Lake Oswego and Tigard have partnered to further develop Lake Oswego's Clackamas River water source to economically provide a reliable supply of water to both communities. Tigard doesn’t own or control its major water supply sources (Portland Bull Run and Columbia River wellfields) and critical infrastructure within Lake Oswego’s water system is old, worn out and undersized.

Lake Oswego’s existing river intake was constructed in 1968 near Charles Ames Park in Gladstone, on the bank of the Clackamas River. Raw water is pumped from the intake to a water treatment plant in West Linn. The plant is being upgraded and expanded to serve both cities’ water customers.

Although the Clackamas River intake was expanded in 1980, and upgraded in 2002, it has serious structural problems. The concrete floor is decaying, pumps are decades old and suffer from chronic mechanical problems and breakdowns, electrical and motor cooling systems are inadequate and cannot be upgraded within the existing structure. The existing facility is also undersized to reliably serve even Lake Oswego’s peak water demand.

Construction began in August 2013 on the new seismically resilient intake, located just upstream of the existing pump station. The new fish-friendly facility will have the capacity to pump up to 86 mgd to serve Tigard and Lake Oswego customers and provide backup water for West Linn, up from the 16 mgd capacity of the current intake. The new facility is designed with a residential-looking façade, improved fencing, high quality building materials and native landscaping. The existing facility will be removed when the pipeline to the water treatment plant is also replaced.

The Partnership projects, including the new intake on the Clackamas River, are providing hundreds of sorely needed jobs for local construction workers. According to the US Conference of Mayors, every $1 million invested in water infrastructure directly creates 8.7 jobs, and each of these jobs leads to an additional 3.7 jobs elsewhere in the economy. By this measure, the entire Lake Oswego-Tigard Partnership project will generate over 2,000 jobs.

Kari Duncan, past chair of PNWS-AWWA and Lake Oswego’s Water Treatment Plant Manager, extends an invitation to tour the intake facility in Gladstone and the water treatment facility in West Linn. Please contact Jane Heisler, Communications Director for the Lake Oswego Tigard Partnership with your interest (jheisler@ci.oswego.or.us / 503-697-6573).

Learn more: loitigardewater.org

Project Sponsors:
- Cities of Lake Oswego and Tigard
- Program Manager: Brown & Caldwell
- Designer: Black & Veatch
- Contractor: Slayden Construction Group

Wall forms in progress (November 27, 2013).

Construction begins on the new Clackamas River Intake (August 8, 2013).

Cofferdam completed (August 21, 2013).

A view from across the river (October 22, 2013).