AGENDA

INFORMATION UPDATE

July 13, 2026

4:00 PM,

CITY OF ASPEN

I. Information Update

I.A Clean River Program Urban Runoff Management Plan Update – Threshold Simplification and Permitting Clarity Follow-Up Report
06.17.2026 Follow Up Memo_URMP Update.docx

I.B June 2026 Destination Marketing Report
June2026_DMReport.pdf

I.C Information Only Memo: Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan Update - Draft Available for Public and Council Comment
INFORMATION_ONLY_REPORT_-_Parks_and_Open_Space_Strategic_Plan_Update (1).docx

I.D Ruedi Hydroelectric Facility Operational Update - Drought Conditions and Power Pool
InfoOnlyReport_RuediHydro_20260706.docx

I.E Water Treatment Facility Improvements: Project Budget and Bond Measure Amount Update
INFO ONLY REPORT_WTFImpProjectUpdate_15Jun2026_FINAL.docx

CITY OF ASPEN

FOLLOW-UP REPORT

ORIGINAL MEETING DATE:	*June 15, 2026*
FOLLOW-UP MEMO DATE:	*July 13, 2026*
SUBJECT:	*Clean River Program Urban Runoff Management Plan Update – Threshold Simplification and Permitting Clarity Follow-Up Report*
PRESENTED BY:	Kyla Smits*, CFM, Project Manager* PJ Murray, *PE, Stormwater and Clean River Program Manager* Tricia Aragon, *PE, City Engineer* Daniel Lawson, *Public Works Director*
COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:	*Mayor Richards and Council Members Rose, Doyle, and Benedetti. Council Member Guth was absent.*

WORK SESSION DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

The Clean River Program's ongoing update to the Urban Runoff Management Plan (URMP) is focused on simplifying permitting thresholds to improve clarity, consistency, and usability while maintaining effective stormwater management protections. The current system—based on percentage calculations, multiple documents, and unclear definitions—has resulted in inconsistent interpretations, extended review discussions, and uncertainty for applicants, particularly for projects involving interior work.

In response to prior Council direction and stakeholder feedback, staff presented a revised framework centered on:

- Simplified square-footage-based thresholds
- Fewer review categories
- Alignment across departments
- A consolidated flowchart to guide review level determination

Council feedback was generally supportive of the proposed direction, noting that the simplified framework improves clarity, predictability, and usability compared to the existing system. There was strong alignment on the importance of proactive stormwater management to protect infrastructure, private property, and river health.

Council also raised considerations related to cost impacts and equity, particularly for remodel projects and longtime residents. Staff was directed to continue refining the framework to improve usability, cost transparency, and consistency in application.

ADDITIONAL COUNCIL FEEDBACK AND DISCUSSION POINTS

Overall Feedback

Council supported continued refinement of the simplified threshold framework and generally found the proposal clearer and easier to understand. Council emphasized maintaining affordability and avoiding undue burden on property owners, while also ensuring Aspen remains proactive in stormwater management and water quality protection.

Discussion Points and Questions

- Council requested improvements to the flowchart layout, including clearer Yes/No structure for readability
- A comparison was made to other department code thresholds, suggesting projects triggering large scale code compliance should also trigger stormwater compliance
- Council asked how impervious area calculations are performed; staff clarified calculations are completed by applicants per the manual and, for major reviews, by a licensed civil engineer
- Engineering costs were discussed, with typical ranges noted between $5,000 and $25,000 for design, often increasing when redesign occurs. Installation costs can range from a couple thousand to $120,000
- Council asked how Aspen compares to other jurisdictions; staff noted Aspen is leading on the Western Slope, though not ahead of some Front Range municipalities
- A question was raised regarding Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) applicability; Aspen is not currently an MS4 community but maybe in the future

Key Takeaways

1. General support for continued refinement of the simplified threshold framework
2. Direction to revise the flowchart for clarity and usability
3. Continued emphasis on affordability and minimizing burden on property owners

4. Ongoing priority on water protection and staying ahead of evolving standards

NEXT STEPS:

Consistent with Council direction, the next steps are focused on refining the proposed framework to improve clarity, usability, and cost transparency while maintaining effective stormwater protection.

Staff will:

- Revise the flowchart to improve readability and decision clarity, including simplifying the Yes/No structure
- Validate and test thresholds against real permit scenarios to confirm consistent application
- Align definitions, thresholds, and submittal requirements across departments to ensure a coordinated process
- Integrate the framework into permitting systems and supporting documents

In response to Council's feedback on affordability and implementation:

- Highlight lower-cost stormwater solutions where appropriate
- Evaluate opportunities for flexibility to reduce unintended burden on property owners
- Continue engagement with applicants and stakeholders to confirm real-world usability

Staff will also continue benchmarking against peer communities and monitoring evolving regulatory considerations, including potential future MS4 applicability, to ensure Aspen remains proactive in stormwater management.

The final step will be returning to Council in late 2026 with a refined URMP update package that demonstrates improved readability & usability, technical updates, and modernized stormwater control measures while maintaining the intent and effectiveness of the stormwater program.

CITY MANAGER NOTES:

ASPEN DEFY ORDINARY

June 2026 Destination Marketing Report for Council

Destination Marketing: On 5/28 we sent a press release to national media in collaboration with Aspen One and Snowmass Tourism confirming ASE closure dates and reiterating that Aspen Snowmass will be open for business summer 2027. We also presented on 6/22 similar messaging to the joint BOCC and City Council meeting. The transportation sub committee also presented. We have submitted both our submission for the Top 100 Story and the audit for our MountainIDEAL certification. We anticipated hearing about both of these by August. June 1 – 4 we hosted 4 national media members for our first sustainbility FAM, kudos to Backbone for such wonderful planning. We also hosted the Local Media Dinner on June 2nd in collaboration with Snowmass Tourism and AspenOne. Summer advertising and organic social campaigns are in full swing! Please click to view the May Public Relations Report. The Month at a Glance Data report is available here.

ACRA coordinated a wedding planner event targeting destination planners based in the Vail Valley. This event was in partnership with Snowmass Tourism, Hotel Jerome, MOLLIE, The Little Nell, The Gant, and Viceroy with 7 planner attendees. All of the partners have already shared nothing but thanks and positive feedback from this event and appreciated the opportunity to connect with our partners. Nichole represented Aspen at MPI's World Education Congress. She attended education sessions and participated in one-on-one appointments with meeting planners. The team is focused on coordinating two group fams this summer - the annual wedding planner fam and the Retreats Resources Destination University. We are working on itineraries for two media fams from the UK and MEX this summer. Cvent leads are pacing strongly for the destination with an increase in 32% year to date of planners copying ACRA into their RFPs. ACRA hosted Alex.Glasgow for a media visit from the CTO during his state-wide trip.

Airport Guest Services: June began the busy summer activity at ASE. Flights began seeing delays due to winds around the second week with an average of ten diversions and fourteen cancellations on arrivals. The communication team is continuing to inform the public about the 2027 closure with town hall meetings, articles in the paper, and email updates. The ACRA staff does their best to answer any closure related questions. There have been some troubles with transportation this month as High Mountain Taxi wait times run from thirty minutes to over an hour, especially late at night. We have hired a new Guest Service representative LaRae Mayo who will cover shifts for Sylvia Balcom due to health issues.

Visitor Centers: The team has been welcoming visitors at the Cooper Mall and Wheeler pavilions since the closure of the Armory and this year we also participated in helping with the ACRA Food and Wine Exhibitor booth which was a lot of fun for all. The denim tote bags were a hit. We opted for faux flower baskets at the Information booth in hopes to offer a sustainable option due to lack of water. Construction on the corner will cease until the fall, which will be a welcoming break for staff and visitors alike. Wildfire restriction signs have been added to the village mall and ASE and messaging on fire safety continues by our staff.

Save the Date:

July 1 – Chamber Ski Passes on sale

July 21 – Summer Celebration Business After Hours

Sales Tax Reports: As of the April 2026 Consumption Tax Report, released in June, the 2026 Tourism Promotion Fund came in flat (.24% above projections) and 3% below 2025 collections.

Recent Press Coverage

Occupancy statistics and commentary, as well as visitor center counts, website data and air service information can now be found on the following page in the Defy Ordinary Dashboard. All data points are sourced from our monthly report with Blue Room Research and can be found in the Data Center on the website.

DEFY ORDINARY DASHBOARD

JUNE 2026

VISITOR CENTER COUNTS

ACRA's 4 Visitor Information Centers experienced a 64.2% increase in traffic in May 2026 compared to May 2025. Staff assisted 3,968 individuals last month.

*Due to a recent change in ACRA's phone system, this number reflects only in-person and trackable calls.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY

In May 2026, Aspen's lodging properties reported the following:

- Occupancy increased by 11.1% YOY to 36.1%
- Average Daily Rate increased by 26% YOY to $348
- Room Nights Available increased by 6.3% YOY
- Room Nights Booked increased by 18.1% YOY

WEBSITE STATS

Aspen website top performing pages and blogs for May 2026

Pages:

1. Maroon Bells Reservations (7,176 views)
2. Aspen Events Calendar (6,059 views)
3. Plan Your Trip (4,661 views)
4. Aspen: Defy Ordinary (4,638 views)
5. Maroon Bells (2,734 views)

Blogs:

1. Everything You Need to Know About Independence Pass (1,292 views)
2. Hiking Around the Maroon Bells (531 views)
3. Spring Dining Guide (412 views)
4. Memorial Day Weekend Adventures (365 views)
5. This Week in Aspen (343 views)

ASE PASSENGER DATA

Due to a shift in the timing of the ASE spring closure, the most meaningful year-over-year comparison is April and May combined. Total passenger counts increased 4.9%, while capacity increased 24%.

Year-to-date ASE total passenger counts through May are 2.4% below 2025.

United recently announced expanded daily flights at Eagle County Airport (EGE) during the Aspen/Pitkin County Airport (ASE) closure from April 4, 2027, at 11:00 p.m. to November 19, 2027, at 7:00 p.m.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Regional Insights and U.S. Market Review

- "With inflation sharply higher in the last few months and tanking consumer sentiment, stock markets appear to be reflecting the health of stock markets and not the budgets of consumers, which are being strained."
- "During the first week of the FIFA World Cup, US hotel performance hit a 2026 high, with nearly 28 million rooms sold the week of June 7–13, according to STR. Occupancy climbed to 69.9%, the highest level of the year, while ADR rose 4.9%, marking the 15th consecutive week of rate growth. RevPAR reached $120, its strongest weekly level since 2024 and up 7% year over year."
- "Although Canadian arrivals via air continue to decline, the year-over-year declines have lessened steadily, and the 5.5% drop in May was the smallest year-over-year decline in a year."

- DestiMetrics & Tourism Economics, Blue Room Research

Sources: DestiMetrics, Blue Room Research Report & Fly Aspen Snowmass

CITY OF ASPEN

INFORMATION ONLY REPORT

TO: Aspen Mayor and City Council

FROM: Mary Oliver, Landscape Architect, Parks and Open Space

THROUGH: Matt Kuhn, Parks and Open Space Director

MEETING DATE: July 13, 2026

SUBJECT: Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan Update

INTENDED OUTCOME & SUMMARY:
This brief memo provides an update on the final stages of the City's Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan, *Guiding Green: A Field Guide to Strengthening Aspen's Outdoor Roots*. No action is requested of Council at this time.

Guiding Green provides a framework for the department's priorities, decision-making, and resource allocation over the next ten years and beyond, and comes at an important time for Aspen's parks, trails, and open space system. In November 2022, Aspen voters approved Ballot Issue 2B, extending the half-cent open space sales tax in perpetuity. This renewed community support creates both an opportunity and a responsibility to manage public funding thoughtfully, transparently, and effectively.

As we share the draft with community, and solicit any last feedback, staff wanted to provide Council with notification of these efforts and share the final milestones.

Key upcoming touchpoints include:

July 20–August 14: Public Comment Period
The draft Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan and a plan summary will be posted on Aspen Community Voice for public review and comment.

August 20: Open Space and Trails Board Meeting
Parks staff will share a summary of public comments and request an Open Space and Trails Board motion of support recommending formal adoption.

August 24: City Council Work Session
Staff will provide an overview of the Strategic Plan, summarize public and Open Space and Trails Board feedback, and collect any Council feedback.

September 29: City Council Meeting
Staff will share a work session follow-up memo and request that City Council consider a resolution formally adopting the Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan.

While not required, City Council members may elect to review the draft available on Aspen Community Voice beginning July 20th. Staff will also provide a thorough executive summary and memo before the August 24th work session.

ATTACHMENTS:
None.

CITY MANAGER NOTES:

CITY OF ASPEN

INFORMATION ONLY REPORT

TO:	Aspen City Council
FROM:	Joshua Mattson, Utilities Resource & Portfolio Manager
THROUGH:	Erin Loughlin Molliconi, Utilities Director Tyler Christoff, Deputy City Manager
MEETING DATE:	July 13th, 2026
SUBJECT:	Ruedi Hydroelectric Facility Operational Update - Drought Conditions and Power Pool

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INTENDED OUTCOME & SUMMARY:

This report is provided for informational purposes to update City Council on current drought conditions affecting Ruedi Reservoir and the anticipated loss of hydroelectric power at the City's Ruedi Hydroelectric Facility in early August 2026, based on current United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) reservoir forecasts and operating conditions. No action is requested of Council at this time.

The report summarizes operational impacts to the Ruedi Hydroelectric Facility, the expected duration of the outage, implications for the City's electric system and power supply costs, and ongoing efforts to improve long-term operational resilience through the planned addition of a second turbine unit. Staff will continue to provide updates as conditions evolve.

See Below for Discussion

DISCUSSION:

Ruedi Reservoir is experiencing declining water levels due to persistent drought conditions, reduced inflows, and increased outflows associated with downstream water rights calls (**Fig. 1**).

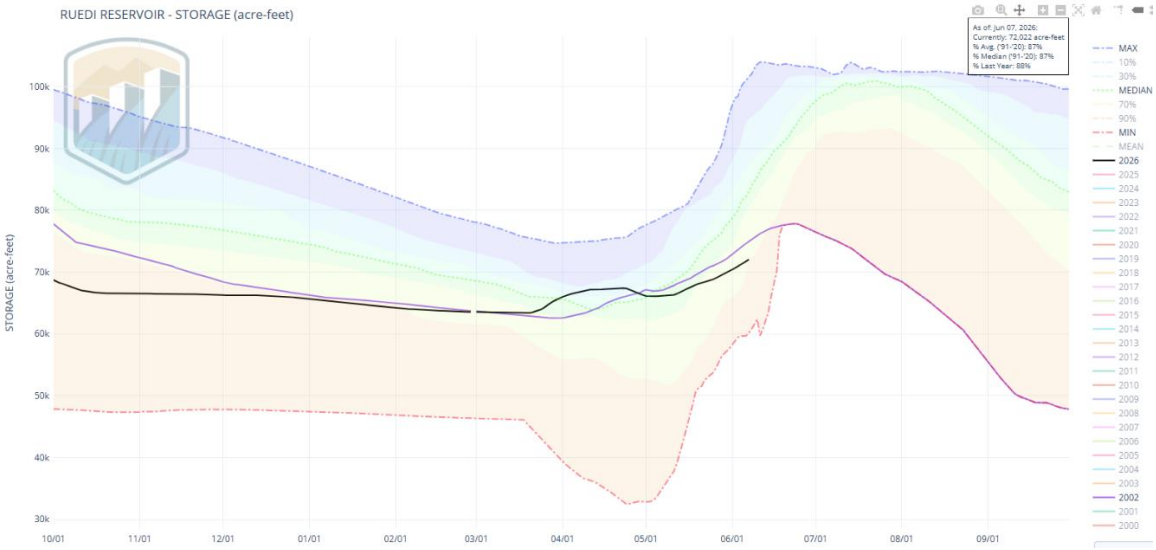


Figure 1:Ruedi Reservoir historic elevations, 2015–2026.

The United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), which operates Ruedi Reservoir, provided a most probable forecast at the June 10, 2026 Historic User Pool meeting indicating that reservoir elevations will continue declining through the fall and remain relatively stable through the winter season (**Fig. 2**).

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

FRYINGPAN-ARKANSAS PROJECT - RUEDI MONTHLY OPERATIONS

United States Bureau of Reclamation

Eastern Colorado Area Office

Model Run RUEDI Forecast - Most Probable: 01-JUN-2026

RUEDI RESERVOIR				Init Cont:70.17 KAF			Max Cont:102.4 KAF				Min Cont:1.1 KAF		
				Init Elev:7729.72 FT			Max Elev:7766 FT				Min Elev:7566 FT		
	JUN-26	JUL-26	AUG-26	SEP-26	OCT-26	NOV-26	DEC-26	JAN-27	FEB-27	MAR-27	APR-27	MAY-27	Total
Undepleted Flow (KAF)	9.8	4.3	2.6	2.3	6.1	5.8	3.1	2	1.6	1.7	3.5	30.1	72.9
Depleted Flow (KAF)	9.8	4.3	2.6	2.3	6.1	5.8	3.1	2	1.6	1.7	3.5	30.1	72.9
Total River Release (CFS)	154.19	226.72	227.08	166.16	160.19	36.18	36.56	36.61	36.75	36.77	36.77	107.77	
End of Month Contents (KAF)	70.3	60.2	48.6	40.9	37	40.7	41.6	41.3	40.9	40.3	41.6	64.9	
End of Month Elevation (FT)	7729.94	7716.35	7699.02	7685.99	7679.05	7685.75	7687.26	7686.82	7685.99	7685.01	7687.35	7722.82	
Fryingpan River near Ruedi (CFS)	184.66	235.89	232.11	169.91	163.56	39	39	39	39	39	39	110	

DIVERSIONS	JUN-26	JUL-26	AUG-26	SEP-26	OCT-26	NOV-26	DEC-26	JAN-27	FEB-27	MAR-27	APR-27	MAY-27	Total
Busk Ivanhoe Tunnel (KAF)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hunter Tunnel (KAF)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Boustead Tunnel (KAF)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Figure 2:USBR most probable forecast for Ruedi Reservoir elevations, June 2026.

Based on this forecast and updated reservoir conditions observed in June, Ruedi Reservoir is now projected to drop below the hydroelectric power pool threshold (elevation 7,711 feet) in early August 2026 (**Fig. 3**). The hydroelectric power pool represents the minimum reservoir elevation required to safely operate the hydroelectric turbine and associated equipment. Updated reservoir data indicate that the timing of power pool loss has shifted later than previously anticipated.

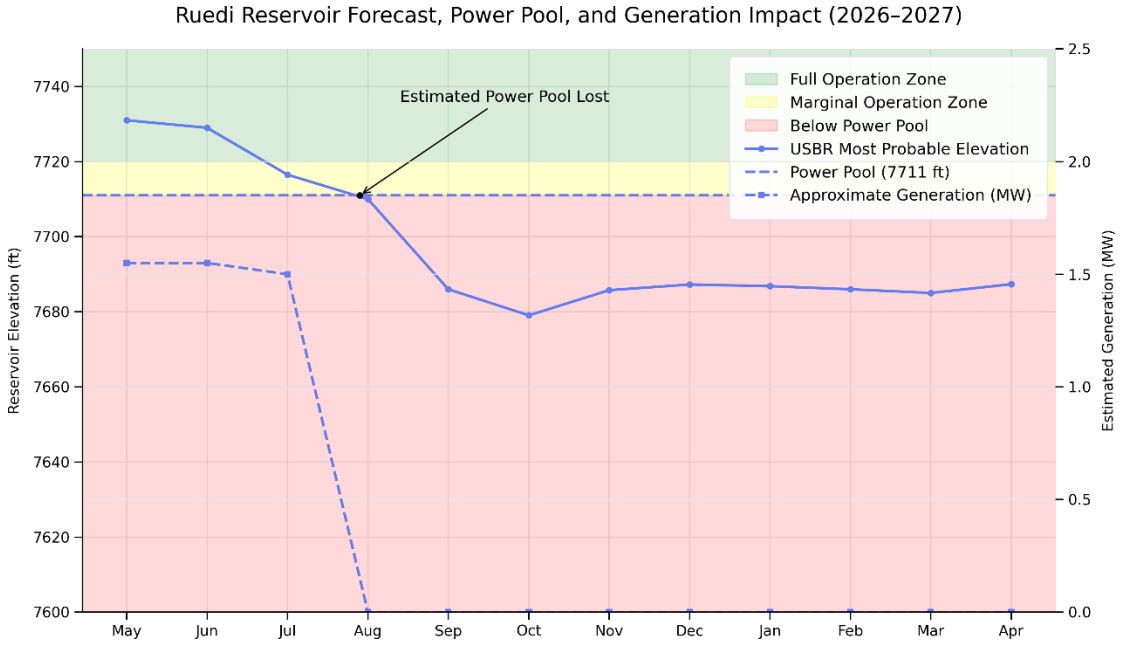


Figure 3: USBR most probable reservoir elevation forecast showing the estimated loss of hydroelectric power pool (elevation 7,711 feet) in early August 2026.

When reservoir levels fall below this threshold, City staff will take the Ruedi Hydroelectric Facility offline to protect equipment, as power generation is not operationally safe at lower elevations. This outage is not related to dam safety; rather, it is the result of hydrologic limitations associated with drought conditions. The facility is expected to remain offline until reservoir levels recover above the minimum power pool elevation, which is anticipated to occur in spring 2027 as seasonal inflows increase.

In preparation for this outage, staff are actively monitoring reservoir conditions and reviewing operating budgets to account for the anticipated loss of hydroelectric generation. Staff are also coordinating with the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN), the City's wholesale electric power provider, to ensure readiness for increased energy purchases during the outage period. During this time, the City will rely more heavily on MEAN's Green Energy Program, which provides renewable energy resources to participating communities.

Additionally, staff will evaluate opportunities to complete planned maintenance and improvement projects at the hydroelectric facility during the outage period. This approach is intended to reduce future operational risks while taking advantage of the planned downtime.

In parallel with these operational efforts, the City continues to advance plans for a second turbine unit at the Ruedi Hydroelectric Facility. In May 2026, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) approved the City's license amendment application authorizing the addition of a second, lower-flow turbine and associated facility upgrades. Staff are currently advancing the required FERC Exhibit G survey work and preparing a Pitkin County land use application, with both efforts anticipated to be completed by the end of 2026. During 2027, the City plans to complete final engineering design and permitting activities. Construction and equipment procurement are currently anticipated to begin by May 2028, consistent with the implementation schedule authorized under the FERC amendment. Once completed, the second turbine is expected to provide greater operational flexibility and improve the facility's ability to generate power under lower-flow and lower-reservoir conditions. While the project would not eliminate the impacts of severe drought conditions such as those currently being experienced, it is expected to improve the long-term resiliency, efficiency, and reliability of hydroelectric operations at Ruedi.

Based on the 2026 budgeted generation, staff estimate that the unplanned outage from early August 2026 through April 2027 will result in approximately 9.9 million kilowatt-hours of lost hydroelectric generation. To replace this lost generation, the City will purchase power through MEAN at the Green Energy rate of $0.05355 per kilowatt-hour under existing power supply contracts.

Using MEAN's current blended cost of approximately $0.072 per kilowatt-hour, which includes energy, transmission, and Fixed Cost Recovery Charges (FCRC) (a charge that recovers MEAN's fixed costs for generation and operations), staff estimate that total additional power supply costs will be approximately $710,000 over the 10-month outage period. Actual costs will depend on the duration of the outage and market conditions. These projected impacts are being incorporated into ongoing budget planning.

In 2025, the Ruedi Hydroelectric Facility accounted for approximately 62 percent of the City's total hydroelectric generation and approximately 18 percent of the City's overall electric energy portfolio. The anticipated outage represents approximately 77 percent of the facility's typical annual generation and will result in a significant reduction in locally generated renewable energy. As a result, the City will rely more heavily on purchased power from MEAN during this period.

Staff will continue to monitor reservoir conditions and coordinate with the United States Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN),

and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), which oversees hydroelectric licensing and compliance requirements. Updates will be provided to City Council as conditions develop.

NEXT STEPS:
No action is required from City Council at this time. Staff will continue to monitor reservoir levels and drought conditions, coordinate with MEAN, USBR, and FERC regarding operational impacts, and provide ongoing updates as conditions evolve.

Staff will also prepare for restarting hydroelectric operations once reservoir elevations recover above the power pool threshold, which is anticipated to occur in spring 2027.

ATTACHMENTS:
None

CITY MANAGER NOTES:

CITY OF ASPEN

INFORMATION ONLY REPORT

TO: Aspen City Council

FROM: Ryan Loebach, Deputy Utilities Director

THROUGH: Erin Loughlin Molliconi, Utilities Director
Tyler Christoff, Deputy City Manager

MEETING DATE: July 13th, 2026

SUBJECT: Water Treatment Facility Improvements: Project Budget and Bond Measure Amount Update

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INTENDED OUTCOME & SUMMARY: This report is for information purposes only. City staff is authoring this report to inform Council of a final budget and bond measure amount for the City's Water Treatment Facility (WTF) Improvements Project and to assure Council that the previously approved and supported water rate increases support the budget and bond measure amounts. City staff is providing this information ahead of a future Regular Meeting in August 2026 where City staff will seek Council approval for the bond measure ballot language.

DISCUSSION: The City's WTF provides potable water to over 4,100 accounts within the City's water service area, producing between 1.1 to 1.7 billion gallons annually. Constructed in 1965 and expanded in 1986, most of the facility's equipment is nearly 40+ years old and the filtration media, replaced more than 15 years ago, is scheduled for replacement. Council previously approved the initial phases of the WTF Improvements Project hiring a design and construction professional to deliver the project (Resolution #016 Series of 2025 and Resolution #089 Series of 2024) and construction and construction monitoring services for the project's Early Work Package earlier in 2026 (Resolution #011 Series of 2026 and Resolution #012 Series of 2026).

The WTF Improvements Project reached the 90% design milestone in February 2026. The City's existing Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) contractor, Haskell, went to market with the 90% documents and submitted a draft guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for the entire project in May 2026 to inform the project budget and bond measure amounts. The City's existing consultant engineer, Garver, provided a proposal for construction phase services for the duration of the project schedule from September 2026 to June 2029. The proposed project budget containing the GMP and professional services proposal is summarized below.

Table 1. Summary of CMAR, professional construction phase services, and contingency costs for entire proposed budget.

Direct Cost of Work	$72,489,803.69
Allowances	$4,490,392.00
Contractor's Contingency	$2,292,903.00
Builders Risk Insurance	$115,303.82
General Liability Insurance	$1,031,353.45
Performance and Payment Bond	$661,521.75
Overhead and Profit	$4,864,876.34
Haskell Recommended Owners Contingency	$3,332,668.00
Total CMAR (Haskell) Contract Cost	$89,278,822.05
Total Garver Construction Phase Services Cost	$3,201,368.00
Subtotal CMAR and Garver Construction Phase Services Cost	$92,480,190.05
Additional Owner Contingency (8%)	$7,398,415.20
Total Cost	**$99,878,605.25**

City staff and the project team are reviewing/negotiating towards a final GMP, finalizing project details, construction scope and sequencing this summer. City staff is recommending a project budget of up to $100,000,000.00 based upon the sum of costs provided by both vendors at $92,480,190.05 and added owner contingency of 8% to cover any additional out-of-scope items encountered between the 90% design milestone and completion of construction.

Council approved a 15% water rate increase in 2026 (Ordinance #013 Series of 2025), supported future out-year rate increases of 10% in 2027 and 2028, and project financing requiring a public vote in November 2026 during the October 13th, 2025 work session. City staff's projected water rate increase plan supports the WTF Improvements Project budget while still funding necessary capital and operating expenses within the water utility. City staff will confirm this in detail at future budget council sessions in October 2026.

NEXT STEPS: No council action is required at this time. Staff believe this is a critical project and a necessary expense to continue to produce and distribute water that is safe for human consumption. City staff will seek Council approval for the bond measure ballot language at a future meeting in August 2026.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:

ATTACHMENTS:

No attachments.