

P3 option dropped from Oregon wastewater scheme

Lake Oswego City Council, Oregon, has voted not to proceed with the P3 element following progressive project scoping.

by Paul Jarvis 02 February 2024



Credit: Lake Oswego City Council

The authority has decided not to sign the 30-year project agreement with the Epcor-led Foothills Water Partners to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain the facility, citing the proposed cost of the private financing.

Foothills Water Partners had been approved to progress the project by the council in May 2021, but following the completion of the planning and design phase, the authority has decided that the cost of the private financing “poses significant cost burdens to ratepayers and customers, compared to public financing”.

As a result, Lake Oswego will instead “explore a competitive procurement method using public financing, to complete the design, construct the facility, and operate and maintain the facility under a long-term contract”.

Anthony Hooper, project manager and deputy city manager for the City of Lake Oswego, added that the authority would now look to issue a request for proposals for a publicly funded scheme, saying this would “result in market-driven, competitive pricing, likely reducing cost”.

While a blow for the P3 industry in project terms, the process is being hailed as a successful example of a progressive P3 by illustrating the model's value for the public sector and effective offramping.

