



**CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION
DRAFT MINUTES**

Monday, February 4, 2019
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

Mayor Stromberg called the Study Session to order at 5:34 p.m.

I. Public Input (15 minutes, maximum)

Lee Hood – Ashland – Spoke regarding the canal project and that there needs to be more research done before a decision is made. She suggested to look into more creative options.

Dr. Carol Voisin – Ashland – Spoke in concern about the TID canal. She spoke in concern about trees and the cost to the citizens of Ashland. Reasons to pipe the canal is more efficient and will decrease the amount of pollutants in the water based on a study over 8 years old. She spoke that water supply is important and TID is not a reliable source.

Craig Martin - Ashland – Spoke that he has enjoyed the canal for 40+ years. Explained that the reasons for this project is to reduce contamination and water loses but this project will not do that. He explained that seepage is the problem. He spoke that the City has not maintained the canal and the best solution is to start maintaining it.

Andrew Kubic – Ashland – Spoke regarding the Extreme Weather Shelter. He suggested to raise the temperature margin to 32 degrees.

Dennis – Ashland – He spoke against to the plan to remove and replace the canal. He explained it will not result in reduction of water loss and no level of contamination. He suggested to only remove portion.

Allison Toffer - Ashland – Spoke in support of a Resolution to raise degrees of Extreme Weather Shelter to 32 degrees.

Pauline Black – Ashland – Spoke that she walks on the ditch at least 2 times a week. She spoke that she is not in support of the canal project and she spoke in support to raise the temperature for the Extreme Weather Shelter.

William Shanner – Ashland –Spoke against the canal project.

Michael B- Ashland – Spoke against the canal project and spoke that it would be costly to the City. He suggested the City look at better ways to spend money.

II. Preliminary Report on the Canal Project

Public Works Director Paula Brown, Project Manager Kevin Caldwell and Water Conservation Specialist Julie Smitherland. Presented a PowerPoint Presentation to Council.

Went over a PowerPoint Presentation (*see attached*).

Items discussed were:

- Project Purpose and Benefits.
- Map of canal.
- Map of TID.
- Map of Ashland Lateral Canal.
- Map of Ashland Canal Trail Easements.
- Canal Maintenance Issues.
- Maintenance.
- Public Outreach.
- Citizen feedback.
- Project work completed.
- Seepage Study.
- Alternative 1-Replace the entire canal with new 24” pipe.
- Alternative 2-Replace only the open canal with new pipe and rehab the existing large piped sections.
- Alternative 3 – Replace the existing concrete liner and rehab the piped sections.
- Alternative 4 – Do nothing.

III. Extreme Weather Shelter Ordinance Discussion – 25 Minutes

City Administrator Kelly Madding gave a brief Staff report.

Items discussed were:

- Shelter days and times open.
- Increasing the temperature for extreme weather.
- Volunteers.
- Winter Shelter Verses Extreme Weather Shelter.
- Costs.
- Resources.
- Statistics of how many people have been to the Winter Shelter.

Staff explained that this would come back to Council in early Summer.

IV. Rogue Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Intergovernmental Agreement – 10 Minutes.

Ms. Madding gave a brief Staff report.

Council gave consensus to move forward with this agreement.

The Study Session was adjourned at 7:03 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

City Recorder, Melissa Huhtala

Attest:

Mayor Stromberg

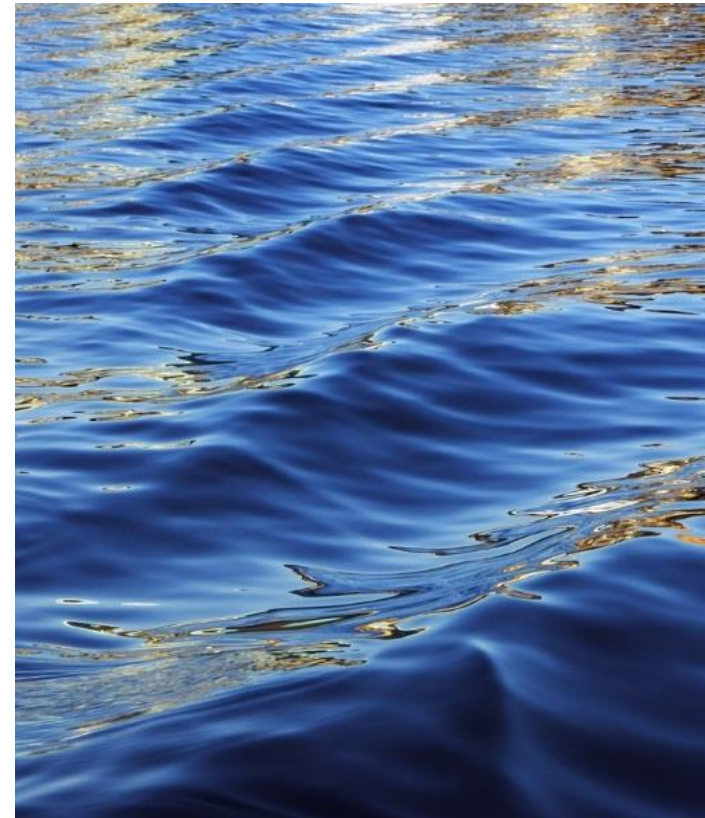
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).



Ashland Canal Piping Project

Community Meeting

January 31, 2019



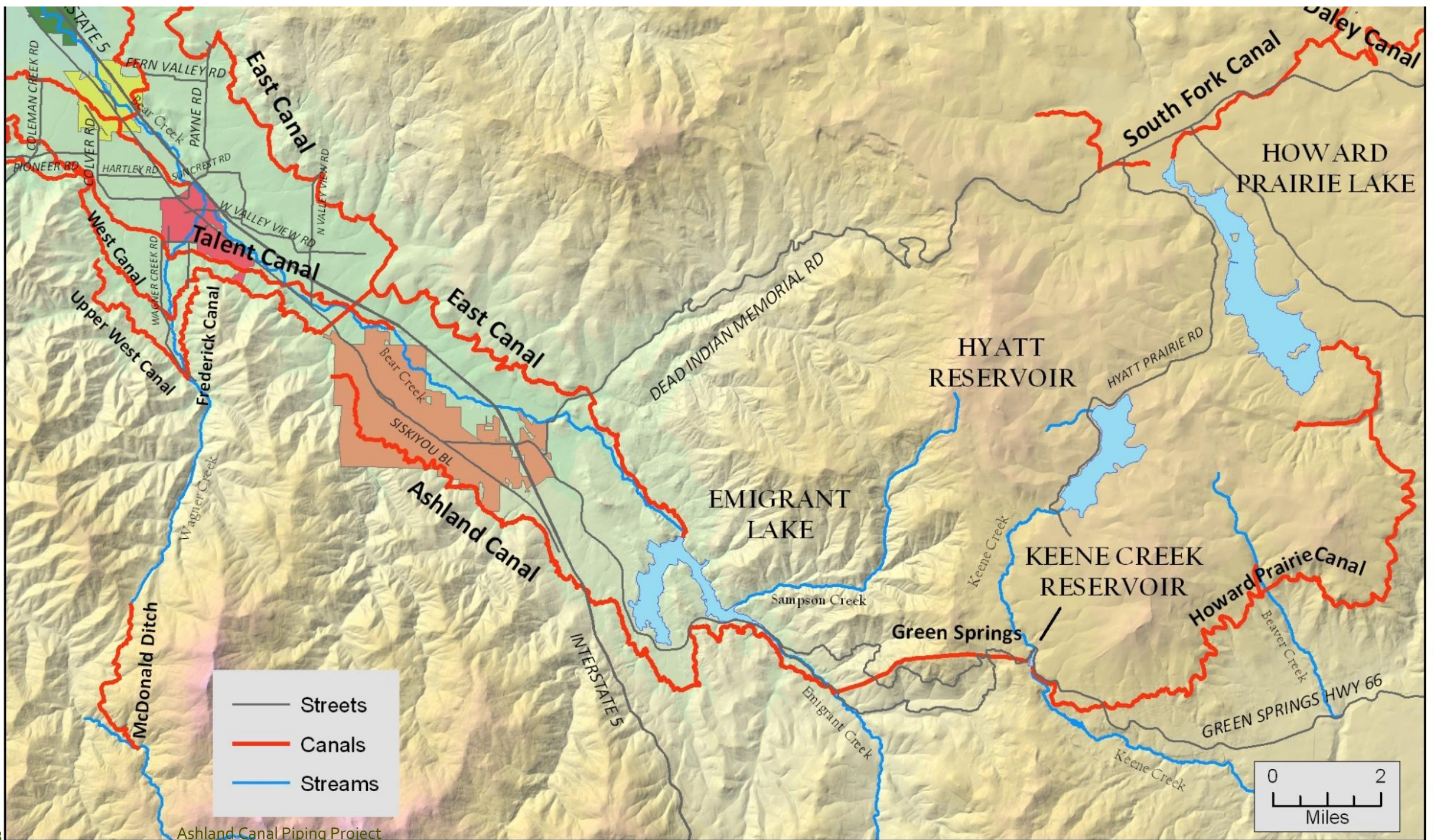
PROJECT PURPOSE & BENEFITS

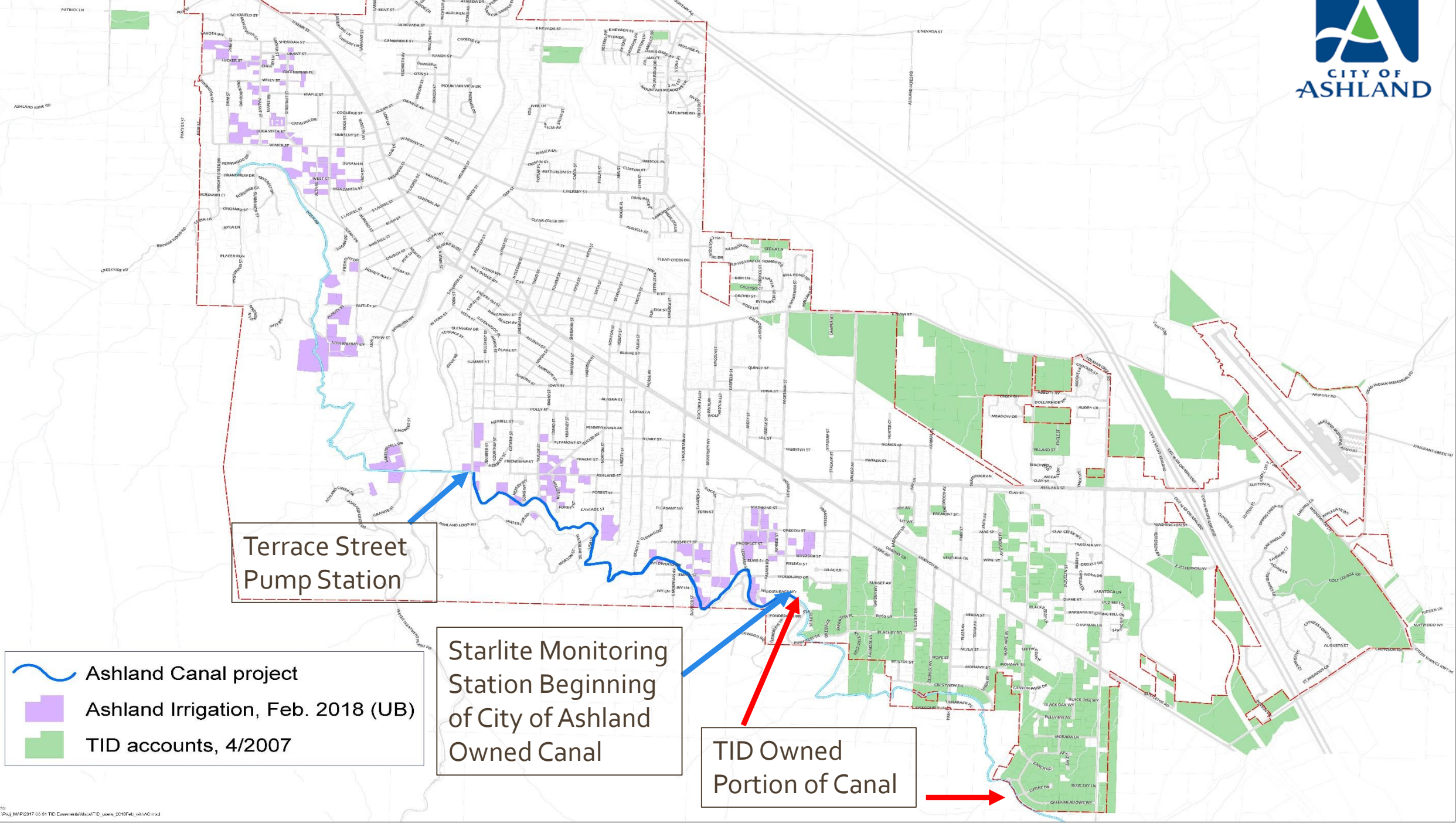
Purpose:

- Replace 10,700 feet of open-channel irrigation canal from Starlite Place to Terrace Street with below-ground pipe(s) to improve the water quality in Ashland Creek and to assist the City's goal for overall water conservation.

Benefits:

- Minimize water pollution and health risks in Ashland Creek
- Reduce water loss due to seepage and evaporation
- Maximize water resource – *Right Water Right Use*
- Protect drinking water resources






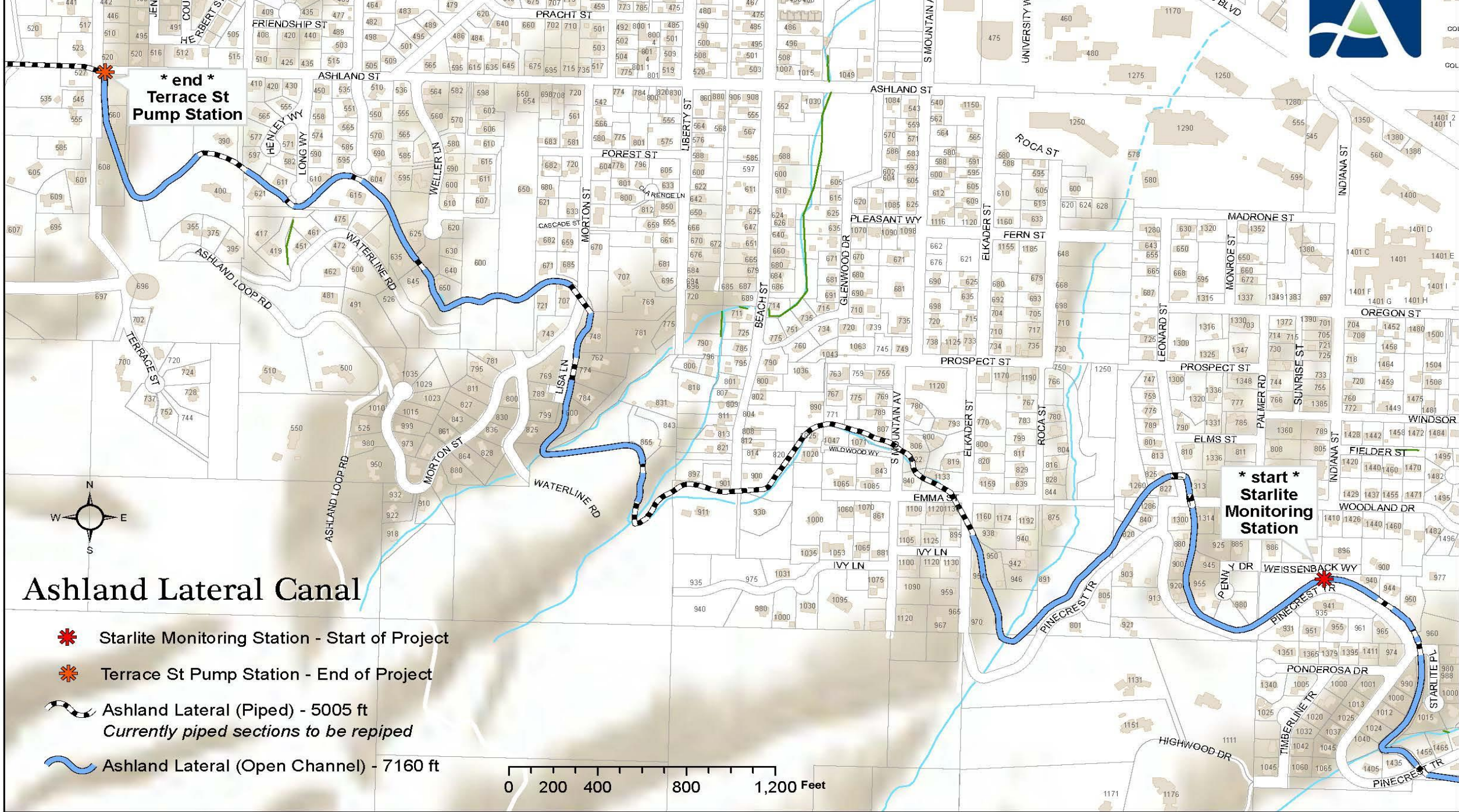


Terrace Street
Pump Station





Starlite Monitoring
Station Beginning
of City of Ashland
Owned Canal

TID Owned
Portion of Canal

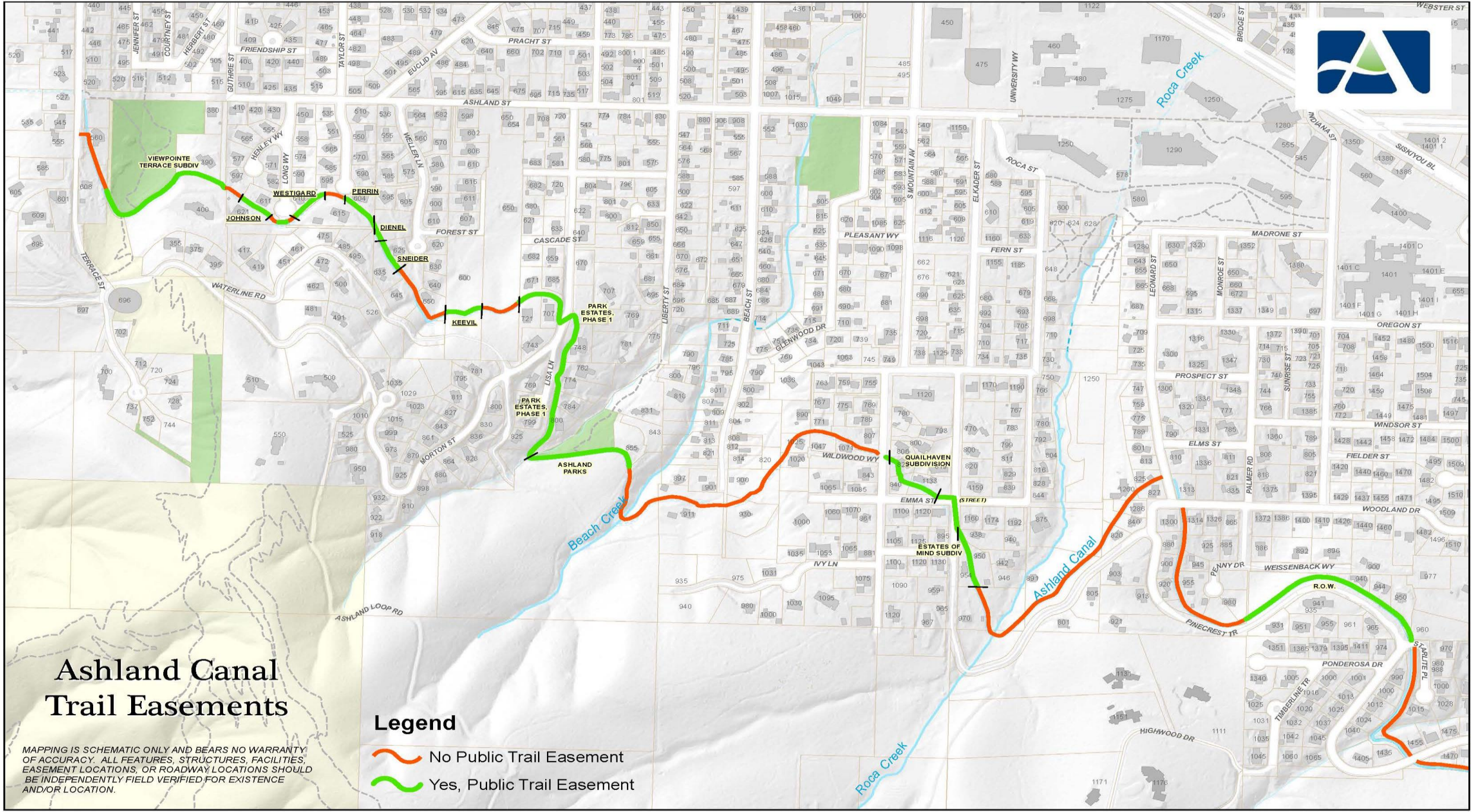
-  Ashland Canal project
-  Ashland Irrigation, Feb. 2018 (UB)
-  TID accounts, 4/2007



Ashland Lateral Canal

-  Starlite Monitoring Station - Start of Project
-  Terrace St Pump Station - End of Project
-  Ashland Lateral (Piped) - 5005 ft
Currently piped sections to be repiped
-  Ashland Lateral (Open Channel) - 7160 ft







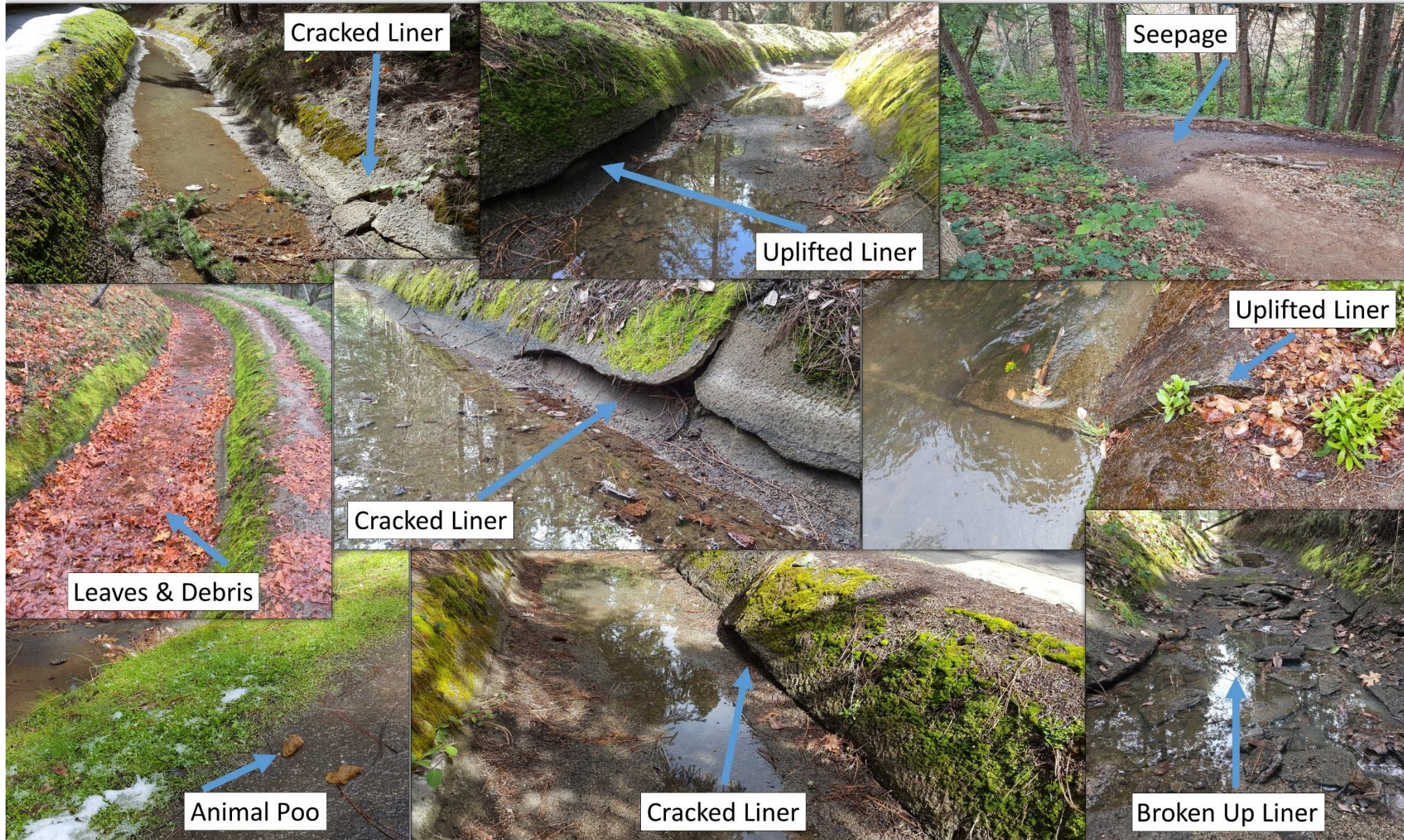
Ashland Canal Trail Easements

MAPPING IS SCHEMATIC ONLY AND BEARS NO WARRANTY OF ACCURACY. ALL FEATURES, STRUCTURES, FACILITIES, EASEMENT LOCATIONS, OR ROADWAY LOCATIONS SHOULD BE INDEPENDENTLY FIELD VERIFIED FOR EXISTENCE AND/OR LOCATION.

Legend

-  No Public Trail Easement
-  Yes, Public Trail Easement

Ashland Canal Maintenance Issues



ARTISTIC REPRESENTATION OF COMPLETED PROJECT



Artistic Representation of Completed Ashland Canal Piping Project (ACPP)

WORK COMPLETED

Public Outreach



- Neighborhood Meeting
 - March 6, 2018
- Neighborhood “Backyard Visits”
 - 20 on-site interviews
- Community Meetings
 - April 18, 2018
 - January 31, 2019
- Parks Master Plan Open House
 - May 2, 2019
- Canal Tour (ACAG and staff)
 - November 13, 2018
- Ashland Canal Advisory Group
 - April 2, 2018
 - October 9, 2018
 - December 20, 2018
- City Source Articles
- TV & Radio Interviews
- Project website
- Email notification list (70 citizens)
- Meetings, emails and phone communications with community members



FEEDBACK & INPUT

- Impacts on vegetation
- Aesthetics of water “feature”
- Not a community priority
- Impacts on wildlife
- Homeowner access during construction
- Water efficiency / quality
- Disturbance and removal of homeowner bridges, fencing, rocks, driveways, etc.
- Project costs
- Trail Access
- Drainage
- Wildfire
- Privacy
- Property Values



ASHLAND CANAL ADVISORY GROUP

Members

- Ashland Water Advisory Committee
- Tree Commission
- Conservation Commission
- Historic Commission
- Homeowners along the canal
- Community members
- Ashland Trails Association

Additional Consultants

- WISE project representatives
- Siskiyou Bio Survey
- SOU Biology
- City of Ashland Fire
- Parks Department
- GIS Department

PROJECT WORK COMPLETED



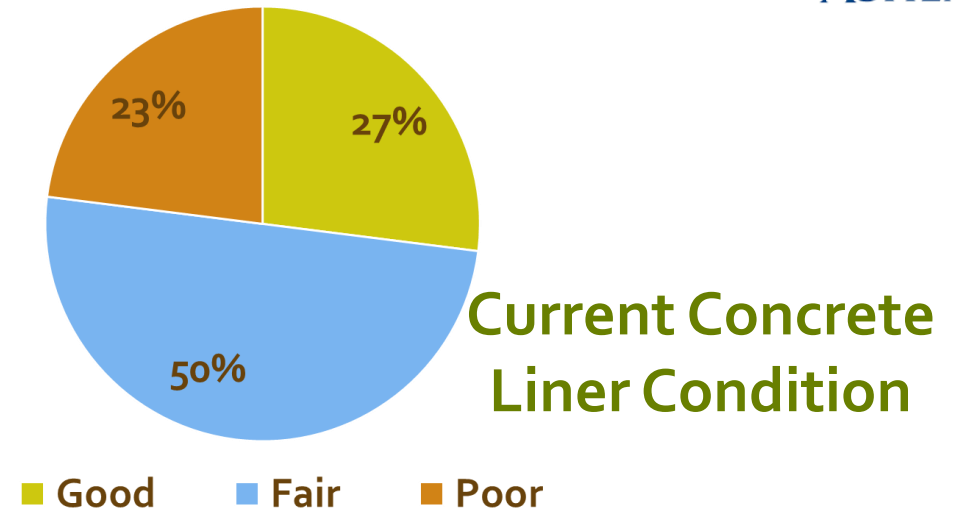
- Preliminary engineering phase (survey and field work)
- Hydraulic Analysis
- Water Quality Testing
- Natural Resource Analysis
 - Wildlife
 - Wildfire
 - Vegetation
- Water Loss Study
- Alternatives Analysis
- Southern Oregon University Biology Analysis



WATER LOSS/SEEPAGE STUDY

Methodology – Ponding test

- Measures how fast water seeps from the canal into the ground.
- Three ponding tests were conducted between Starlite Place and Elkader Street.
 - 100 foot section of canal tested in each of the three rated canal conditions



Results

- Total flow rate loss during an irrigation season is estimated to be 23%.
 - 21% seepage; 2% evaporation
 - Does not include transpiration
- Equivalent to 190 acre feet or 61,911,690 gallons per season (or 62 million).



E. COLI BACTERIA STUDIES

Water Sampling Sites

Starlite Place Monitoring Station



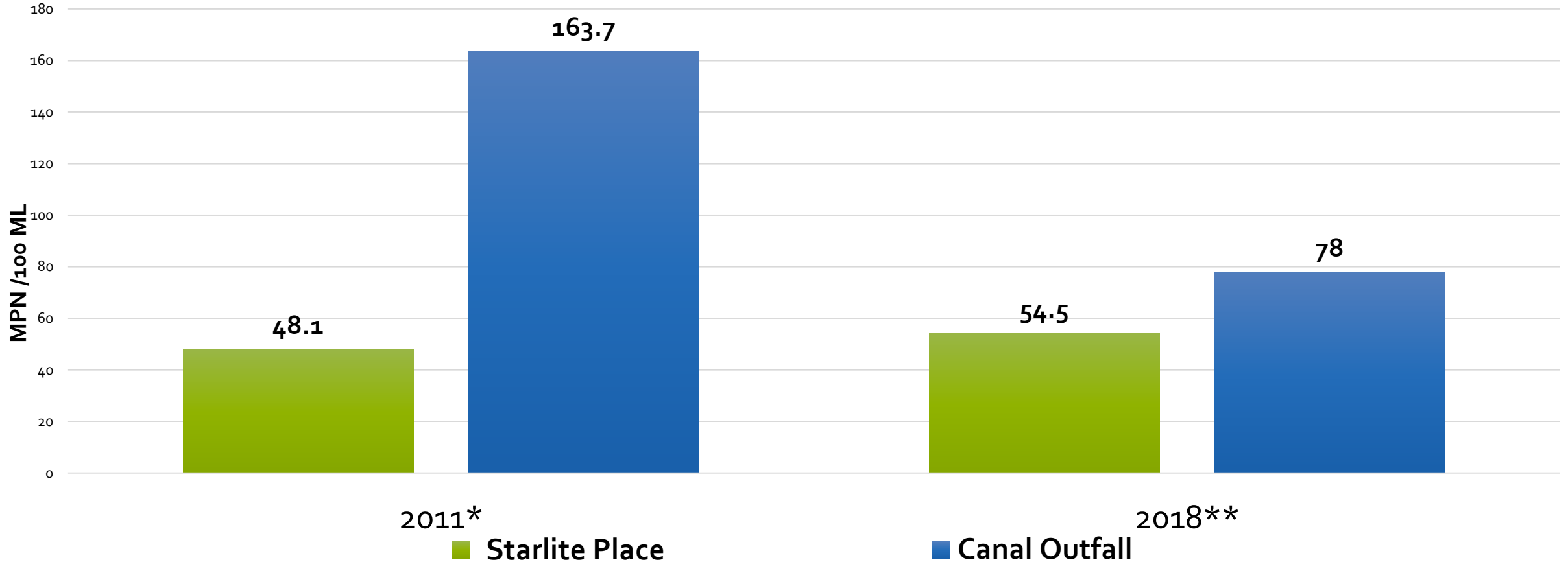
Ashland Creek – Ashland Canal Outfall



E. COLI BACTERIA STUDIES



Ashland Canal E. Coli Bacteria Comparison



All figures are geometric mean. All units are MPN/100 ML

*2011 data from Rogue Riverkeeper Ashland Creek Bacteria Study (62 samples taken)

**2018 data from City of Ashland and RVCOG (30 Samples taken)

NATURAL RESOURCES

Wildlife – SOU Biology

- Evaluate wildlife use and impacts from piping
- The canal does not function as a riparian corridor for wildlife.
- Wildlife shift to alternate water sources during the irrigation “off season.”
- Attractive Nuisance

Fire

- The piped canal corridor can be used as an improved fuel break to increase wildfire resilience.
- Allows better access if there were a fire in the area



NATURAL RESOURCES

Ecological Analysis – Siskiyou Bio Survey

- Evaluate risks to existing vegetation
- Identify mature trees at risk from piping
- Propose mitigation measures and recommendations

Findings

- Seepage has created an unnatural environment
- Douglas Firs are less resilient than pines and hardwoods
- Trees below the canal are larger than others in the watershed



VEGETATION SURVEY RESULTS



Decades of water seepage has significantly altered the habitat around the canal creating an unusual abundance of large Douglas Firs. It is uncommon to find trees of these sizes upslope of the canal.



Large numbers of specimen trees occur near the canal. The quantities of large sizes are unusual in such a concentrated area.

ALTERNATIVES

Alternative Criteria

- Meet design criteria of 7.2 cfs (cubic feet per second flow rate) minimum for flow and a maximum upstream water elevation of 2,327.05 feet.
- Alternatives 1-3 assume the City will apply for grant funding as appropriate and/or secure additional funds from the DEQ as necessary

ALTERNATIVE #1

Replace the entire canal with new 24" pipe

- Reduce pollution inputs into Ashland/Wrights/Bear creeks from the canal
- Maximize water resources
- Remove trees within the existing easement (approximately 285 trees)
- Requires the most excavation (includes removing piped sections)

ESTIMATED INITIAL CAPITAL COST: \$3,095,000

ALTERNATIVE #2

Replace only the open canal with a new pipe and rehab the existing large piped sections:

- Reduce pollution inputs into Ashland/Wrights/Bear creeks from the canal.
- Maximize water resources
- More expensive than alternative 1, requires less tree removal (approximately 260 trees)
- Higher costs due to more fill required, larger pipe, etc.

ESTIMATED INITIAL CAPITAL COST: \$3,950,000

ALTERNATIVE #3

Replace the existing concrete liner and rehab the piped sections:

- More expensive lifecycle costs (including repairs to the liner, debris cleanout, etc.)
- This alternative does not address the water quality elements of project but will help with water efficiency
- Tree removal quantities will be similar to other options to protect the investment in the new liner (approximately 260 trees)

ESTIMATED INITIAL CAPITAL COST: \$2,429,000

ALTERNATIVE #4

Do Nothing

- Does nothing to remove pollutants from Ashland/Wrights/Bear creeks
- Water loss will increase as the liner and piped sections continue to degrade
- Deferred tree maintenance will continue to increase (increased fuel load)
- Safety of the canal and downstream properties could be compromised

ESTIMATED COST:

- Ongoing operations and maintenance costs would continue (currently \$50,000 annually)
- Deterioration will continue and repair costs will increase.

ALTERNATIVE COMPARISONS

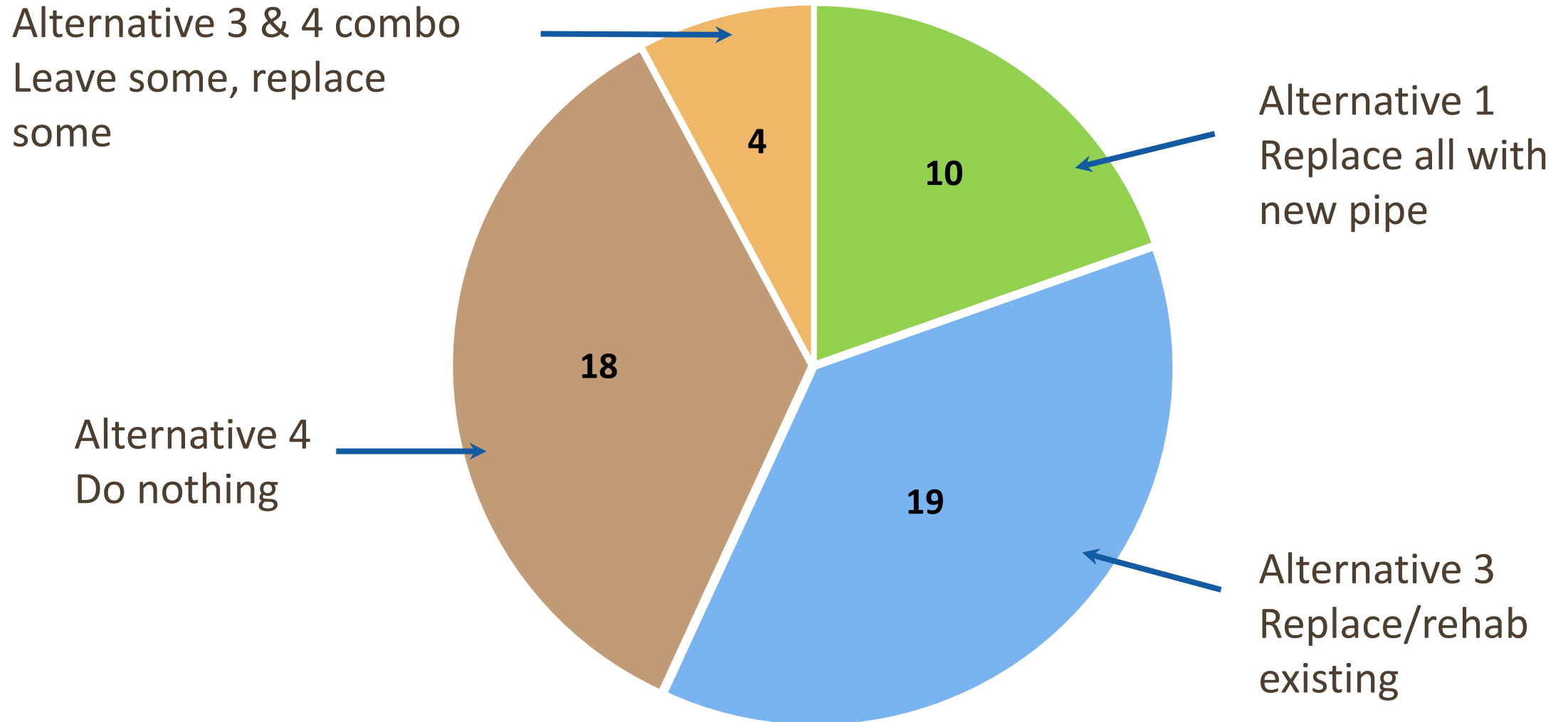
(2018 Costs)



	Alternative #1	Alternative #2	Alternative #3	Alternative #4
Method	All new 24" pipeline	30" & 24" Pipeline	Replace Canal Liner	Do Nothing
Pipe Material	Corrugated HDPE	Corrugated HDPE	Concrete & Urethane	
Capital Costs	\$3,095,000	\$3,950,000	\$2,429,000	\$0
Annual O & M	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$39,000	\$50,000
Life of Option	60 - 100 years	60 - 100 years	40 - 60 years	0 - 5 years
Salvage Value	\$354,280	\$335,560	0	0
Net Present Value *	\$3,472,579	\$4,339,897	\$4,334,379	\$2,442,794

* Life Cycle Cost / Net Present Value from Adkins Final Report p. 49

Summary of Audience Selected Alternatives From January 31, 2019 Listening Session



POTENTIAL GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- US Bureau of Reclamation
- Oregon Water Resources Department
- Rogue Basin Partnership

NEXT STEPS

Questions?

What have we missed?

What needs more clarity?

Interested in a canal tour?

Next Meeting:

March 5, 2019

Council Business Meeting



More Information: www.ashland.or.us/ashlandcanal



Thank you!

*"We do not see things the way they are,
we see them the way we are."*

-- Anais Nin

