

Eugene rejects proposal for a fuel transfer facility in Trainsong

KLCC | By [Nathan Wilk](#)

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USD Clean Fuels

A mock-up of the Eugene Clean Fuels Facility.

The City of Eugene has rejected a proposal for [a fuel transfer facility](#) in west Eugene.

The "Eugene Clean Fuels Facility" would have loaded biofuels from rail cars onto an estimated 40 trucks per day. It would have been located on railroad property off of Bethel Drive in the Trainsong neighborhood of northwest Eugene.

City staff approved the project's zone verification last June, but [pulled it for reconsideration](#) in October. This followed pushback from concerned neighbors, and a

On Wednesday, the city reversed its original ruling and denied the application. In a letter explaining the decision, Senior Planner Jeff Gepper said staff had used inaccurate maps during its initial review.

"It appears that over time, some versions of the city's zoning map have incorrectly shown the subject property as unzoned," he wrote. "However, a property's depiction on the zoning map is, in and of itself, not enough to change the zoning."

Gepper said the property is actually classified as Heavy Industrial. He said Regional Distribution Centers are prohibited within that zoning, and the proposed fuel transfer facility meets that definition.

Beyond Toxics Executive Director Lisa Arkin told KLCC she was overjoyed by the decision. The nonprofit had previously [expressed concern](#) about the potential for spills at the facility.

"I'm glad the system worked in the favor of public health and public safety," said Arkin. "Even though that's not what the city ruled on, that was the end result."

In a statement by email, a representative for USD Clean Fuels, the company behind the application, told KLCC it looks forward to evaluating the city's decision and planning its next steps.

Tags

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Nathan Wilk joined the KLCC News Team in 2022. He is a graduate from the University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication. Born in Portland, Wilk began working in radio at a young age, serving as a DJ and public affairs host across Oregon.

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Eugene withdraws approval for a new fuel-transfer facility in Trainsong

Nathan Wilk, October 18, 2024

The City of Eugene has pulled its approval for a new fuel transfer facility in the Trainsong neighborhood. City staff will now reconsider the application.

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