



WATER STORAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



February 4, 2021

Dear Neighbors,

We want to thank those of you who provided input to the ecological study and who have reached out to EWEB staff and commissioners regarding trees and habitat preservation at the East 40th site. It's clear that this property is highly valued for its neighborhood and ecological benefits, and it is important to retain those benefits as much as possible, even as we deal with aging infrastructure and other challenges.

We share the values that many of you have expressed. Natural spaces, habitat, neighbor viewsheds, and safety are all important factors that deserve consideration alongside cost and engineering concerns.

In the interest of open and transparent communication, we want to reiterate the interests we have heard from area residents:

- Carefully weigh ecological risks and benefits in the planning process
- Retain as much natural space and habitat as possible
- Do not remove trees until and unless it is necessary to do so

These interests are consistent with the project goals, which is why we are working with an ecologist and arborist now, before any final decisions about tank placement and construction are made.

Between now and spring, we will complete the detailed design process, considering impacts to trees, neighbors living adjacent to the site, and costs. The design process also will grapple with complex engineering and construction constraints, such as:

- The site must accommodate two 7.5 million-gallon, 212-foot diameter tanks.
- The tanks must be sited on the north side of the hill to connect to the water system.
- The top of the water surface must be 607 feet above sea level.
- During and after construction, we must maintain access for heavy equipment including dump trucks, large excavators, and cranes.
- The first tank must be sited to allow inlet/outlet piping and construction for the second tank.

To ensure the safety and reliability of this public infrastructure that will provide drinking water and fire protection to our entire community for years to come, these considerations are being weighed by qualified engineering and construction professionals.

SAVE THE DATES!

Meeting with Adjacent Neighbors

We are planning socially distant meetings with neighbors to walk the site and talk in-person about the engineering and design process, site layout and construction timeline. DOWL will be present to discuss the results of the ecological survey.

To ensure small groups, we will send a sign-up sheet via email and limit capacity to 10 households per meeting.

Friday, March 5 | 2 p.m.
Saturday, March 6 | 10:30 a.m.
Saturday, March 6 | 1 p.m.

SEN General Meeting

We will be at the Southeast Neighborhood Association's General Meeting on March 9 to talk about the project. A Zoom meeting link will be posted on the SEN website 1 day prior to the meeting.

This project is a critical piece of EWEB's drinking water reliability effort

We are fortunate in Eugene to enjoy remarkable drinking water. We have an exceptional watershed, abundant supply, and safe and reliable delivery to homes and businesses. None of this has happened by accident. Generations before us made smart, sustainable decisions so that we can enjoy safe, clean drinking water today.

And now we have the opportunity and responsibility to do the same for the next generation of Eugene residents.

Today, our community's drinking water is susceptible to threats such as earthquakes, wildfire, harmful algal blooms, and aging infrastructure. EWEB's drinking water reliability efforts are helping to keep our water system prepared and adaptable to future changes.

We have been working for several years on projects to ensure safe, reliable water continues to flow in our community. In addition to programs aimed at protecting water at the source, we have invested more than \$30 million upgrading, expanding, and renovating our Hayden Bridge Water Filtration Plant. We are replacing water mains, improving water pump stations, and developing neighborhood emergency water stations.

The planned water tanks near East 40th are part of the water system's backbone that serves all of Eugene — approximately 200,000 people— and would be needed after an earthquake in order to meet critical community needs, including fire suppression, health and emergency response, and drinking water distribution points.

One of the most important points that we hope to convey is this: we are taking the time to make a well-informed and sustainable decision for the entire community that we serve.

Regardless of where the tanks are ultimately constructed, we are committed to restoring the site to enhance the habitat afterwards. The property, which EWEB purchased in the 1950s specifically for this use, is more than 10 acres and only around 2.5 acres will be used for the tanks. The rest of the property will remain in its current natural state or enhanced. Our goal is to improve the safety, reliability, and resiliency of our community's drinking water, while designing a space that fits the neighborhood and aligns with broader community needs.

We appreciate the constructive dialogue and we look forward to partnering with you on future decisions regarding landscape design and public amenities at the site.

Sincerely,
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