



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Jane Heisler, Communications Director
Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership
503-697-6573 · jheisler@ci.oswego.or.us

Lake Oswego Seeks Removal of Restrictions from Water Treatment Plant Properties in West Linn

LAKE OSWEGO – The City of Lake Oswego has filed an eminent domain action in Clackamas County Circuit Court to remove covenants and restrictions on four City-owned parcels to facilitate expansion of Lake Oswego’s existing drinking water treatment plant.

The Cities of Lake Oswego and Tigard have been working together for the past four years to upgrade and expand Lake Oswego’s water supply facilities to serve both communities. The expansion would also provide the opportunity for an enhanced emergency water intertie with the City of West Linn.

The City of Lake Oswego has owned four properties adjacent to its existing water treatment facility in West Linn since the 1990s. These properties are in the Maple Grove Plat and are encumbered by covenants and restrictions which include limiting the property to “family dwellings.” Lake Oswego needs to acquire or remove these restrictions from the City-owned properties in order to proceed with the planned treatment plant improvements.

Lake Oswego will use the four properties to build an underground drinking water reservoir, a pump station and a building to house electrical equipment. These structures will be close to the existing treatment plant, set back from the road and screened with trees, berms and other landscaping. The expansion site will also accommodate open space and a new pedestrian pathway that connects Mapleton Drive and Kenthorpe Way, providing a safe route to schools for students who must currently walk along Highway 43. Project Director Joel Komarek said, “The treatment plant has been in the neighborhood for 43 years. According to residents nearby, the plant has been a good neighbor and we want to continue to be a good neighbor. We have worked closely with them for nearly two years to incorporate their ideas.”

Over the past year, Lake Oswego worked to negotiate voluntary agreements with other subdivision property owners to remove the restrictions. According to the homeowner association bylaws, changes in the restrictions require approval by 75% of all property owners. By the end of 2011, several property

owners had agreed to an amendment allowing the restrictions to be removed for the expansion of the water treatment facility and the public park amenities.

Lake Oswego City Council, adopted Resolution 11-06 (June 7, 2011) authorizing the City to proceed with negotiation with the Maple Grove plat property owners for removal of covenants and restrictions. The Resolution also authorized the use of eminent domain (condemnation) proceedings if negotiations are not successful.

The City of Lake Oswego is the managing partner for the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership, which must have all facilities constructed and water flowing to Tigard by July 2016. Lake Oswego City Manager Alex McIntyre said, “The City wants to ensure that the public pays a fair price for any property interests, and also construct the project efficiently and economically. Following the process outlined in state statutes ensures this happens.”

For more information, visit the project website at www.lotigardwater.org.



The expansion site for Lake Oswego’s drinking water treatment plant will include open space and a pedestrian path that provides a safe route to schools.

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