

Tigard's Community Investment in a New Drinking Water Supply

SPRING 2016

In 2016, the Clackamas River will become Tigard's new primary source of drinking water.

“*For the first time in the city's history,
Tigard will own and control its own water supply,
no longer purchasing water from the City of Portland.*”

— MAYOR JOHN COOK

Clean Water is Valuable

Clean drinking water is Tigard's most valuable natural resource and a vital foundation for Tigard's future. For many years, the City of Tigard has purchased the majority of its water from the Portland Water Bureau. As a wholesale water customer, Tigard had little control over the price it paid for water, nor did it have any guarantee that adequate supplies would be available in the future.

Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership

In 2008, the city partnered with Lake Oswego to build a new water system. Most new major facilities are complete, including a river intake pump station in Gladstone, a water reservoir in Lake Oswego, a pump station in Tigard and more than 10 miles of pipeline connecting these facilities. Construction at the water treatment plant in West Linn will be complete in early 2017.

Projections show our region's population and jobs will double over the next 50 years. The new water supply will ensure that Tigard can meet the future water demands of its residential customers and local industry, which relies on the resource to expand and create new jobs.

Under the partnership, Tigard will share ownership and control of the new water system that will supply Tigard water customers with up to 18 million gallons of water per day. That is enough water to meet the community's water needs for decades to come. This new water supply will be delivered to water customers' taps in the summer of 2016.



The newly constructed Bonita Pump Station connects Tigard with its new water source.

PROJECT BENEFITS

Pristine and Protected Water Source



Tigard's new water system will draw from the Clackamas River, one of Oregon's high quality drinking water sources. Extensive federal and state environmental regulations protect the river, its endangered fish species and other natural resources.

A Resilient Water System



The new water treatment plant and major pipelines are resilient—the first in Oregon designed and constructed to withstand major earthquakes. In an emergency or during times of high demand, Tigard also has access to several other regional water supplies and can draw from water stored in underground aquifer wells.

State of the Art Treatment



The new treatment system will use state of the art technology, like ozone treatment, to remove impurities and ensure clean, great-tasting water year-round.

Affordability for Tigard Customers



Tigard's new water system will provide high quality drinking water from the Clackamas River—all for about a penny per gallon.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will our new Clackamas River water supply compare with our existing Portland supply?

The quality of Tigard's existing water supply is very good. However, the Portland supply is unfiltered and—due to seasonal water quality changes in Portland's water source—Tigard water customers sometimes experience discolored water. Compared to Portland, the new water system will supply a superior, highly consistent product.

How much will the new water system cost and who pays for it?

The cost to build the new system is \$254 million; Tigard's share of that cost is \$160 million. Water customers and developers are funding the system through increased water rates and development charges respectively.

Tigard financed the system using municipal bonds with a 30-year repayment period. This spreads costs over time, allowing future water customers to pay their fair share of the costs. Water rates and development fees have increased over the past several years to pay for the new system.

Though costly, the partnership remains the least expensive option to meet future needs and provide customers with a high quality water supply.

How can I learn more about the Clackamas River?

Tigard is a member of the Clackamas River Water Providers (CRWP). For more information on the river, visit the CRWP's website at www.clackamasproviders.org/our-source/.

For more information:

Visit www.tigard-or.gov/waterpartnership or contact Tigard Public Works Manager John Goodrich at 503-718-2609 or johng@tigard-or.gov.