2009 Project Update

Study identifies options for raising Scoggins Dam

The Tualatin Basin Water Supply Partners have completed a preliminary engineering and cost study of options for a dam raise at Hagg Lake that would address new seismic standards. The Dam Raise Appraisal Study identifies feasible engineering options to meet the long-term water infrastructure needs of the region.

The study outlines several engineering options, including a replacement dam immediately downstream of the existing Scoggins Dam. The study includes updated cost estimates for the dam design and construction and for mandatory seismic improvements to the facility.

"We know that doing nothing is not an option, so we must continue to work collaboratively to find the best regional solution."

-Chair Tom Brain, Washington County

Schedule and scenario planning

The Tualatin Basin Water Supply Partnership will evaluate the study’s findings in the coming months as its members review the region’s water supply options. The Partnership’s goal is to make the best and most cost-effective decision for our region in order to produce the safe and abundant water resources we know we will need.

Water for the Future Video wins award

A 12-minute video summarizing the Tualatin Basin Water Supply Project was produced in 2005 for the project website as well as for presentations to community and business organizations. The video describes the need for more water and the options that have been identified. Several short vignettes are also posted on the site that describe related topics including history of Scoggins Dam, Title Transfer, economic development and the multiple water users. The video recently received an award from the Pacific NW Chapter of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) for excellence in communication. Visit the project website at www.tualatinbasinwatersupply.org to see the video and vignettes. Copies of the DVD are available by contacting project staff.
Dam Design Alternatives Summary

The Dam Raise Appraisal
Study identified four design options for a replacement or raised dam to meet current seismic standards:

1) Raise existing Scoggins Dam 40 feet directly adjacent to the dam
2) Construct new raised dam with roller compacted concrete and rock-fill immediately below existing dam (composite)
3) Replace the existing dam with new earth-filled dam (no dam raise) slightly downstream
4) Construct new raised earth-filled dam slightly downstream

Study Points to Federal Obligation

The Partners’ study estimates that the cost for meeting current seismic standards is $389 million which adds that additional cost to each of the dam design options. The Reclamation Dam Safety Act requires a 25 percent local share and 85 percent federal share for seismic improvements necessary for the existing dam. The Partners are working closely with Reclamation to secure federal funding for the seismic improvements.

The Partners’ study estimates the local share for the seismic improvements at $98 million and the federal share at $391 million. The estimated total costs for the local share of the dam raise and expansion of the water delivery and treatment system range from $836 million to $978 million.

Reclamation’s Safety of Dams Program means delays in decision-making

The Bureau of Reclamation is completing its own evaluation of the need for seismic upgrades at the current Scoggins Dam and expects a decision in early 2010. Once the findings are complete, Reclamation will determine a short-term and long-term response. The short-term response would recommend measures to reduce the seismic risk which could include a reservoir restriction at Hagg Lake. A long-term response would be the completion of a Corrective Action Study which identifies necessary repairs, budget and schedule for completion and typically takes many years to complete.

Partners to develop finance plan based on new cost estimates

The Water Supply Partners including including Tualatin Valley Water District, Clean Water Services and the cities of Hillsboro and Beaverton, will review the updated cost estimates. They will consider:

- how these costs affect cash flow requirements, financing capability, and forecasting
- strategies to phase portions of the water delivery system in order to spread costs over time