

January 17, 2005

Mayor Tom Potter
Portland City Council

Dear Mayor Potter;

I have been directed to write you on behalf of the Mt. Tabor Neighborhood Association (MTNA). Mt. Tabor residents have an interest in Mt Tabor Park and the reservoirs. This was confirmed this spring when the Mt. MTNA polled the neighborhood about a variety of neighborhood issues. With a response rate of approximately 10%, we found that the most significant issue to respondents was "Preserve and maintain existing reservoirs". Out of 48 topics, "Preserve and restore existing historic (reservoir) structures" came in at #15 and "address long term water delivery and storage issues" was #18. In contrast, "Support city-proposed changes to reservoirs" was #38.*

Since 2001 MTNA has formally asked the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) director and the commissioner in charge to open reservoir decision-making to increased and meaningful citizen involvement. Much has happened since those days, leaving both citizens and public employees distrustful and hurt.

At this time, MTNA wants to continue to urge you to open all decisions regarding the reservoirs to public input and involvement. Water Bureau personnel came to our October 2004 meeting and told us about Council Resolution 36237. Many at the meeting were left with the impression that Council had already approved PWB plans for spending this year and next on interim security and deferred maintenance in the reservoirs. We later learned from John Donovan, the PWB spokesman, that plans for next year are still under development, but there was significant alarm about proposed expenditures such as \$36,000 for a net to prevent tennis balls falling into Reservoir 6 and proposed activities such as further deferral of necessary maintenance. To address additional questions, John Donovan met with MTNA members, Friends of the Reservoirs, and other concerned individuals on November 29. We appreciate his engagement.

At the November 29th meeting, John Donovan was asked what the City is doing in regard to its request to EPA for a waiver provision to the pending treatment requirement of the LT2. We know from the IRP process that the current open water system is preferred by the public and is supported by the Independent Review Panel, so we would like to know how the City is supporting this position to the EPA and other interested parties.

- What is the Water Bureau's current position?
- Are there any instructions from Council regarding this forthcoming rule?
- Is the Water Bureau or Commissioner in contact with other cities with open reservoirs that are opposing aspects of the rule?
- Is there any plan to fight the rule if citizens/Commissioners believe it will result in high and unnecessary costs?

To date, we have not received an answer to these questions and look forward to hearing from you regarding city policy and action about the upcoming EPA policy. Thank you for remembering us and our abiding interest in the preservation and maintenance of the reservoirs prior to making budgetary and policy decisions that affect them.

Sincerely,

Diane Redd, MTNA President

*See www.mttaborpdx.org for complete survey results.