



City of Portland, Oregon
Bureau of Development Services
Land Use Services

FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION

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MEMORANDUM

Date: November 21, 2014
To: Portland Historic Landmarks Commission
From: Hillary Adam, Development Review
503-823-3581
Re: 14-218444 HR EN – Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Disconnection
Type III Historic Resource Review

Attached are a staff report, public comments, drawing set, narrative, and applicant presentation for the proposed disconnection of the Mt. Tabor Reservoir. In response to a federal ruling that open drinking water reservoirs be covered or treated, the Portland Water Bureau has proposed to disconnect the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs from the drinking water system. The Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Historic District and Mt. Tabor Park are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and therefore a Type III Historic Resource Review is required. Because portions of the proposed work take place in an Environmental Zone, Environmental Review is also required.

Staff has replied to the approval criteria as they relate to this specific proposal, and notes that conditions of approval are suggested related to continued retention of water within the reservoirs, and the development of an interpretation program as mitigation for the loss of the reservoirs' historic use (See Historic Resource Review Criteria #1 and #2).

Staff notes that the reservoirs have elegantly served this City for 120 years and their proposed change of use marks the most significant point in their history since their original construction, and a significant point in our City's history. Disconnection of the open reservoirs from the City's drinking water system should be carefully considered with this understanding.

While relatively minor visible changes are proposed, and the essential form and integrity of the reservoirs will remain intact, staff shares the public concern related to long-term preservation of these historic resources. While any future alterations would be subject to Historic Resource Review, staff suggests that a long-range plan, that incorporates advice from the Historic Landmarks Commission, should be developed by the Portland Water Bureau prior to any future project proposals.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns.