

RESOLUTION NO. 33 FOR 2023
A RESOLUTION TO DECLARE CONTINUOUS COMMITMENT TO WATER QUALITY

WHEREAS, the City of Sweet Home is known for its award winning water; and

WHEREAS, a judgment was passed on the US Army Corps of Engineers requiring them to lower the level of Green Peter Reservoir; and

WHEREAS, the recent drawdown of Green Peter Reservoir has had unintended consequences which have drastically impacted the water quality of Foster Lake and therefore the drinking water for the residents of Sweet Home; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sweet Home is spending increased hours and incurring additional unplanned expenses in order to keep the water within parameters for safe consumption according to the Oregon Health Authority (OHA); and

WHEREAS, some Sweet Home residents are experiencing discolored water that while still considered safe, is unattractive and concerning; and

WHEREAS, the discoloration in the water is adding to the economic impact on residents as they purchase store-bought water and use extra cleaning agents to get the stains out of their plumbing fixtures; and

WHEREAS, the community and its leaders have expressed deep concern regarding the present situation; and

WHEREAS, the unintended consequences have also resulted in muddy water, fish die-off, and a negative economic impact of approximately 10% in lost revenue for many of our local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sweet Home values its water quality and its natural amenities, and is willing to go above and beyond to protect them and to lead the way for other communities to do the same; and

WHEREAS, Foster Lake Reservoir and the South Santiam are crown jewels in our community for recreation, tourism, and natural beauty and these bodies of water are central to our economy, beauty, and our tagline of being the Gateway to the Santiam Playground; and

WHEREAS, Sections III and/or IV of our Council's Vision Statement state "WE ASPIRE to provide viable and sustainable infrastructure" and "WE ASPIRE to provide viable and sustainable essential services"

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Sweet Home:

Section 1. The City of Sweet Home will continue its commitment to providing safe drinking water to the citizens of Sweet Home.

Section 2. The City of Sweet Home is committed to working with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Linn County Commissioners, representatives from the State of Oregon, and any other pertinent agency to find solutions to the environmental and economic impacts currently facing Sweet Home due to the drawdown of Green Peter Reservoir.

Section 3. The City of Sweet Home will explore all avenues including but not limited to legal action to protect its natural amenities.

Section 4. The City of Sweet Home will explore all avenues to protect and support its local businesses impacted by the Green Peter Reservoir drawdown.

Section 5. The City of Sweet Home will exhort the State of Oregon, the Department of Environmental Quality, and the Governor's office to protect and preserve the water quality of our local waterways.

Section 6. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage of the City Council and signature of the Mayor and remains in effect until such time as repealed or amended by resolution.

PASSED by the City Council and approved by the Mayor this ____ day of November, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST _____
City Manager – Ex Officio City Recorder