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January 24, 2012  
 Citizen's Advisory Committee  
 Lake Oswego OR

Dear Committee:

Recent submissions to the CAC contain patently wrong information about Oswego Lake. The following information is submitted for your consideration.

**1. Statement: The city spends \$1.3 to \$1.5 million annually to clean Oswego Lake. Not True: The city is responsible to clean up its storm water by federal mandate – not to somehow appease the lake residents.**

The city is required under its US EPA NPDES permit to ensure its storm water meets Federal and State Clearwater regulations and standards. If the city fails to meet the regulations and standards, it is subject to both State/Federal enforcement actions and more importantly 3rd party citizen actions. This compliance is required without regard to whether or not there is a local body of water.

There are three major drainage basins within Lake Oswego's Urban Services Boundary: Oswego Lake, the Tualatin River, and the Willamette River. Lake Oswego has a complex geography with many steep, wooded hillsides and streams that flow from the higher areas into the Tualatin River, Oswego Lake and the Willamette River. All of these are beneficiaries of improved storm water management.

In contrast, the citizens whose homes border Oswego Lake have assessed themselves millions of dollars to enhance water quality, prevent the introduction of invasive aquatic species, and remove large quantities of silt coming into the lake from surrounding streams and storm water.

**2. Statement: \$1 million in state money has been spent for work on the Oswego Dam. Not true: There was a Federal FEMA grant. The funds for this grant come from the FEMA subsidized flood insurance program and are used to reduce potential liabilities to the program by removing properties from the flood plain. However:**

In the great flood of 1996 the dam could not release the massive amount of water flooding out of the Tualatin River. Water overflowed State Street and McVey Avenue and down into the Foothills area causing massive damage to the city. Property damage within the city was estimated at \$22 Million. \$2.5 million in damage was caused to LOC property and facilities and \$8.5 million in damage was caused to Shareholder properties. 2

**3. The Blue Lake Example is in Sharp Contrast to Oswego Lake.**

Mr. Blumm references Blue Lake as an example of public waters with open access. Our community doesn't have the problems of Blue Lake nor do we want them. For example, in August 2010, Blue Lake was closed due to high algae levels. Oregon Public Health and Multnomah County Health Department officials issued a health advisory and closed the park's swimming beach.

Invasive aquatic plants such as Eurasian watermilfoil and curlyleaf pondweed have sometimes restricted use of the lake for swimming, fishing, and boating. In 1998, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) added the lake to its list of impaired water bodies because it violated the state's standard for alkalinity and supported too many aquatic weeds and algae. Weed and water quality problems continue to plague the lake's water today.

The highly skilled stewardship of the lake by the Lake Oswego Corporation (using millions of dollars of its own monies) has helped Oswego Lake avoid similar problems. Lake Oswego Corporation programs are on the cutting edge of algae control as well as invasive species control.

**4. It is a false notion to assume that somehow the city could limit open access to City residents. Under the position of Blumm, once open to the public, the public is everyone from everywhere.**

Public is Public. The limited size (415 acres) of Oswego Lake makes it very vulnerable to the pressures of overloading. Public Access means anyone from anywhere would have the right to enter without regard to any restrictions about where they live. This over crowding with both local and out-of-town visitors would not only destroy the lake, but would result in problems well beyond the lake with significant impacts to parking, policing and park maintenance.

**5. Lake Easements - how they originated and the restrictions that were imposed.**

Oswego Lake has been under private ownership since the 1850s. At a certain point, Oregon Iron & Steel (OIS) decided to withdraw from the iron and steel business and develop much of its real-estate holdings. As it developed the lake front, it retained the shoreline property and placed covenants and restrictions on the lots abutting that 3

**6. For reference, the following historical information is extracted from the City of Lake Oswego Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan submitted to FEMA:**

"Oswego Lake is 3.5 miles long, with the main portion covering 385 acres, and an additional 7 acres in West Bay and 28 acres in Lakewood Bay. The Lake is a reservoir, and is privately owned and managed by the Lake Oswego Corporation, commonly known as The Lake Corporation. The Lake Corporation has owned and maintained the Lake since 1942."

"The lake offers shoreline recreation opportunities to specific residents at the Lake Grove Swim Park and the Lake Oswego Swim Park. A city park at Lakewood Bay offers visual access, but not physical access, to the lake. Oswego Lake is heavily used for water-related recreation by lakeside residents and others with lake easements recognized by the Lake Corporation. The lake is also valued by residents for its open space and aesthetic aspects and for its historical and cultural importance. Residents consider the lake to be a vital part of Lake Oswego's identity, and a valuable natural resource."

Best regards,  
Doug Thomas  
Lake Oswego Corporation, Board President

-----Original Message-----

From: Tracy Chapman

Sent: Friday, January 20, 2012 7:04 PM

To: WeLoveLO

Subject: Lake Access / Other Water Recreation

Hello -

As a newer resident of Lake Oswego who does not have lake access (even though I would love it), I do not yet have a solid opinion on whether or not I think it should be made public. If further access is granted, I would say that a few more "beachy" swim parks (maybe one for adults only and another one that is family friendly) with borders around them for safety and manageability would be nice.

I would also very much like the ability to launch non-motorized watercraft (specifically my stand up paddle board) on the lake. I would be happy to pay a fee for such access and would understand if limits were set as to how many non-owners could enter on a given day to respect the water for current owners and not "take it over".

It would be lovely to have some kind of affordable dock/deck space that people can use to view the lake from and enjoy entertainment and refreshments either with or without going into the lake itself. Maybe the spot of the former Lake Oswego House restaurant could work well if it is an affordable "public" spot and not just a high-end restaurant.

I do understand the concerns of current lake access owners however and they should be heard.

No matter what the decision ends up being on the lake itself - we really should build up the recreational opportunities we have on the beautiful and nearby Willamette River. The recent improvements and access from both George Rogers Park and Foothills Park are amazing, and I'd like to take that further.

I'd love to see an expansion of the watersport center at Roehr Park that allows the public to launch canoes, kayaks, and stand up paddle boards, the development of lockers/storage for these types of watercraft, community events/lessons/rentals of these items, and even a small store or cafe type place to support and serve people using this center directly as well as those who enter the river elsewhere but can pull up to Lake Oswego and get out to enjoy it for awhile or grab something to eat. I'd really like to further the opportunities for this type of recreation here in Lake Oswego and also build a community around it. Of course it would be awesome if all three parks were linked together by walking/bike paths as well.

Beyond that - we really need a community center that has an indoor/outdoor pool, spa, sauna, gym, playground area much like they have at Mountain Park. I'd love to see indoor and outdoor swimming opportunities, the inclusion of an "adults only" area in addition to family areas, salt water swimming pools and eco-friendly buildings, good healthy food, community events, etc that a lot of us can enjoy. In the summer and during school breaks it should also have opportunities for our students to go to "camps" so there is more to do close by for our kids.

Thanks for listening and thank you all you are doing to work on this vision for Lake Oswego!!! :)

Tracy