

# Capital Hill Reservoir Replacement Project

## FAQs

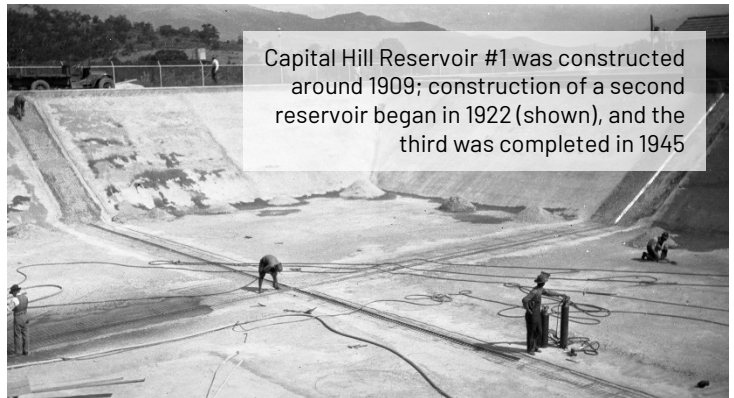


*This project is still in an early phase of research and design, with construction years away. We want to be good neighbors, and our team has been busy speaking with residents around the reservoir site to learn how we can mitigate construction impacts and design the project to improve the area. This FAQ document will be updated and expanded as we learn more, to address questions that residents have throughout the process.*

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### ***Q: Why is this project necessary?***

A: The Capital Hill Reservoir Facility is the distribution hub for Medford's water system. Its reservoirs store drinking water brought directly from our primary water source, Big Butte Springs, before it is pushed out into other areas. They are nearly 100 years old, and need to be replaced to help us continue to provide reliable, high-quality drinking water to the growing population of the Rogue Valley long into the future. We'll rebuild the reservoirs for earthquake resilience, but we'll keep them at the same location. It's at the best elevation to distribute water to the entire system, and already has the network of pipes and other infrastructure.



### ***Q: Will all of the trees need to be cut down?***

A: No. Many, if not most, trees on the site are well out of the way of construction and will not be impacted. Our staff is reviewing options that maximize use of the site for water storage needs balanced with wildfire safety and preserving the visual buffer of trees and vegetation. The majority of the site, which is not easily seen from the surrounding streets, is very open with few trees. We will also consider replacing trees where possible when construction is completed.

### ***Q: Will a park be added to the site?***

A: No. Initial feedback from the neighbors is to keep the area similar to how it is today, with nice landscaping along Capital Avenue, but no additional amenities.

### ***Q: Will the site be open to the public?***

A: No. For the safety of the water system, the reservoir site will not be open to the public and will remain secured with fencing and gates, as it is currently.

### ***Q: What is Medford Water doing to address the concerns of the neighborhood?***

A: Medford Water is very aware of the history with the City's radio tower and hopes to establish good working relationships with the neighbors for this project at the start. Medford Water has hired JLA Public Involvement, Inc. to support our efforts to get feedback ahead of construction and to help us meet the community's needs during this time. We are actively developing informational materials, a website, an email distribution list, a project video, and will be hosting open houses.

***Q: Why does the radio tower need to be relocated?***

A: The radio tower's current location limits the construction of a new reservoir. Our staff is currently reviewing site layout options that work best for the long-term needs of the water system, including working with the City on a permanent location for the radio tower.

***Q: Will the radio tower be relocated to the old location?***

A: No. Medford Water is aware of the history of the City's radio tower and the impact the original location had on the neighbors. Moving the tower temporarily to the old location during construction was initially considered, but it is too cost-prohibitive and disruptive to neighbors. The engineering team are aiming to move the tower only once to its final location, which will meet all setback requirements and land use laws.

***Q: What is the history of the radio tower?***

A: In 2010, the City of Medford requested to install a communications tower on Medford Water's reservoir site. The tower was constructed too close to the neighbor's backyards, not meeting the setback requirements. After much pushback from the neighbors, the City relocated the tower. Medford Water allowed the City to relocate the tower to its current site with the understanding that it would need to be moved again when we prepared to rebuild the reservoirs.

***Q: Will my property value decrease?***

A: Property values should not change due to replacing the existing reservoirs. Reservoirs make good neighbors as they make no noise, are secured sites, and require personnel to visit only for infrequent inspections. The reservoirs will be screened with existing and new trees to protect the viewshed of the neighborhood. The radio tower will remain visible as it is today, but not in the exact same location (location is still to be determined). During construction, noise from vehicles may be disruptive during working hours, which may deter prospective buyers.

***Q: Will construction affect my private property?***

A: No. All work will be contained within the publicly owned reservoir property.

***Q: How do I stay informed on project progress?***

A: To learn more and to sign up for updates on this project, go to [medfordwater.org/CapitalHill](https://medfordwater.org/CapitalHill).

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Questions we are studying and will provide answers to you soon:

- Which routes will trucks use?
- Where will the radio tower be located?
- Will the new reservoirs be taller/bigger than the current ones?
- And more!