

# FACT SHEET



## What is the Lake Oswego Interceptor?

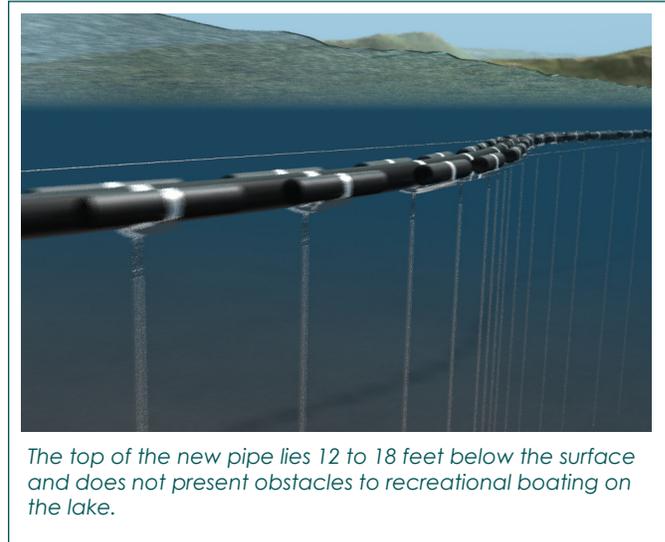
The Lake Oswego Interceptor Sewer (LOIS) is a large wastewater pipe that forms the backbone of the City's wastewater collection system. Roughly 75% of Lake Oswego households and businesses are served by this line.

The existing line consists of 20,000 feet of sewer pipe ranging from 12 to 36-inches in diameter and was constructed in the early 1960's. Over 90% of this pipe lies within Oswego Lake, its bays, and canals with the remainder located onshore between Hwy 43 and Portland's Tryon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. Some in-water portions of the pipe are buried, but over half is supported above the bed of Oswego Lake on timber and steel piles.

## What is the problem with the Interceptor?

The existing LOIS system has two major problems.

1. **It's too small** – The LOIS system serves an area larger than originally envisioned. In combination with an aging collection system throughout the City that allows too much rainwater into the sewer, during sustained, heavy rains the system backs up and flows out of manholes at various locations. These spills violate State and Federal law and are unacceptable to the City.
2. **It's structurally at risk** – The system's steel pile supports and hardware are corroding and are at risk of collapse. Analysis has shown the potential for numerous failures in the LOIS system during an earthquake. Such failures would allow millions of gallons of untreated wastewater to flow into the lake and would allow lake water to overwhelm the wastewater treatment plant.



*The top of the new pipe lies 12 to 18 feet below the surface and does not present obstacles to recreational boating on the lake.*

## What is the solution?

Since 2002 many different alternatives have been evaluated to correct existing LOIS deficiencies in an economical and reliable fashion. In August 2007, after many public hearings and community briefings on the replacement alternatives, the City Council recommended replacement of the LOIS system with a combination of pile supported pipe and a buoyant, gravity flow pipeline. The pipe would be constructed of polyethylene, is slightly buoyant in water, and would be held below the surface of the lake by steel tethers anchored to the bedrock under lake sediments. An additional "buoyancy pipe" would be attached to the main wastewater pipe to maintain the required grades necessary for gravity flow to the treatment plant. While this application is the first of its kind for a gravity flow sanitary sewer, the individual components have been used for decades in more demanding marine environments than Oswego Lake.

## Has the Lake Corporation agreed to the plan?

Yes, the City and the Lake Corporation have negotiated the terms of two agreements: a "Drawdown Agreement" and an "Easement Agreement." Signed in March 2008, the agreements address project access points, the duration and schedule for lowering the level of the lake, and roles and responsibilities of the parties during project construction.

## When will construction start?

Construction is anticipated to begin June 2009, generally following the schedule below.

Aug. 2008 – Jun. 2009	Final Design and Access
Jan. 2009 – Nov. 2009	Out of Lake Work
June 2009 – Sep. 2010	Lake Full Work
Sep. 2010 – May 2011	Lake Down Work
Summer 2011 – Jan. 1, 2012	Project Completion and Demobilization

## Will the lake have to be lowered and if so, when and for how long?

Oswego Lake will have to be lowered to allow construction to occur in dry conditions at the east and west ends of the lake to allow installation of some of the new pipe. The Lake Corporation will begin lowering the level of the lake beginning September 2010. The elevation after drawdown will be 16-20 feet below its normal level. The water will remain at this level until about April 2011 when the Lake Corporation will begin refilling the lake.

## Why is a lake drawdown needed?

There are undersized buried lines in the west end of the lake that need to be replaced. Doing this work in dry conditions prevents stirring up sediments into the water.

## What water source will be used to refill the lake?

A combination of Tualatin River water, local streams and creeks, and rainfall runoff will be used to refill the lake as quickly as possible.

## How much will it cost?

The cost estimate for all six project phases is approximately \$110 million. This estimate may change somewhat as designs are refined. The City Council voted in July 2008 to finance the LOIS project through revenue bonds. Revenue bonds are repaid through utility bills. Rates will increase and estimates are listed in the table below. The figures will be more specific after a rate study is completed in June 2009. Increases after 2012 should mirror inflation.

The average residential wastewater user will likely see bi-monthly rates change as follows:

### WASTEWATER RATE FORECAST (NEXT 7 YEARS)

FISCAL YEAR	2008-09	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7
		2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
BI-MONTHLY WASTEWATER RATE	\$59.86	\$77.82	\$101.17	\$121.40	\$137.18	\$141.30	\$145.54	\$149.91
ESTIMATED ANNUAL INCREASE		30%	30%	20%	13%	3%	3%	3%

\* Future rate increases are estimated based on a projection of system operating costs, the annual capital program, LOIS project costs, and the debt service forecast. These rate increases have yet to be approved by City Council and should be considered as draft.

## Where can I get more information?

There are several ways to get more information:

1. Hello LO: LOIS construction updates will appear monthly.
2. Website: At [www.loisnews.com](http://www.loisnews.com) you can see project maps, read monthly construction updates, and get up-to-the minute details about road closures or other impacts.
3. Project Office: (Currently at the West End Building). Staff is available during business hours to discuss the project, answer questions and address concerns at 503-699-7466.
4. Join the LOIS email list: Monthly updates and "breaking news" will be sent to anyone on the project email list.
5. From the project website, sign up for Facebook or Twitter updates.
6. Contact the LOIS Project Office to request a presentation to your group.

Contact Jeff Selby, Citizen Information Coordinator, at (503) 697-6514, or [jselby@ci.oswego.or.us](mailto:jselby@ci.oswego.or.us), for more information.