



RWDonline.net

P.O. Box 8, Springfield, OR 97477

1550 42nd Street, Springfield, OR 97477

Phone: 541-746-1676

Fax: 541-747-0845

JULY 2014

INFORMATION ABOUT ANNEXATION AND ANNEXATION INCENTIVES

Dear Rainbow Customer,

Rainbow Water District is aware that the Springfield City Council desires to “explore incentives to encourage annexation” of neighborhoods outside the Springfield city limits. The annexation process removes properties from Rainbow’s service area and brings them into the city limits. The City has told Rainbow it will survey neighborhoods over the next couple of months. The City wants to see if people are interested in being annexed, and will ask people what it would take to encourage them to annex.

In the event you have questions about the positives or negatives of annexation, or about Rainbow Water District’s position regarding the possible annexation of Rainbow customers by the City of Springfield, we offer the following information:

- Rainbow Water District recognizes that there would be both benefits and costs for Rainbow customers if they are annexed.
- Eugene Springfield Fire would continue to provide fire protection, as they do now under contract.
- Annexation could include these **benefits**:
 - ✓ law enforcement from Springfield Police vs. Lane County Sheriff’s Office
 - ✓ easier access to library services
 - ✓ an opportunity for voting on local issues and greater involvement in city government
 - ✓ access to city sewer and the removal of the expense and liability of a septic system
- Annexation could include these **costs**:
 - ✓ more regulation, such as needing permits for garage sales or to remove a tree
 - ✓ thousands of dollars in up front expenses
 - annexation fees paid to city planners to process boundary changes
 - fees to construct and connect to city sewers
 - ✓ higher ongoing expenses
 - property taxes at the city rate can be double the county rate
 - water bills at SUB prices rather than Rainbow prices
 - new charges for city wastewater and stormwater services
- There are two key resources for more information:
 - ✓ The City of Springfield Development and Public Works Department, 541-726-3753
http://www.ci.springfield.or.us/dpw/dept_dpw.htm
 - ✓ Oregon Communities for a Voice in Annexation (OCVA), 541-747-3144
<http://www.ocva.org/>
(This organization has been involved in local and statewide annexation issues for 20+ years.)