



Hillsboro Reservoir Site Selection

General Questions and Answers

Why does Hillsboro need more reservoirs? Don't they already have some?

Hillsboro has two working storage reservoirs in town that hold 21 million gallons combined. However, it needs to meet the industry standard of keeping three-days worth of emergency storage on-hand. Currently, that would be about 33 million gallons. Additional storage is forecasted to cover future growth requirements to 2030.

If you don't need some of the storage until later, why purchase the sites now?

It is difficult to find appropriate parcels for a reservoir site. The City is planning for all three sites at once, based on current and projected storage needs. The reservoirs will be built as needed.

How many sites were evaluated?

The consultant evaluated over 500 potential sites, which narrowed first to 414, then to 100, then to six, and was finally expanded to the current 20.

Why weren't any potential sites located in NE Hillsboro?

NE Hillsboro is already adequately served by the Evergreen Reservoir and parts of central Hillsboro are served by Bicentennial Reservoir. NW, SW and SE were identified as underserved areas that needed storage to meet water needs.

Will Hillsboro condemn property in order to site reservoirs?

Hillsboro's priority is to find a willing seller. The Consultant originally identified six potential reservoir sites, but based on public input, expanded the potential sites to 20, in order to increase chances of finding willing sellers in each of the three areas.

Why did people get notices whose properties aren't up for consideration?

In a effort to obtain as much public participation as possible, Hillsboro chose to not only notify owners of potential properties, but also anyone living within 500 feet of a potential reservoir project site. All are encouraged to provide input to the selection process.

Is input really important to the reservoir-siting project?

Yes, vitally! Based on a hearing was held on November 19, 2008, and other public comment received, the project Consultants were directed to change criteria and re-assess properties based on the new criteria. It was also due to public input that the list of qualifying sites was increased from six to 20. Public participation is a crucial part of the site selection process.

When will a decision be made regarding the final site selections?

The Utilities Commission plans to make a decision at its next meeting on March 10, 2009, to be held in Civic Center, Room 113C, at 1:30 p.m.