

Portland's combined water-sewer rates are already second highest in the country, are rising again in July and projected to be 50% higher within 5 years. **The cost of destroying our historic reservoirs is too high!**

**“What Goes on Top” program**→ In this secondary battle over park development, if the reservoirs are buried, our vigilance has resulted in the City conducting a design “competition.” But it’s a sham, without proper time for true competition. Nor money. A strategic planning meeting report by **Parks indicated a \$21 million budget shortfall**. There are many park and water maintenance problems untended now. With more budget problems, are we to expect improvements in maintenance by Parks and the Water Bureau in the future? Costs for a good design are now estimated at over \$20 million. **The PAC does not operate under Master Plan laws, so any design agreed on via the current process can be altered at any time for any reason WITHOUT public input.** The majority (8) of PAC members went on record objecting to the “false” urgency of this project.

**Citywide support**→ is strong for historic preservation and an open public process on alternatives. Broad opposition to the City is reflected in resolutions passed by neighborhood associations throughout the city, including Mt. Tabor, South Tabor, Buckman, Overlook, Concordia, Arlington Heights, & Southeast Uplift. Neighborhood Coalition. Thousands of citizens have expressed their objections in writing.

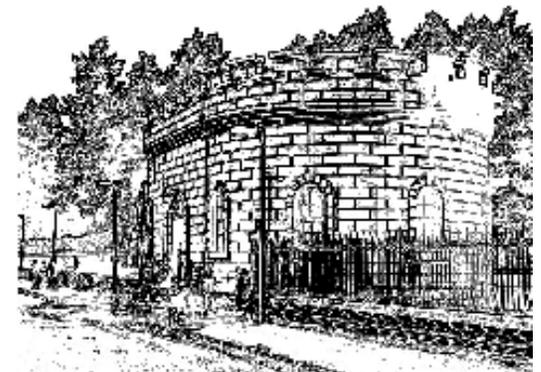
**Public process**→ regarding burial was never offered to citizens. Chronological record of public understanding was:

- *"We need to be careful that we don't invest a lot of money quickly in solutions that feel good but don't solve the problem"* (Sten, 9/22/01)
- *“Long-term changes could include capping the reservoirs...”* (Oreg., 10/26/01)
- *“Sten said he is thinking of ... security enhancements, [which] could include such things as better security at the City's two open reservoirs”* (Oreg., 1/18/02)
- *“City's Wish List to Fight Terror Hits \$20 mil... What's not on list?: security upgrades proposed by Bureau such as covering reservoirs”* (Oreg., 2/21/02)
- *“City Considers Quick Remedy for Water Security”* (ie, burial) *“It won't make our water system terrorism proof”* (Oreg., Sten, 3/1/02)

→ From then on, burial is treated as de facto, aside from formality of Council approval in May, the public left in the dark, waiting for process, for an explanation that holds water.

**It's not too late - Let the Mayor & City Hall know how you feel now!**  
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## Friends of the Reservoirs *Citizens joining to protect Portland's historic reservoirs & water system*



**Did you know?** Portland is in imminent danger of losing its historic, unique and beautiful reservoirs, to be replaced with underground storage. This destruction is scheduled to start by Spring '04, and last several years, paid by your water bill.

But the case has not been made. The costs are too high, the threats too low, alternatives too many and process too little. Please help save our endangered reservoirs. Send your tax-deductible contribution now:

**Friends of the Reservoirs\***  
**3534 S.E. Main Street,**  
**Portland, OR 97214**

\*please write checks out to SEUL, w/ notation for “Friends of the Reservoirs”

Please join us at our next meeting.  
[www.friendsofreservoirs.org](http://www.friendsofreservoirs.org). To review the archived discussions of reservoir issues, go to -  
[www.lists.pdx.edu/mttabor](http://www.lists.pdx.edu/mttabor)

## **FRIENDS OF THE RESERVOIRS CONTINUE TO WORK FOR YOU!**

**Nomination of the Mt. Tabor and Washington Park reservoirs for listing on the National Register of Historic Places** was unanimously accepted on both the City and State levels in May '03. The Portland Landmarks Commission unanimously recommended against the currently proposed project. The reservoirs are expected to be listed on the Register by fall 2003. This would trigger stricter review and public process regarding the Water Bureau's plans.

**An appeal on several grounds has been filed with the Land Use Board of Appeals (LUBA).** If necessary, injunctions will be sought as well.

### **Preserve our Historic Reservoirs & Park!**

**Water quality**→ Our City Auditor cites the Water Bureau for maintaining excellent water quality (December '02 report).

**Terrorist threat**→ The majority of experts have concluded that it would be virtually impossible to successfully contaminate a major public water supply. Toxins are much more effective in aerosol form. There has never been a successful water system contamination in the world. Homeland Security reported in May that Oregon is a low risk for terrorist attack and,

thus, will not receive Federal money (Oregonian April 15 '03 article).

**Backflow**→ This threat via the privacy of one's home remains, and is considered more likely, per Wall Street Journal report Dec 28, 01. In 1975, LSD poisoning of the reservoirs was a concern. Then Commissioner, Lloyd Anderson, testified at Feb. 19, 03 hearing that the decision to bury the reservoirs went away with the war and greater priorities, as the City had no money. Our economy is worse today.

**New York City**→ Is keeping their large open reservoir, despite being a terrorist-targeted city - Hillview reservoir provides water for 9 million people. Homeland security is giving New York \$25 million to fight terrorist threats.

**Government/EPA regulations**→ There are none, currently or planned, mandating that existing open reservoirs be covered.

**Alternatives abound** → **including state-of-the-art real-time monitoring being used and developed around the country.** For example, researchers in New York are developing a microchip-based system that immediately alerts authorities when contaminants are dumped into a drinking water supply, based on laser monitoring.

**Storage loss/cost**→ At Mt. Tabor, Reservoir 6 current capacity 70MG; destruction will result in a 75% loss of capacity. Reservoir 5 current capacity 49 MG; destruction loss will be 10-25%.

Reservoir 1 capacity loss will be 100%. **Mt. Tabor storage loss = ~75MG.** Cost for partial capacity replacement of 50MG at Powell Butte is \$58 million, per Capital Improvement Program (CIP), plus Mt. Tabor burial cost of \$76 million. **Total Mt. Tabor cost: \$134 million & climbing. Washington Park burial will cost at least an additional ~\$50 million.** The Water Bureau budget will be affected until 2012 per their CIP. The repair cost estimate is only \$4.5 (four and one half) million.

**Maintenance issues**→ will remain. The City Infrastructure Master Plan shows that the Open Reservoir project is 47<sup>th</sup> on the priority list, but is being fast-tracked ahead of other needed repairs, including vulnerable water pipes across the Willamette on a major fault line. Sediment will still flow into the buried tanks and will have to be cleaned. Overflow tanks will have to be cleaned. If water features are installed, they will have to be cleaned. There will be costs associated with filters, pumps, etc.

**Many more millions of dollars**→ will still be needed for other Infrastructure Master Plan projects.

**There are too many issues to  
continue without reevaluation.**

**Upwards of 1,000 attended the Hands  
Around the Reservoir rally in January of  
2003; over 200 at City Hall Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>.**