

# **Public Review Process Update**

## **Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project Environmental Impact Statement**

*Updated December 2004*

### **Introduction**

Water resource agencies in the Tualatin Basin and the US Bureau of Reclamation have been working collaboratively to find enough water in the basin for the next 50 years for municipal and industrial, agricultural and environmental needs. The local partners (Cities of Beaverton, Tualatin, North Plains, Banks, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Sherwood, Tigard and Cornelius, Tualatin Valley Water District) funded a Tualatin Basin Water Supply Feasibility Study led by Clean Water Services. The study examined the feasibility of raising Scoggins Dam by 20 or 40 feet or building an irrigation exchange pipeline from the Willamette River. The study found these options to be feasible and also suggested evaluation of a building a new dam immediately downstream of Scoggins Dam (the Stimson Dam option). The feasibility study was completed in December 2003.

This Update reflects the public process during 2004 after the completion of the Water Supply Feasibility Study (WSFS).

### **Public Comment and approval of Water Supply Feasibility Study**

The Water Supply Feasibility Study was completed in December, 2003 and an executive summary was distributed to the mailing list for Policy Steering Committee meetings (about 300 names). The same mailing list was used to notify interested parties of a public comment period on the Study document. A total of 14 comments were received and the comments were compiled into a summary document that was distributed to the PSC at their meeting in March 2004. Additional comments on the Study were received at the PSC meeting.

The Policy Steering Committee accepted the recommendations of the study at their March 2004 meeting. These recommendations included further analysis of raising Scoggins Dam by 20 or 40 feet or building an irrigation exchange pipeline from the Willamette River. The study also suggested evaluation of a building a new dam immediately downstream of Scoggins Dam (the Stimson Dam option).

### **Initiating the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Process**

After the feasibility study was approved, the Water Supply Project partners and Bureau of Reclamation began the next phase of the project---to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of an EIS is to disclose

impacts of a proposed project and provide extensive public review. The EIS document will be issued by the US Bureau of Reclamation.

Public involvement focused on informing stakeholders of the EIS public process and reviewing the recommendations of the WSFS. The primary method of informing stakeholders was a newsletter (Spring 2004 Update) sent to the project mailing list of about 1,300 plus more than 8,000 CPO contacts. Presentations were also made at key stakeholder meetings, as described below:

#### Key stakeholder groups

Policy Steering Committee (PSC): The EIS process was discussed at a March 2004 meeting.

Tualatin River Watershed Council: A presentation was made at their May 5th meeting.

Clean Water Services Advisory Commission (CWAC): A presentation was made at their April 21st meeting

Washington County CPO - Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI): A presentation was made at their April 20 meeting.

#### **Fish Passage Waiver Public Notice**

In December 2004, a notice from the Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife was sent to the PSC mailing list announcing a public meeting of the Fish Passage Taskforce to consider waiving fish passage for a raised Scoggins Dam. The notice was accompanied by an explanation from the Project team of the fish passage waiver application. The waiver application is part of the EIS analysis because raising Scoggins Dam is being studied and the analysis needs to determine whether fish passage would be required.

#### ***Listing of Presentations***

April 20	Washington County Committee for Citizen Involvement (CCI)	Tom VanderPlaat & Jeanna Cernazanu
April 21	Clean Water Advisory Commission	Tom VanderPlaat & Jeanna Cernazanu
May 5	Tualatin River Watershed Council	Jeanna Cernazanu

May 20	Westside Economic Alliance	Bill Gaffi
June 16	CPO 15	Tom VanderPlaat
Dec 14	TVID annual meeting	Tom VanderPlaat

***Related Newspaper Articles and Broadcast coverage***

Jan 7	News-Times	announcements - "decision closer on how to get more water into Hagg Lake"
Jan 16	Oregonian	"Speech shares county's goals for 2004"
March 11	Valley Times (Beaverton)	"Water study group meets"
March 15	Oregonian	"Oregon makes its water count"
March 17	News-Times	"Meeting set on water supply issue"
March 18	Valley Times (Hillsboro)	"Water study meeting set"
March 24	News-Times	"Water supply issues receive some scrutiny"
April 29	The Times	announcements - "Tualatin River Watershed Council meeting"
May 18	The Argus	"New dam among ideas for future water needs"
May 27	The Oregonian	"Idea for Stimson dam revives"
Dec 16	The Oregonian	"County to get \$250,000 for water supply study"
Dec 23	The Argus	"Feds target funds for water supply project"
Dec 30	The Oregonian	"Hagg Lake storage plan could change two dams"

***Newsletter Articles***

March	CPO #9 newsletter	"Committee to consider water supply Recommendations"
Dec	Westside Economic Alliance newsletter	"Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project will receive \$250,000"