



PLANNING FOR LO'S WATER FUTURE

Recent surveys show that over 90% of Lake Oswego water customers are satisfied with their drinking water. Residents say it is high quality, safe water that tastes good. This is as it should be. What some residents may not be aware of is that infrastructure for the City's water supply system is reaching its capacity to continue reliably providing high quality water as demand grows. The City has been working diligently since 2005 to determine our long-term drinking water needs to keep that high quality water flowing for years to come.

Reducing water waste is the first step in ensuring a secure water future. The more residents and other water users conserve, the less we need to spend on increasing the capacity of our infrastructure. New conservation water rates, toilet rebates and free home water audits are some of the ways the City is encouraging water conservation. Water fixture replacements at City buildings and facilities have helped reduce municipal water use in those facilities by 23%.

However, conservation won't be enough to meet the demand for the good quality water we have all come to expect. Currently, our Water Treatment Plant can deliver about 16 million gallons of water a day. We are quickly reaching that limit during the summer peak use period. In fact, we will exceed the plant's capacity in the next



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few years if nothing is done to conserve and expand capacity.

In recognition of this need, the City began searching for economical ways to improve water infrastructure several years ago. The result was a decision to partner with the City of Tigard and share the costs of what would otherwise be a more costly system expansion for Lake Oswego residents and businesses. A 2006 report found that the City could meet its needs and save about \$25 million in initial capital costs by joining with Tigard instead of going it alone. Plans were set into motion in 2008, when the City signed a partnering agreement with Tigard.

Today, planning is underway for a joint water system that will be in place in plenty of time to continue supplying safe, high quality water to both communities well into the future. For more information on the partnership and to learn how you can become involved, visit the project Web site at: www.LOTigardWater.org or call Jane Heisler at 503-697-6502.