

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

Adopting a County Policy With Respect to Using County Funds to Purchase Bottled Water

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:**

- a. Municipal water systems in Multnomah County are among the finest in the nation equal to or exceeding the quality of bottled water.
- b. Local governments nationwide invest approximately \$43 billion a year for pure drinking water and treating wastewater.
- c. High quality, safe drinking water is already available in all County owned and maintained facilities.
- d. Manufacturing, transportation, and consumption of bottled water has a significant negative impact on the environment through the use of fossil fuel required for manufacturing, packaging and transportation, creating the need for additional landfill space and added costs for recycling.
- e. Multnomah County adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2009, and reducing the use of bottled drinking water for drinking will reduce fossil fuel use.
- f. The average price for bottled water is approximately \$1.50 per 16 oz. bottle, or \$8 per gallon and the average price for municipal water is \$0.0225 per gallon.
- g. The FDA regulates bottled water and mandates only six water quality tests per month. The EPA, which regulates municipal drinking water systems, mandates over 300 tests per month for the major provider of drinking water to Multnomah County. The EPA also has far more stringent and enforceable requirements for screening, reporting, and mitigating any contamination.
- h. There is clearly a growing consensus around the need to choose tap water over bottled water, as many U.S. cities and counties have initiated limitations or bans on the use of public funds for the purchase of bottled drinking water while encouraging the use of tap water for drinking.

**The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:**

1. Effective December 1, 2010, Multnomah County funds shall, to the maximum extent possible, no longer be used to purchase bottled water for use in Multnomah County facilities or at Multnomah County events, except in cases of emergency, where there are no reasonable alternatives to access safe drinking

2. Multnomah County Facilities and Property Management will continue their ongoing effort to routinely test and respond to reported drinking water quality concerns within Multnomah County facilities.

ADOPTED this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2010.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

---

Jeff Cogen, Chair

REVIEWED:

HENRY H. LAZENBY, JR., COUNTY ATTORNEY  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By \_\_\_\_\_  
John S. Thomas, Deputy County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY:  
Commissioner Barbara Willer, District 2