



## Eugene Water & Electric Board

PO Box 10148  
Eugene, OR 97440-2148  
541-685-7000  
www.eweb.org

February 7, 2020

Dear Neighbors,

We are writing in follow-up to the Jan. 30 College Hill Informational Meeting. Our goals for the meeting were to introduce the project team, share early information about plans for EWEB's water storage facility, and hear comments and concerns from neighbors who live adjacent to the site.

If you were not able to attend, please feel free to reach out to the project team to hear what you missed. We would be happy to fill you in over the phone, in person, or via email.

If you were at the meeting, thank you for investing time in a conversation with us about the future of the College Hill site. We appreciate the constructive dialogue about site aesthetics, public access, construction impacts and other topics.

It's clear that College Hill is highly valued for its community and neighborhood benefits, and that it is important to retain those benefits as much as possible, even as we deal with aging infrastructure and other challenges.

As discussed at the meeting, changes at College Hill are part of a larger Water Storage Improvements Project that also includes replacing the water tank at Hawkins Hill and building a new water tank at a vacant property at E. 40<sup>th</sup> and Patterson.

The scope of the College Hill project includes three primary activities:

1. Removing the existing water tanks (the small tank on the north end of the property and the large rectangular tank)
2. Building a new smaller tank
3. Re-landscaping unused portions of the property for public use

The soonest this work would begin is 2021.

There are two primary drivers for this work:

**Water Quality:** Despite the best efforts of EWEB and neighbors to extend the useful life of the College Hill tank, the structure and roof continue to leak. The Oregon Health Authority is requiring EWEB to rehabilitate or decommission College Hill by the end 2023.

**Resiliency:** College Hill was built in 1939, before modern seismic standards and would likely fail to hold water under any significant earthquake event. College Hill is part of the backbone of our water system that serves all of Eugene and is needed to for public health and safety in the event of a major disaster.

Constructing a new water storage facility at College Hill and removing the existing facility is the most cost-effective solution long-term, and will improve water quality and resiliency for all Eugene residents.

After construction, EWEB plans to re-landscape the site and maintain public access to the open space. Neighbors will be invited to weigh-in on this design process, including landscaping, walking paths, signage and other features that honor College Hill's history and role in our community. We expect the public design process to start this spring.

Throughout the design and construction process, EWEB is committed to open and frequent communication with neighbors. In that spirit, we compiled some of the themes we heard at the Jan. 30 meeting. This isn't a comprehensive list, but please be assured we captured all questions and comments for consideration as work progresses.

We've also included the project team's contact information so that you can easily reach out to us if you have additional comments or questions going forward.

Thank you again for partnering with EWEB in this process. We are excited to work together with you and other community members in writing the next chapter in the history of College Hill.

Sincerely,  
Jen Connors, Communications Specialist  
Laura Farthing, Senior Civil Engineer  
Jeannine Parisi, Customer Relationship Manager

Contact the Project Team:  
Call 541-685-7899  
Email [water.storage@eweb.org](mailto:water.storage@eweb.org)

Project information and updates:  
[eweb.org/waterstorage](http://eweb.org/waterstorage)



# WATER STORAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS



## Q&A Themes from Jan. 30, 2020 Neighbor Meeting

### **AESTHETICS OF THE NEW TANK (e.g. What will the new facility look like from our homes? How will the tanks be screened?)**

EWEB will provide architectural renderings to help show what the site will likely look like with the new tank in place. In general, the new tank will be similar in height to the existing large, rectangular tank. It will be round, concrete, 200-250 feet in diameter and surrounded by decorative fencing. The tank will be partially buried and vegetative screening will be used to visually obscure the facility. The existing tank at 52<sup>nd</sup> & Willamette is a good example of what the new College Hill tank will look like (although College Hill will be larger).

### **PUBLIC GREENSPACE (e.g. Is it possible to maintain hilltop/sunset views and some flat space? What kind of lighting will be installed?)**

Design of the open space has not yet begun - where and how much flat area and other features like plantings, pathways and lighting is open for community input. EWEB intends to work with stakeholders to design a space that fits the neighborhood and aligns with broader community needs, such as responsible use of funds, safety and ease of maintenance.

### **CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS (e.g. Where will equipment be staged? Will there be road closures? What safety measures will be in place? What about noise and dust control?)**

Safety is our priority, especially during construction. The plan is to keep all equipment on-site and a construction fence will surround the entire site to the sidewalk. EWEB will develop and share with neighbors a Construction Mitigation Plan that outlines strategies for noise management, dust control, neighborhood safety, and other construction impacts. There may be periodic flaggers on-site and/or partial street closures, but most work will be contained to the EWEB property.

### **TREES (e.g. Will existing trees be removed?)**

Some trees will need to be removed. However, EWEB will try to save as many trees as possible and will replant based on a community-inspired landscape design.

### **PLANS FOR THE EXISTING TANK (e.g. Is there any way to leave the existing tank in place? Or just remove half of it?)**

EWEB is still assessing options, but it is very likely that the existing rectangular tank will need to come out to make room for construction equipment on the site. There are numerous variables in play at this early planning stage, including ensuring we have ample water storage in our system as new tanks are being built, as well concerns about the structural integrity of the 1939 tank with nearby heavy construction. More information will be available later this spring/summer, but in all scenarios, the entire College Hill tank is eventually removed. It is not in the best interest of all customers to invest on-going funds in maintaining a structure that is not needed for storing and delivering water.

### **PLANS FOR ELEVATED TANK PROPERTY (e.g. Will the elevated tank be removed? Is it possible to create a park on that property?)**

The elevated tank is no longer in service but will remain in place at least until the lease on the cell antenna expires in 2024. As that time approaches, EWEB will determine future possible uses for the property.