

Morrow and Umatilla Counties Drinking Water Roadmap

Public Meeting
August 5, 2026



Welcome and Introductions

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Morrow County Planning Department, Director

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Presentation Agenda

- Meeting Purpose
- Project Overview
- Drinking Water Options
- Constraints and Actions
- Baseline Implementation and Next Steps



Meeting Purpose

Provide overview and findings of the Drinking Water Roadmap



No decisions have
been made



Maps shown are for
illustrative purposes



Solutions presented
are **concepts**

Project Overview



Project Overview – Goals



Understand nitrate impacts for purposes of this project.



Engage domestic well users on drinking water options related to the nitrate impacts.



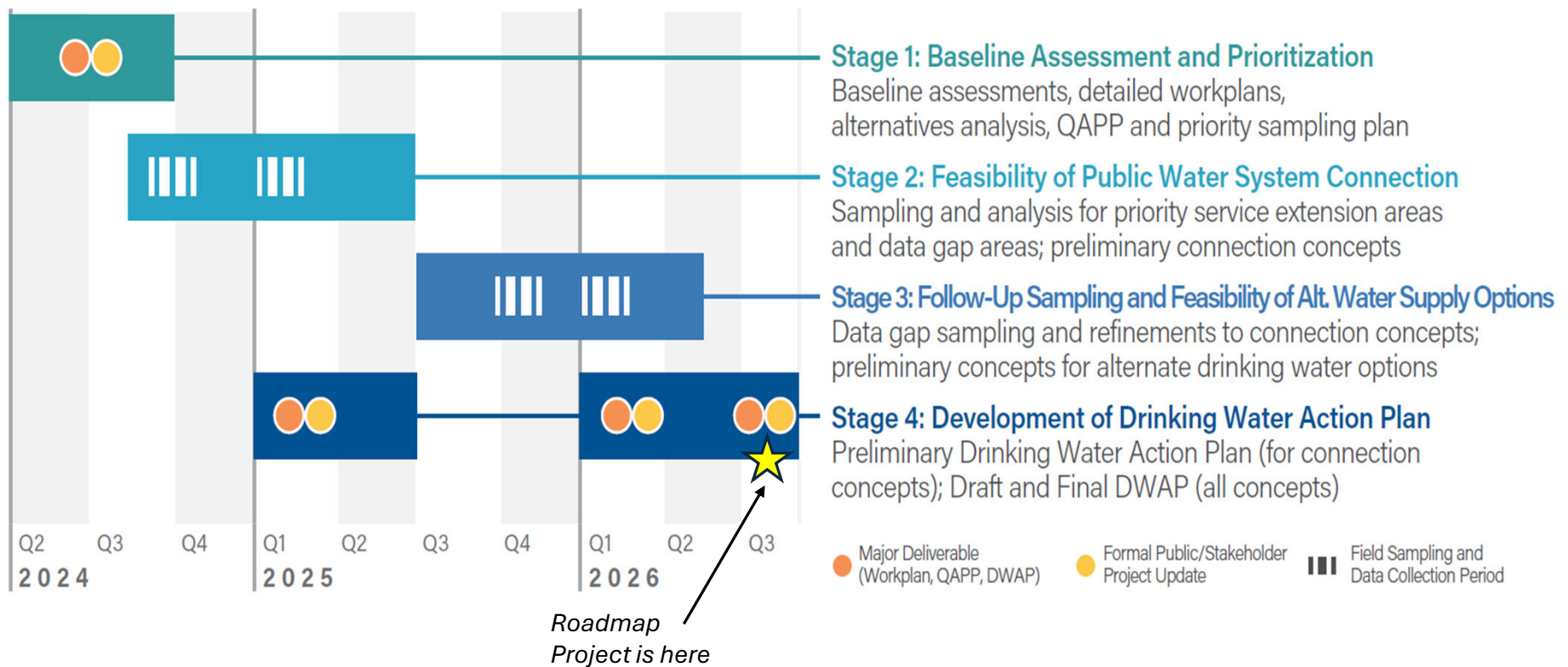
Develop an Action Plan to implement drinking water solutions.

Project Overview – Background

- Nitrate impacts to groundwater in LUBGWMA
- Drinking water-focused for domestic well users
- EPA research grant-funded
- County-led with state agency coordination



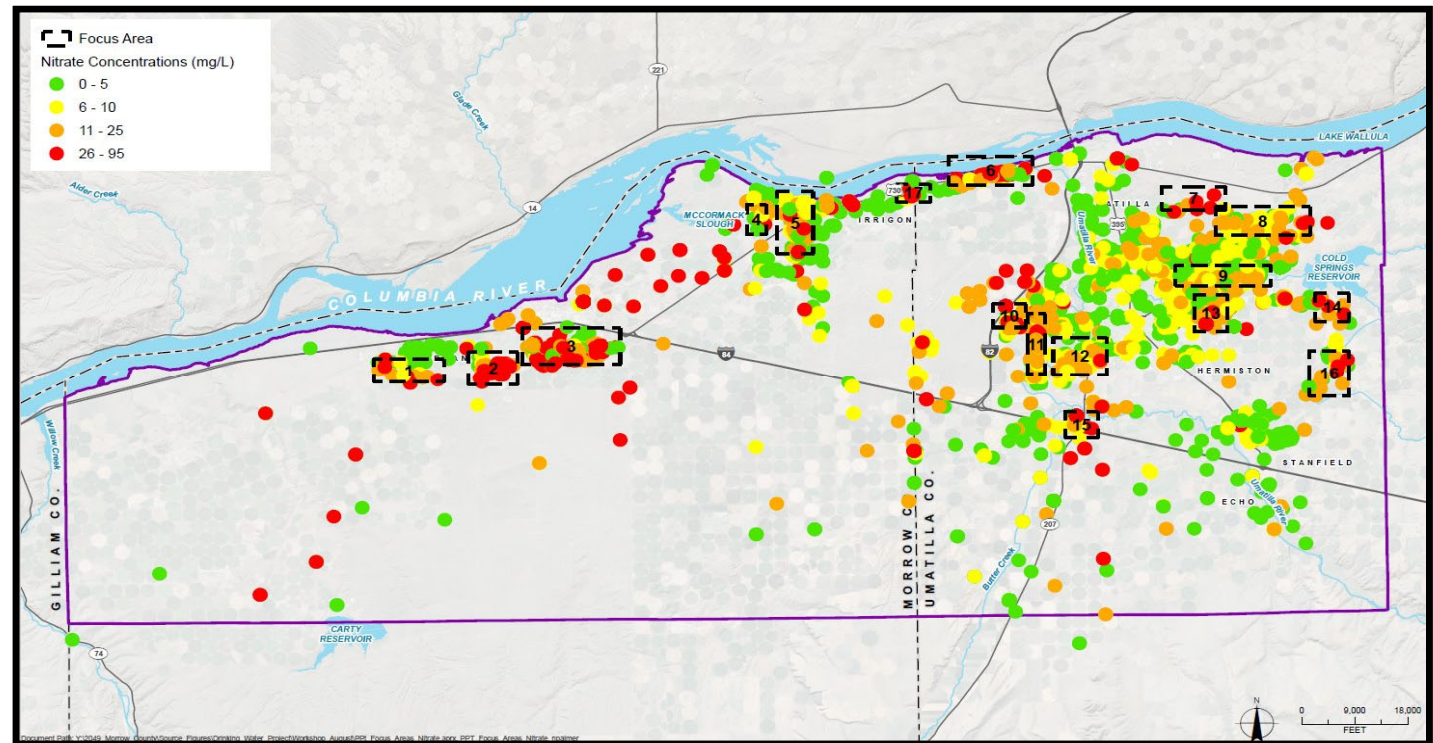
Project Phases and Timeline



Focus Areas

Represent different areas and residences (domestic well users) affected by nitrate impacts to groundwater.

- Near city water systems
- Large/small clusters of homes further from cities
- Represent areas within each county

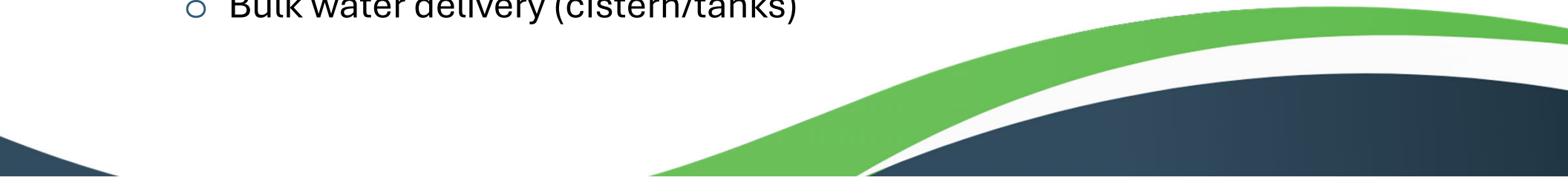


Drinking Water Options

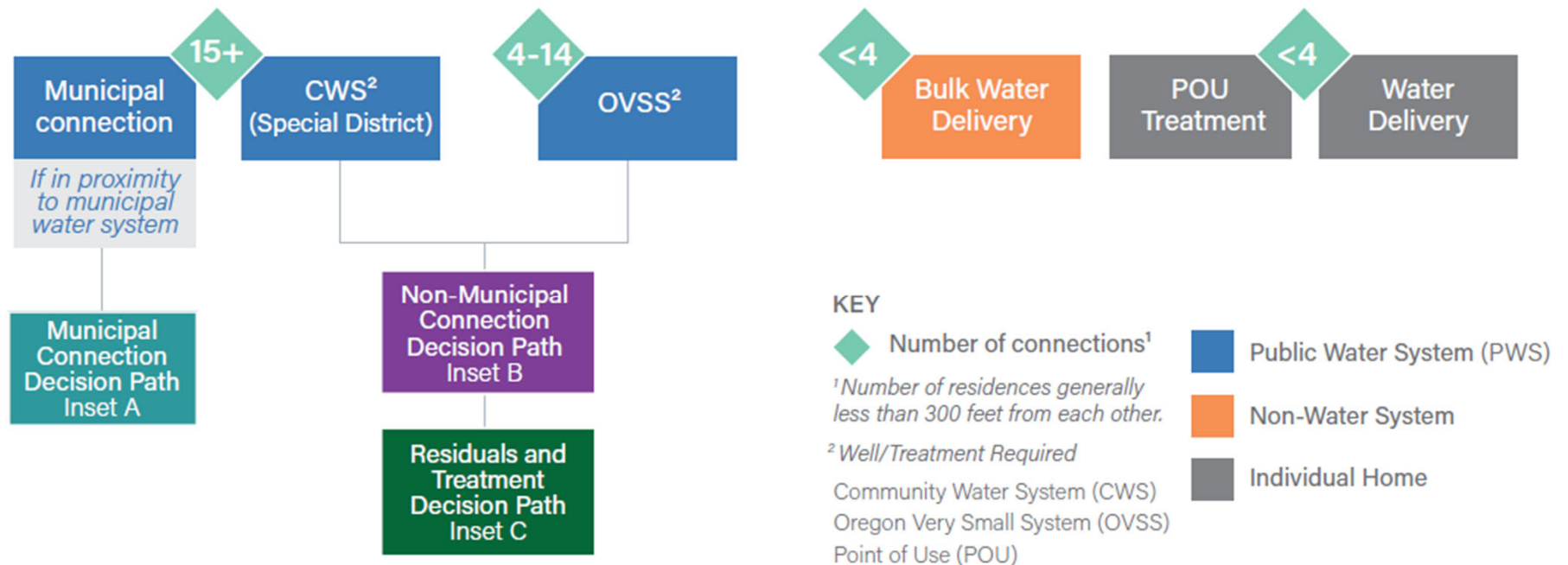


Categories of Drinking Water Options

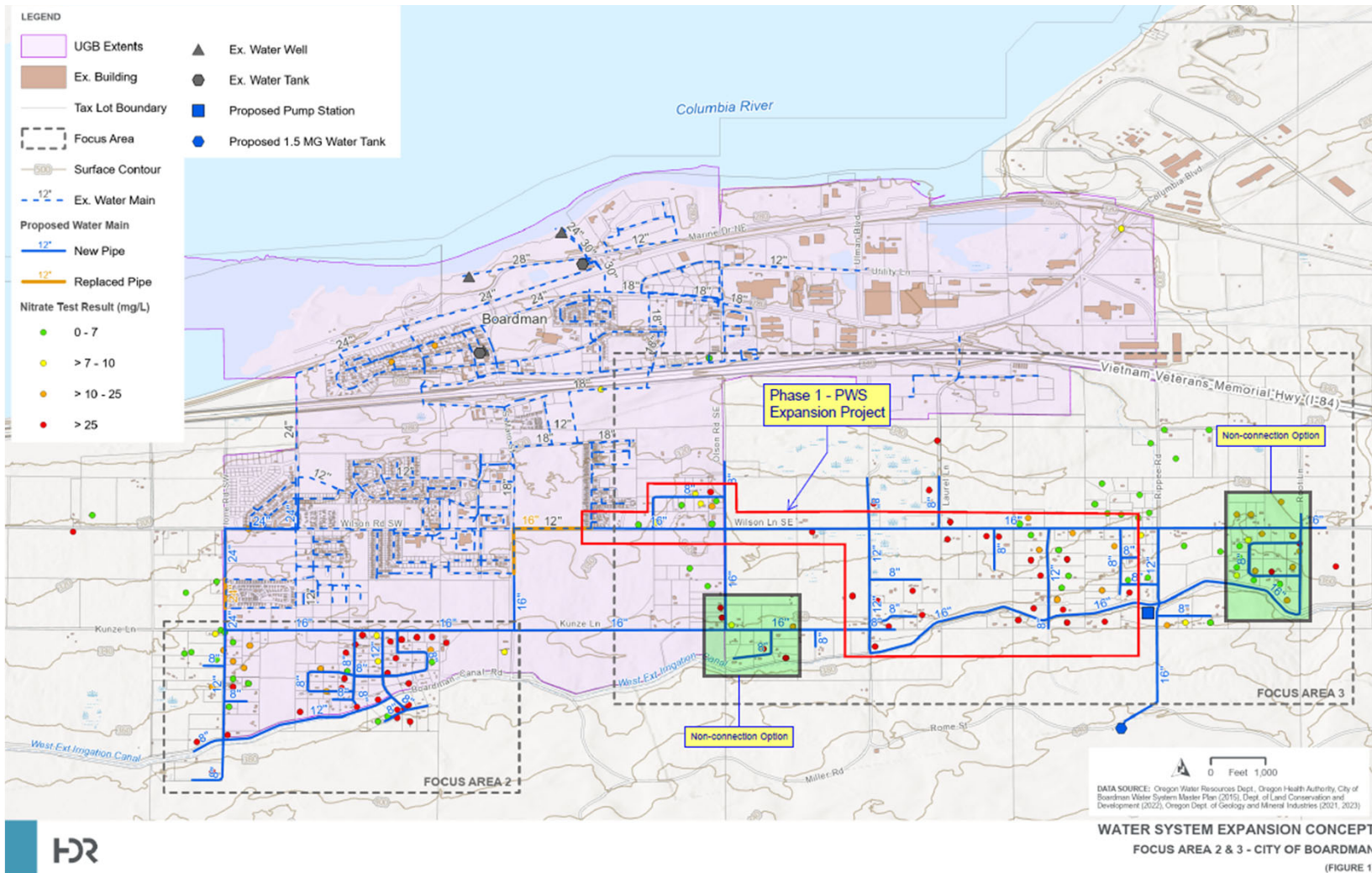
- **Municipal Water System Connection**
 - Boardman, Irrigon, Umatilla, Hermiston
- **Non-Municipal System Connection**
 - New well or well improvements with treatment
 - Community Water System (CWS) or Oregon Very Small System (OVSS)
- **Non-Water System**
 - Bulk water delivery (cistern/tanks)



Drinking Water Options

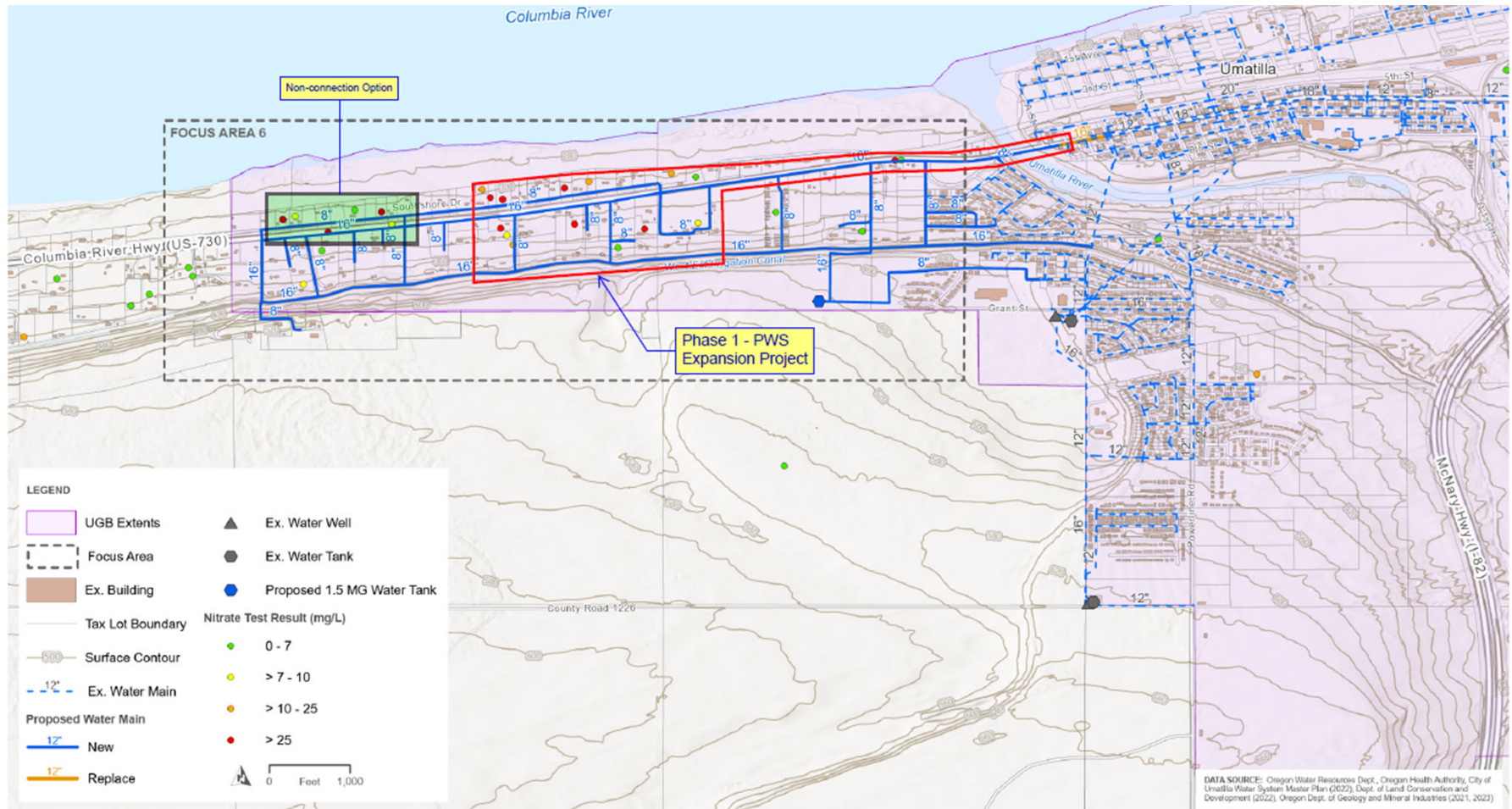


**240 Estimated households in Focus Area*



Example Concept – Umatilla (FA-6)

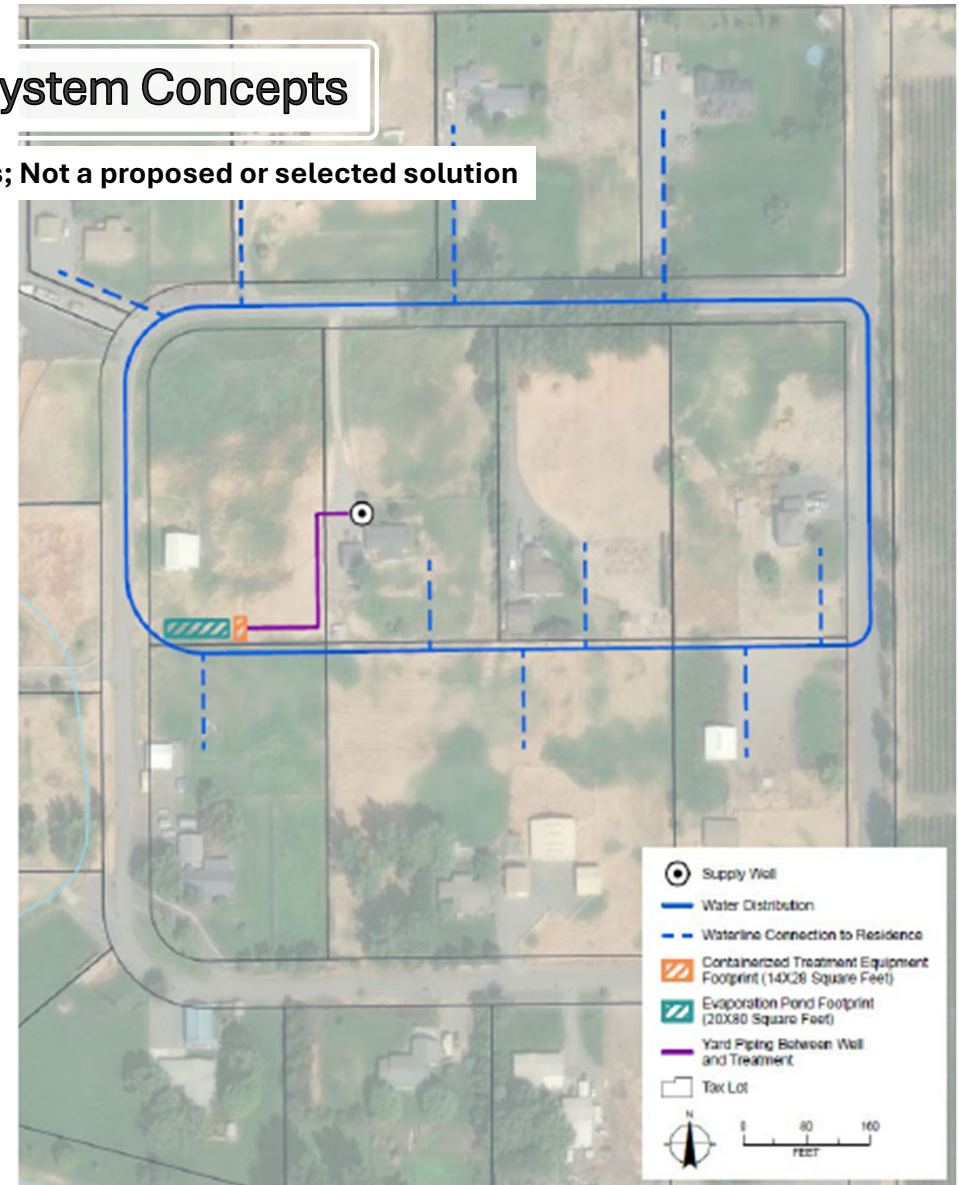
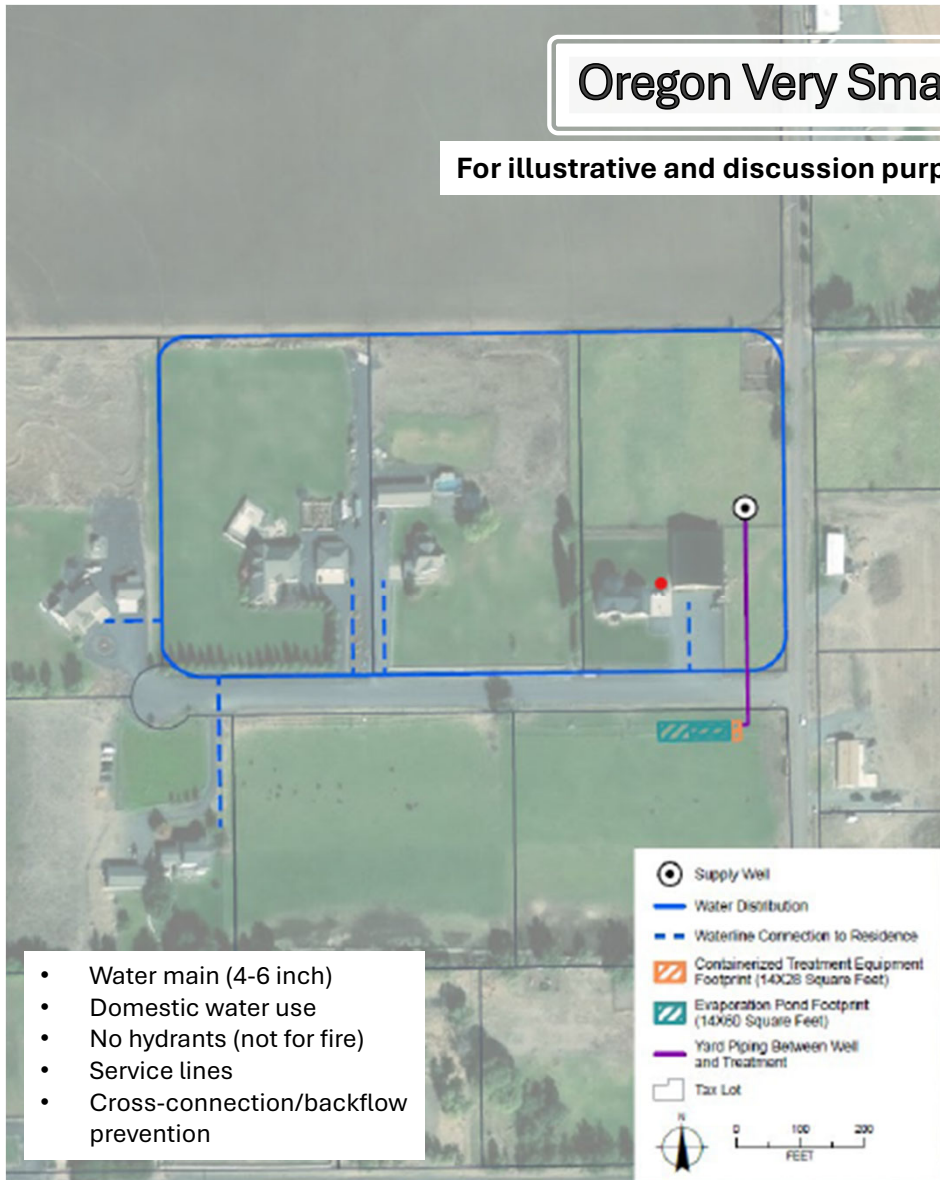
*170 Estimated households in
Focus Area



WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION CONCEPT
FOCUS AREA 6 - CITY OF UMATILLA
(FIGURE 4)

Oregon Very Small System Concepts

For illustrative and discussion purposes; Not a proposed or selected solution



Summary of Cost Information *(average estimate)*

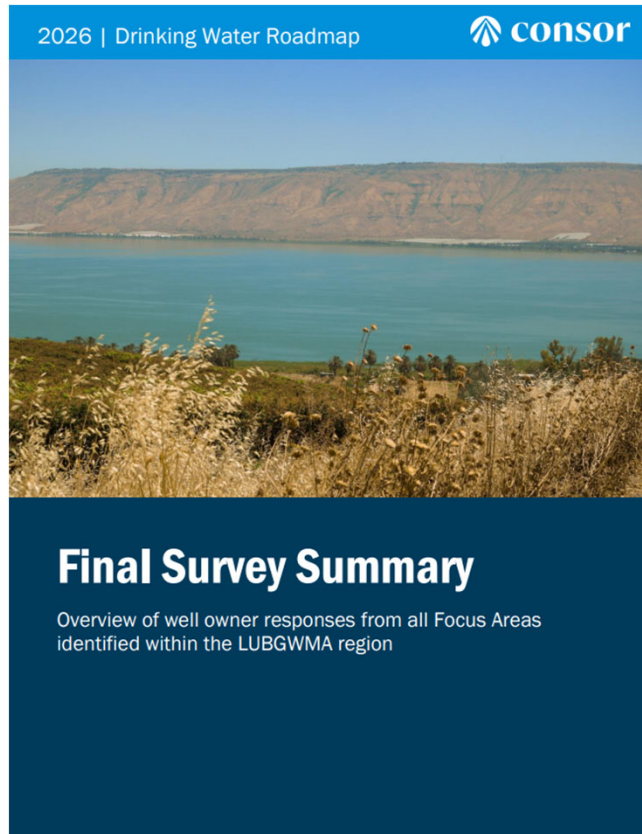
Drinking Water Options	Capital Cost ¹	Operating Cost per Home ²
Municipal Connection	\$30M (~\$120,000/home)	~\$100-160/month (grant-funded capital)
Non-municipal Connection (OVSS) (well improvements with treatment)	\$2.5M (~\$250,000/home)	~\$600/month
Non-water system (bulk water delivery)	\$50,000 (~\$20,000/home)	~\$400/month

¹ Planning Level Capital Costs: *one-time, up-front costs to design and construct the system*

² Potential Monthly Operating Costs: *on-going costs for operation and maintenance of the system (monthly bill)*



Well Owner Survey Feedback



Survey Distribution

- Active from April 2025 to March 2026
- Mailed to all Focus Areas in Spanish & English
- 175 Responses – Even distribution across both Counties

Respondent Profile

Most wells belonged to a single household **84%**

Most indicated familiarity with nitrate problem **91%**

Full report available at drinkingwaterroadmap.org

Well Owner Survey – Key Highlights



Health Departments are the most trusted sources for information



Cost is the leading concern across all water solutions



Increased concerns about shared ownership of new treatment systems (CWS and OVSS)



Increased interest in the potential sources of contamination

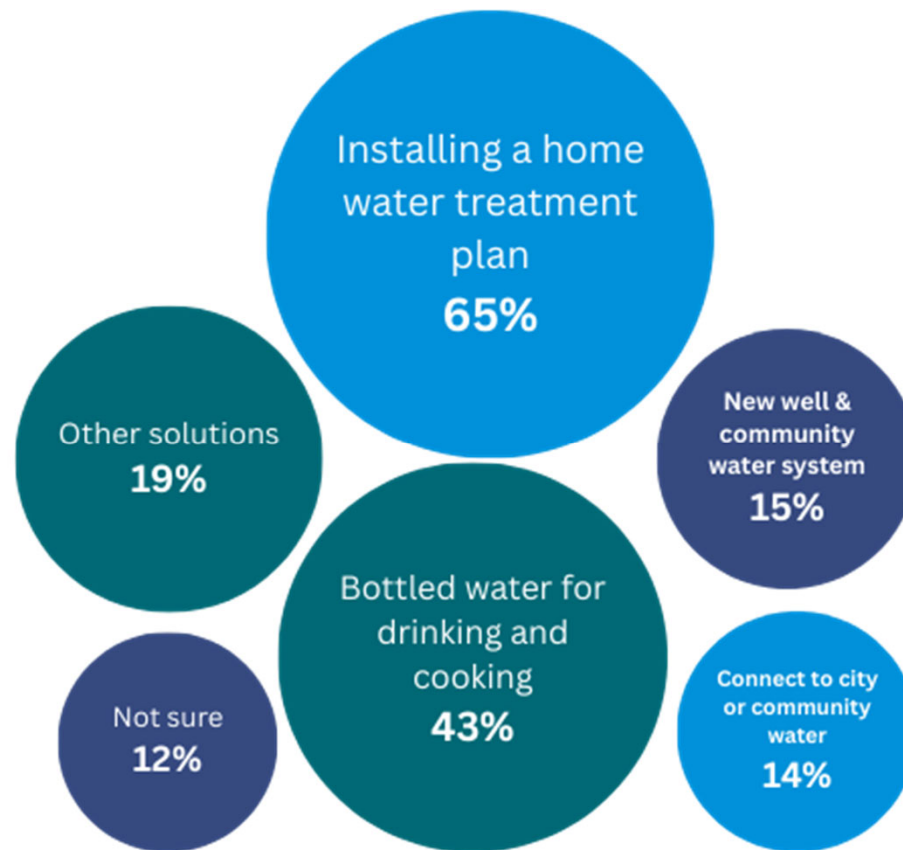


Strong desire for independence from City systems



Increased support for home treatment systems with many well owners wanting more information

Well Owner Survey – Preferred Solutions



Considerations and Constraints



Implementation Considerations

- ✓ General Public and Resident Perspectives
- ✓ Municipal Perspectives
- ✓ Administrative, Legal, and Regulatory
- ✓ Financial
- ✓ Technical



Key Implementation Constraints

Municipal Connection	Non-Muni Connection	Non-Water System
Affordability; Governance (agreements); Homeowner Preferences		
Serving irrigation demands		City policies vary for delivery
Road & sewer infrastructure	Treatment residuals management	Operational oversight
Annexation constraints	Water rights; Well yield	No hauling capacity

Actions and Path Forward



Implementation Actions

✓ Lead Parties

- Federal, state, county, municipal
- Non-governmental, private industry, residents

✓ Cross-cutting Actions

- Outreach and planning
- Funding and financial support

✓ Category-specific Actions

- Municipal, Non-Municipal, Non-Water System



Baseline Action Priorities

1. Establish a LUBGWMA Drinking Water Action Group
 - a. On-going outreach, education, engagement with residents
 - b. Master plan to track and evaluate project opportunities
 - c. Programmatic funding approach
2. Develop Coordinated Resources and Guidance
 - a. Operator Network for shared operations services
 - b. Operation of CWS/OVSS
 - c. Residuals management (from treatment)
 - d. Develop and operate bulk water delivery market and resources

Objectives and Relative Timelines

- Maintain
- Afford
- Timely

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Individual Home Bottled water delivery Point-of-use treatment					
Non-water system Bulk water delivery • Outreach/organize • Agreements • Planning • Design • Construction					
Non-muni connection Community water system (15+) Oregon very small system (4-14) • Outreach/organize • Agreements • Planning • Design • Construction					
Municipal connection • Outreach/organize • Agreements • Planning • Design • Construction					

Final Steps on the Road(map)



Questions?

Stay Connected

Project Website: Drinkingwaterroadmap.org

E-mail Updates: Write down your email into the sign-in sheet to be included in future project updates.

Contact Information

Counties:

Morrow County: mchealth@co.morrow.or.us or call (541) 676-5421

Umatilla County: Health@umatillacounty.gov or call (541) 278-6394

Project Team:

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