

Nick Fish, Commissioner Michael Stuhr, P.E., Administrator

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# **REPORT TO COUNCIL**

April 6, 2017

Accept progress report regarding commitments with Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association for Mt. Tabor Park Reservoirs (Report)

This Annual Report is to inform City Council of progress regarding the commitments made in Council Resolution No. 37146 (Agreement with Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association for Mt. Tabor Park Reservoirs<sup>1</sup>). The Resolution is focused on the historic reservoirs at Mt. Tabor Park, and includes directives regarding communication, alternative water management strategies, water levels in the reservoirs, tree policy, historic preservation, and an interpretive program.

This report covers the 12-month period from February 2016 to February 2017. A project team<sup>2</sup> from the Water Bureau and representatives of the Mt Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA)<sup>3</sup> — which formed a committee to represent the neighborhood association — and the Friends of Mount Tabor Park (FMTP) are managing implementation of the activities related to Council Resolution No. 37146 and the subsequent Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Historic Preservation Project. This group jointly prepared and submits this report.

## Status Report on Issues From Council Resolution No. 37146

## Communication

Council Resolution No. 37146 addresses communication between the Water Bureau and the community due to a history of unsatisfactory communication regarding issues at the Mt. Tabor historic reservoirs over the previous fourteen years. During the period of this report the MTNA and the Water Bureau have developed a consistent and productive working relationship.

This last year, the Water Bureau project team met with the MTNA committee once a month for both the Tabor Reservoir Adjustments (disconnect) construction project and for the Mt Tabor Historic Preservation Project. The construction meetings focused on sharing updates and airing

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The relevant language states, the Water Bureau and other City bureaus as appropriate will coordinate and collaborate with the MTNA on a joint semi-annual written Report to City Council documenting compliance with this Resolution, as well as annual presentations to City Council and the Portland Utility Board, including a Final Summary Report to be submitted by December 31, 2020 to City Council regarding the implementation of the maintenance, repair and preservation work identified in the 2009 Mount Tabor Reservoirs Historic Structures Report.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The project team is Administrator Michael Stuhr, Chief Engineer Teresa Elliott, Principal Engineer Mary Ellen Collentine, Capital Program Manager David Gray, and Senior Community Outreach Representative Terry Black. Parks and Recreation Bureau staff (George Lozovoy) has also participated.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> The Mount Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA) is represented by Stephanie Stewart and John Laursen, with participation at some meetings by Steven Wax and Kim Lakin; Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP) representatives Mary Kinnick and Bing Wong have also been present at some meetings.

issues. These face-to-face conversations have kept the neighborhood informed about the progress of the reservoir disconnect construction project, and provided a ready-made community sounding board for Water Bureau staff as construction issues arise.

The Water Bureau Historic Preservation project team and MTNA members initially met in February 2016 to better understand the MTNA's goals for the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Historic Preservation Project. Subsequent meetings discussed priorities for the work specified in the 2009 Mt. Tabor Historic Structures Report. A schedule was established for monthly project meetings, with additional meetings for those members of Water Bureau and the MTNA participating in the professional, technical, and expert (PTE) consultant selection process. It is anticipated that monthly meetings will continue for the duration of the project. In addition, Water Bureau staff will participate in MTNA meetings and public outreach to communicate the preservation and interpretive program work to the community. Water Bureau and MTNA project team members will also appear before City Council, Public Utility Board (PUB), and Landmarks Commission to communicate project elements and status.

#### **Alternative Methods for Water Management**

Council Resolution No. 37146 directs the Water Bureau to work with the MTNA to "explore alternative methods to maintain clean water at historic levels, and to maximize the number of days the reservoirs are full, in order to preserve the character of the reservoirs and the park in the most efficient and sustainable manner possible."

The MTNA and the Water Bureau anticipate new strategies for managing water levels at the Tabor reservoirs going forward. Water Bureau engineering staff are currently developing a draft water management plan for the reservoirs that will address water quality and sustainable practices while maximizing the number of days the reservoirs are at 85% full. The Water Bureau will work with both the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and the MTNA on the plan. Since Water Bureau has never operated the reservoirs for non-potable use, the first year of operations after the construction project is complete will involve data collection on water quality parameters and monitoring of drain, clean, and fill times to be documented in an updated final management plan. The Water Bureau and the MTNA intend for the plan to be flexible and creative in managing non-potable water in the reservoirs and to become a living document that can be amended over time to best operate and maintain the reservoirs in their new configuration.

The initial work to develop this plan involved monthly water sampling of the reservoirs to better understand quality changes over time. This detailed sampling was conducted from February of 2016 to January of 2017 and included testing for pH, temperature, turbidity, chlorine residual, total suspended solids, algae, chlorophyll, and total coliform, as well as visual assessments of odor, color, algae and foam. After reviewing the data, the Water Bureau's Water Quality staff recommended focusing on the visual assessment of water quality going forward, along with field tests for pH, temperature, turbidity, and chlorine residual. The new sampling protocol will be deployed both directly before and after reservoir cleaning. A regular cleaning schedule has not yet been established, as construction is still ongoing at the site. Additionally, an inspection by the historic preservation consultant of Reservoirs 1 and 6 is planned during the period when the reservoirs are drained.

The Water Management Plan will also address Salmon-Safe requirements. Salmon-Safe is a system-wide approach to habitat and water quality protection. The Water Bureau will develop a plan for the Mt Tabor Reservoirs that: 1) ensures cleaning and draining activities have negligible impact on water quality of natural waters; 2) monitors water use at each reservoir; and, 3) minimizes water use. The Council Resolution's requirements for water management in the reservoirs do not conflict with the Salmon-Safe Program. The next Salmon-Safe report from the Water Bureau is due Fall 2018 and will address water management at the reservoirs.

	Current Status	Future
Reservoir 1	Taken offline and drained in May of 2015 for the Tabor Reservoir Adjustments Project.	Anticipated to be filled in late spring- early summer 2017 after the contractor has finished pipe disconnection work at the reservoir.
		The Historic Restoration Design Consultant will inspect the reservoir before it is filled. Continue to monitor water quality.
Reservoir 5	Started refilling February 2016 and is currently 85% full.	Anticipated to drain partly into Reservoir 1 to fill Reservoir 1, then be refilled in early summer 2017.
		Continue to monitor water quality.
Reservoir 6 (6N and 6S)	Both cells were drained, cleaned and filled in August 2016. Water levels have fluctuated to accommodate draining of pipe for the construction project.	Anticipated to be drained, cleaned and filled in the next 6 months. The draining will be coordinated with inspection by the Historic Restoration Design Consultant. Continue to monitor water quality.

#### **Tree Policy**

Council Resolution No. 37146 calls out tree issues related to this specific construction project as well as tree issues that may arise in the future because of the Water Bureau's "no trees near pipes" policy.

The MTNA finds the construction thus far has been sensitive to the community's tree concerns in particular in protecting trees and root zones from ill effects. The MTNA has not yet had a chance to work with the Water Bureau on a Tabor-specific alteration to the bureau's "no trees near pipes" policy.

### **Historic Restoration Project**

Council Resolution No. 37146 directs the Water Bureau and other bureaus to work with the MTNA to prioritize the historic preservation construction projects specified in the 2009 Mt. Tabor Historic Structures Report (HSR), for which Council allocated at least \$4,000,000 over the ensuing fouryears.

During this period, Water Bureau staff hired the original author of the 2009 HSR to update the report, revise budget estimates to current dollars, and work with the project team to confirm priority projects for FY 2017-18. The community side of the team was involved in much of this process. The update was issued as an addendum to the 2009 HSR.

During this period Water Bureau staff also conducted a Qualifications Based Selection – Request for Proposals (QBS-RFP) process to hire the preservation consultant. The QBS-RFP was developed by City staff and reviewed by members of the MTNA committee and staff of the Parks Bureau. The selection committee included members of the MTNA committee, a representative from the City Minority Evaluator Program (MEP) and two Water Bureau staff. This process began in February 2016 with the consultant selected in late November 2016. The scope of work has been negotiated and the contract was approved at City Council on March 16, 2017. Notice to Proceed will follow shortly after Council approval.

The author of the 2009 HSR has also developed design plans and specifications to replace the chain link fence protecting the dam face between Reservoir 5 and 6. The fence was required by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) when they had jurisdiction at Mt Tabor. Oregon Water Resources Department currently has jurisdiction over the dam, and a fence is still required to protect the slope. The fence will be replaced with material more in keeping with historic features at the reservoirs. The bid package for fence replacement is being prepared, and construction is anticipated later this year.

#### **Interpretive Program**

Both the Land Use Review (LUR) Approval Conditions and Council Resolution No. 37146 direct that a public interpretive program regarding the historic reservoir system be developed on Mt. Tabor, in collaboration with the MTNA.

A QBS-RFP process to select an interpretive program design consultant was conducted in parallel with the selection of a historic preservation consultant. The same selection committee was used for both. This process began in February 2016 with the consultant selected in late November 2016. The scope of work has been negotiated and the contract was approved at City Council on March 16, 2017. Notice to Proceed will follow shortly after Council approval.

#### **Historic Preservation Budget**

Budget for FY 2016-17 was requested in a Decision Package in February 2016 and \$750,000 was approved. Of that amount, it is estimated \$250,000 will be spent through the end of the current fiscal year. The remaining amount will be requested to carry over into FY 2017-18. A Decision Package in February 2017 was requested in the amount of \$1,020,000 for FY 2017-18 and is pending approval.

The Water Bureau and MTNA have done extensive planning and preparation over the course of this year to identify the highest priority projects to implement \$1,5000,000 of work in FY 2017-18. This honors the schedule envisioned during the negotiations between the Water Bureau and the community, which created Council Resolution No. 37146. The joint project team, in planning these projects, bundled them to maximize cost efficiency and productivity, while minimizing the duration of impact to the park and community.

If the FY 2017-18 Budget is not approved as requested, there will be risks of inflating the costs and accomplishing less work in later years, as well as requiring larger budget requests in later years to meet the commitment made in the Council Resolution.

## **Interpretive Program Budget**

The first year of the interpretive program is anticipated to start closer to the beginning of FY 2017-18 and will be focused on historic research, public outreach and draft program development. The FY 2017-18 Budget will be requested in the Spring BMP.

## **Next Steps**

- The Water Bureau project team will continue working through the budget process to secure funding for FY 2017-2018.
- The Water Bureau project team and the MTNA representatives will continue to meet monthly regarding implementation of the Mt. Tabor Reservoirs Historic Preservation Project and Interpretive Program.
- Water levels in all four reservoirs will continue to be monitored. Draining, cleaning and refilling schedules will be developed and evaluated to measure water quality parameters and meet the goals outlined in the Resolution and to develop a Water Management Plan.
- Design of historic preservation projects at the site will begin in FY 2016-17 and the initial list of priority projects will be bid in FY 2017-18.
- Projects and budgets for the later years will be identified in FY 2017-18 by the Water Bureau project team and MTNA representatives.

Michael Stuhr, P.E. Administrator

- 411

#### Agenda No. **REPORT** Title

Accept progress report regarding commitments with Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association for Mt. Tabor Park Reservoirs (Report)



AGENDA	FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
TIME CERTAIN Image: Start time: 3:00 p.m.			YEAS	NAYS
Total amount of time needed: 30 minutes	1. Fritz	1. Fritz	$\checkmark$	
(for presentation, testimony and discussion)	2. Fish	2. Fish	$\checkmark$	
<u>CONSENT</u>	3. Saltzman	3. Saltzman		
REGULAR	4. Eudaly	4. Eudaly	$\checkmark$	
Total amount of time needed: (for presentation, testimony and discussion)	Wheeler	Wheeler	$\checkmark$	