

Statement by Craig Dirksen and Jack Hoffman  
Mayors, City of Tigard and Lake Oswego

submitted  
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Today we suggested to the Lake Oswego-Tigard Water Partnership Oversight Committee that they ask West Linn's Planning Commission to delay its consideration of the Partnership's land use proposal. As mayors we've listened carefully through nearly eight hours of public testimony. We believe the residents of West Linn deserve a thorough and thoughtful response to their concerns. Delay allows us to return to the Planning Commission later this year with new and clearer information about the benefits of our proposed project for the citizens of West Linn.

Our decision is more than a procedural request. As leaders of our cities and supporters of regional partnerships we understand the importance of the community relationships we all need and value. Our communities, West Linn, Lake Oswego, and Tigard, are neighbors. We are part of a single region bound together by roads, water lines and other public infrastructure services. The essential ingredients necessary to ensure these assets continue to serve us well are cooperation between jurisdictions and a healthy respect for the views and opinions of all our citizens.

We firmly believe the drinking water provided by our proposed project will be a regional asset to the cities of Tigard, Lake Oswego and West Linn. Without this resource, our corner of the metro area will run short of water within a decade. The alternatives are far less certain and much more expensive.

Our suggested pause in the land use process allows us all, West Linn, Tigard and Lake Oswego, community leaders and effected neighborhoods, the time necessary to make sure our project lives up to our collective aspirations for healthy and livable communities.