

# Public Review Process Update

## Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project Environmental Impact Statement

*Updated December 2005*

### Background

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. In 2001, the local partners (Cities of Beaverton, Tualatin, North Plains, Banks, Forest Grove, Hillsboro, Sherwood, Tigard and Cornelius, Tualatin Valley Water District and Clean Water Services) 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 evaluating the feasibility of a new dam immediately downstream of Scoggins Dam (the Stimson Dam option). The Feasibility Study was approved by the Policy Steering Committee in March 2004.

This Update reflects the public process during 2005.

### Fish Passage Waiver Public Process

A fish passage waiver application was reviewed by Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Fish Passage Task Force and Commission with public comment opportunities at all meetings. The waiver application was necessary to determine whether fish passage would be required as part of the EIS analysis of raising Scoggins Dam.

Presentations on the waiver application were made by project consultants to stakeholder groups in January. The waiver application was approved by on February 11, 2005.

Jan 5, 2005	Tualatin River Watershed Council	Dan Heagerty David Evans & Asso.
Jan 6, 2005	Tualatin Riverkeepers (Citizen Action)	Dan Heagerty

### Options Evaluation and EIS Proposed Action

During the last half of 2004, technical staff completed an indepth analysis of the water supply options recommended for additional study in the EIS. Models showed the reliability or likelihood that enough water could be captured with a raised or new dam was insufficient to meet the demand.

Additional study was done on methods to increase the yield of a raised dam including a Sain Creek Tunnel and raw water pipeline pump-back. The pump-back was shown to provide a higher yield than the Sain Creek Tunnel.

Technical staff presented these results to the Policy Steering Committee (PSC) on February 17, 2005 and recommended a proposed action of a 40' dam raise combined with a raw water pipeline pump-back for analysis in the EIS. No further study was recommended on the other supply options. After hearing public comment, the PSC directed staff to proceed with study of the 40' dam raise and pump-back in the EIS.

In response to public comment, the PSC requested the Water Managers open future meetings to interested parties. An "interested parties" e-mail list was developed and members of the public attended the Water Managers Group meetings in August and December.

The PSC also asked staff to contact Tualatin Valley Irrigation District (TVID) regarding their water supply preferences. TVID submitted a letter reaffirming their opposition to the Irrigation Exchange Pipeline from the Willamette River.

Public information about the proposed action focused on presentations to various stakeholder groups (see list below) and a newsletter to more than 14,000 CPO members, elected officials, business leaders, environmental groups and other interested persons.

A meeting to update natural resource agencies about the proposed action was held on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Participants included USFW, EPA, OWRD, ODFW, ODEQ, NMFS and ACOE.

A matrix was developed to compare the various source options against the evaluation criteria and identify the options to study in the EIS. The matrix was posted on the project web site and also distributed at public meetings.

## **Second EIS Alternative**

During the summer, the BOR recommended that the Partners add a second alternative to the EIS study. The Water Managers met in August and recommended to Clean Water Services a multiple source option that includes up to a 25' raise of Scoggins Dam and expansion of the Willamette River Water Treatment Plant for municipal supplies. This second alternative was accepted by the PSC and reviewed with the BOR and various stakeholder groups including CWAC, TRWC and other groups listed below under presentations.

When the second alternative was presented to the PSC on Sept. 29, several Hagg Lake neighbors commented that they wanted more information about how much land would be needed for buffer area around the lake. The PSC directed staff to discuss the

question with BOR and communicate with the Hagg Lake neighbors about the response from BOR.

In addition to the stakeholder presentations, the multiple source option received extensive media coverage, as noted below under the listing of newspaper articles and broadcast coverage. The Clean Water Services website was updated with the new alternative and a billing insert (Water Words) with an article on the Water Supply Project was sent to 50,000 customers in November/December. A chart that describes the EIS process and decision-making was presented to the PSC and stakeholder groups.

***2005 Listing of Presentations on EIS Options Evaluation and Proposed Action***

Jan 19	TVWD board	Tom VanderPlaat
Feb 8	CPO 16 (North Plains)	Tom VanderPlaat
Feb 15	Wash County Farm Bureau	Tom VanderPlaat
March 16	CWAC	Tom V/Jeanna C
April 13	Forest Grove Rotary	Mark Jockers/Jeanna C
May 4	TRWC	Tom V/Jeanna C
May 5	Tualatin Riverkeepers Citizen Action Committee	Tom V/Jeanna C
May 11	Tigard Water Board	Tom V
May 16	Forest Grove Chamber	Chair Tom Brian
May 23	Washington County Public Affairs Forum	Chair Tom Brian and staff
June 7	natural resource agencies	project team and RECLAMATION
July 14	Cornelius Chamber	Jeanna C
Aug 11	Hillsboro Rotary	Mark J
Aug 16	Tigard Chamber	Chair Tom Brian and staff

***Presentations on Second EIS Alternative***

Sept. 15	CPO 3 (Garden Home)	Jeanna C
Sept. 15	Tualatin Riverkeepers	Tom V

Sept. 21	CWAC	Tom V/Jeanna C
Sept. 28	Willamette River Water Coalition	Tom V
Oct. 5	TRWC	Tom V/Jeanna
Nov 17	Washington County Park Advisory Committee	Tom V
Nov 30	Oregon Water Resources Congress - Annual Conference	Tom V
Dec 13	TVID – Annual Luncheon	Tom V

***2005 Related Newspaper Articles and Broadcast coverage***

Feb 1	Argus News	"Public meeting on water options"
Feb 16	KATU TV (Grant McOmie)	"Raising Scoggins Dam will create some 5problems"
March 7	KATU TV (Grant McOmie)	"Scoggins Dam plan"
March 10	The Oregonian	"40-foot raise sought for Scoggins Dam"
March	Tualatin Valley TV	"Talk of the Town - Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project"
March 15	Argus News	"Officials Want to raise Hagg Lake dam by 40 feet"
May 26	The Times	"Wu secures money for local projects"
June 29	Westside Economic Alliance (The Insider)	"Alliance Supports Water Supply Study"
July 7	Community Newspapers	"It's time to talk water with congressional delegation"
August 17	The Oregonian	"Scoggins Dam could add 40 feet, official says"
Sept. 22	The Times	"Level the playing field for regional water supply talks"
Sept 28	News Times	"Plans for Hagg Lake dam in flux"
Sept. 28	The Oregonian	"Officials may expand water-supply options"

Oct 6

The Times

“Portland’s water offer helps, but issue is more than price”