Lake Oswego and Tigard City Councils Adopt Water Facility Plan

Saving money for ratepayers over the long term, ensuring a reliable future water supply, and fixing Lake Oswego’s worn out and undersized facilities are just some of the benefits Lake Oswego and Tigard City Councils discussed as they adopted plans in December for water supply improvements. Now, final facilities design begins.

Key improvements to be constructed by July 2016 include:
• 14,000 feet of new piping to convey untreated water.
• Expanding the water treatment plant in West Linn to 32 mgd, with room to economically expand to 38 mgd. Conventional filtration plus ozone treatment will be added to address contaminants and taste and odor issues.
• 35,000 feet of new treated water pipelines.
• Building a new reservoir in Lake Oswego.
• Replacing Tigard’s Bonita pump station with a new, larger facility.

The Partnership is also good business. Lake Oswego and Tigard customers will save millions of dollars more than if each pursued improvements alone or with a different partner. While initial improvements are costly, the investment in infrastructure will last generations. Much as past generations invested in a water supply system that benefited the community since 1968, proposed improvements, combined with an aggressive conservation program, ensure an adequate future water supply.

Craig Dirksen, Mayor of Tigard, said, “The water CIP is the long awaited roadmap for Tigard to ensure clean, great tasting water, emergency water storage, and fire protection that our residents demand—and all for less than a penny a gallon.”

The Partnership is already working with facility neighbors in Tigard, Lake Oswego, West Linn, and Gladstone to ensure their interests are reflected in design, construction, and operations of new facilities.

The cities of Tigard and Lake Oswego are committed to water conservation, which benefits the environment by keeping more water in the Clackamas River and reducing operations and capital costs.

The two communities’ approach to sharing water makes them unique. According to Dwight French, Oregon Water Resources Department, “You need people to cooperate with each other and look to the future, which is exactly what Lake Oswego and Tigard are doing. We really appreciate their coming together and setting an example for other communities.”

“His truly a milestone for Lake Oswego and the Partnership,” said Lake Oswego Mayor, Jack Hoffman. “For Lake Oswego it ensures that our worn out, undersized system gets the attention it needs, and an adequate supply of water for the foreseeable future, at a much more reasonable cost than if we had to go it alone.”

For more information about the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership, please visit lotigardwater.org