

Five Things to Know About Resilience, Emergency Preparedness and Our Groundwater System

Earthquakes, severe storms, flooding, droughts, and a changing climate can affect drinking water supplies and threaten the health and safety of people and the economy. The Cascade Groundwater Alliance is building an independent, safe, and reliable water system to better prepare for emergencies and protect against these threats.

- 1 Natural barriers will protect our groundwater**
Our groundwater is stored deep in the earth in the Sand and Gravel Aquifer with natural geological barriers to protect it, making it less vulnerable to earthquakes, severe storms, floods, and fire than surface water systems.
- 2 System is built with earthquake resilient reservoirs and pipes**
The new water system is being built to modern seismic standards with earthquake resilient reservoirs and pipes. In the event of an earthquake or other disaster, these will limit damage and enable water service to be restored faster so our community recovers more quickly.
- 3 Plentiful groundwater supply offers long-term climate resilience**
Increasing groundwater capacity means we will not be reliant on river water that is more vulnerable to extreme weather.
- 4 Our independent groundwater system boosts regional resilience**
The Alliance's groundwater system can act as a new backup water supply if surface water systems in the region are unavailable in an emergency.
- 5 Portland offers a potential backup water source**
As an added measure of protection, both Gresham and Rockwood Water will maintain connections to Portland's source for emergency and backup water supplies.

About the Cascade Groundwater Alliance

The Cascade Groundwater Alliance is a partnership between the City of Gresham and Rockwood Water People's Utility District to build and operate an independent, safe, and reliable water system. For more information:

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**EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS**