present system-wide risks to health, safety, property, and livelihood; and,

Whereas, deep drawdown operations are currently planned to begin in the fall of 2026; and

Whereas in order to prepare for the drawdown, normal procurement procedures and testing would not allow the system to be ready until Spring 2027.

Whereas, the City of Salem must deploy resources to prepare for the threat to necessary drinking water treatment operations and maintain the safe and continued operation of the drinking water and fire flow protection system.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, OREGON, RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. A state of emergency is declared within the City of Salem related to the upcoming deep drawdown of Detroit Reservoir, pursuant to Salem Revised Code (SRC) 2.660-2.680.

Section 2. The emergency or threatened conditions are:

- a) Inadequate water supply, impaired fire flow protection, and reduced drinking water quality resulting from extended periods of elevated turbidity in the North Santiam River.

Section 3. The damage or potential damage is:

- a) Threats to health and safety of residents and water system users related to inadequate fire flow and reduced water quality within the system.
- b) Increased risk of property damage due to inadequate fire flow protection and elevated turbidity within the drinking water system.

Section 4. The location or geographic area affected is: the City of Salem and its water system customers.

Section 5. The resources committed and actions initiated by the City are:

- a) The City Manager, or designee, is authorized to activate the Emergency Operations Center.
- b) The City Manager, or designee, is authorized to spend city funds to reduce the threat to life and property.
- c) The City Manager, or designee, is authorized to enter into agreements with vendors, contractors, and agencies to develop alternative water supply and increase drinking water system resiliency.

Section 6. The City Manager, acting as the City's Emergency Program Manager, is authorized to issue orders and take other necessary steps to implement this declaration as authorized by SRC 2.680, including emergency procurement of goods and services, execution of agreements and other measures necessary for the protection of life, property, and the economy.

Section 7. This declaration shall terminate, unless expressly extended by the Salem City Council, on **MAY 1, 2026**.

Section 8. This resolution is effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the City Council this ____ day of _____, 2025

ATTEST:

City Recorder

Approved by City Attorney: _____

Prepared by: Allen Dannen, PE