

# MULTNOMAH COUNTY VOTERS' PAMPHLET

**VOTE-BY-MAIL ELECTION - SEPTEMBER 15, 1998**

Voted Ballots **MUST** be received by **8:00 PM Sept. 15th to be counted**. A "Voter Express" ballot drop site, for this election **ONLY**, will be located at the **ROCKWOOD FRED MEYER** (East Parking Lot) 18535 SE Stark St.

It will be open:

**SUNDAY** (Sept. 13th) Noon to 5:00 PM  
**MONDAY** (Sept. 14th) 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
**TUESDAY** (Sept. 15th) 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM

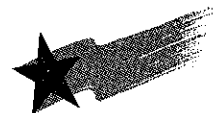
Also available is Multnomah County Elections at 1040 SE Morrison, Portland. Office hours are: Monday-Friday 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM and 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM on election day. There is a mail slot, in the door, for after hours and on weekends.

## ROCKWOOD WATER P.U.D. - MEASURE #26-73

| BALLOT TITLE  | EXPLANATORY STATEMENT  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT BONDS</b></p> <p><b>QUESTION:</b> Shall Rockwood Water People's Utility District Issue \$10 Million in Revenue Bonds to Build a Reservoir and Water System Improvements?</p> <p><b>SUMMARY:</b> The Board of Directors of Rockwood Water People's Utility District has referred to the voters this matter of financing water system improvements. The Board has adopted a water system master plan that calls for various water system improvements. The main improvement is construction of a 20 million gallon reservoir. The District buys water from Portland's Bull Run System and the contract specifies annual rate increases. Construction of the new reservoir and other improvements will give the District patrons a three-day reserve of water in the event of interruption of the Bull Run supply and will minimize contract rate increases from Portland. This measure does not authorize new property taxes; only water system revenues will pay for the bonds.</p> | <p>The Board of Directors of Rockwood Water People's Utility District has referred to the voters this matter of financing water system improvements. The Board has adopted a water system master plan that calls for various water system improvements. The main improvement is construction of a 20 million gallon reservoir. Additional water storage allows the District's system to function more efficiently during peak usage periods. The District buys water from Portland's Bull Run System and the contract specifies annual rate increases. Construction of the new reservoir and other improvements will give the District patrons a three-day reserve of water in the event of interruption of the Bull Run supply and will minimize contract rate increases from Portland. This revenue bond measure does not authorize new property taxes. Revenues from water system users will pay for the bonds.</p> <p>Submitted by:<br/>           Clark I. Balfour<br/>           Attorney for Rockwood Water PUD<br/>           Board of Directors</p> |

This pamphlet produced by:

Multnomah County Elections  
 1040 S.E. Morrison Street  
 Portland, Oregon 97214-2495



# ROCKWOOD WATER P.U.D.

## Measure No. 26-73

### ARGUMENT IN FAVOR

Rockwood Water District has provided East County with 70 years of top quality service and reasonable rates. Now Rockwood Water P.U.D. is facing a dilemma, Portland is forcing us to pay increasingly higher rates due to our limited storage capacity.

We all remember the promises Portland made as it annexed it's way through East County, those in the Portland urban growth boundary pay the city an additional 5% franchise fee for our water service and if that weren't enough, Portland has closed our fire station on 174th. Portland it seems, is just one more "good deal" after another.

In the past 4 years the cost of water has gone up over 70%, and yet Rockwood has "held the line" and struggled to find places where expenses could be reduced and not affect service quality, nor increase rates. The new reservoir will cost about 10 million dollars, but it will allow Rockwood to reduce the cost of water we purchase from Portland. During times of maximum water usage (peaking) Rockwood draws extra water out of the Bull Run system. With the reservoir we will use the same amount of water, but will fill our reservoir during non-peaking hours when water is cheaper, and store it for later use. This amounts to a long term savings for Rockwood and it's customers, plus provide local control over future costs.

The following individuals with over 110 years of elective service to East County support building the reservoir.

LARRY DIXON (8 YEARS) RWPUD  
RICHARD SCARIANO (8 YEARS) RWPUD  
PAT STALLINGS (2 YEARS) RWPUD  
MEL EDWARDS (53 YEARS) RWPUD  
JOHN DONILY (2 YEARS) RWPUD  
BILL STALLINGS (9 YEARS) RWPUD  
RICH LAUDERBACK (6 YEARS) RWPUD  
LONNIE ROBERTS (17 YEARS)  
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
JOHN LEUTHAUSER (2 YEARS)  
GRESHAM CITY COUNCIL  
GUSSIE McROBERT (10 YEARS) GRESHAM MAYOR

*(This information furnished by Lonnie Roberts, H:OCC)*

The printing of this argument does not constitute an endorsement by Multnomah County, nor does the county warrant the accuracy or truth of any statements made in the argument.

### ARGUMENT IN OPPOSITION

#### VOTE "NO" ON MEASURE 26-73

The Rockwood Board authorized a \$10 million revenue bond issue **without voter approval and without a public hearing.** Citizens collected the required signatures to refer the bond issue to a vote.

The notice Rockwood PUD mailed to it's customers **failed to state that the bond issue was for construction of a 20 million gallon reservoir on Grant Butte and that the bonds would be repaid from substantial water rate increases.**

**Without waiting for the results of this election, the Rockwood Board approved three rate increases,** effective 7-1-98, 1-1-99, and 7-1-99. The bi-monthly water bill will increase **57%** for residential customers with 3/4" meters and **39%** for customers with 5/8" meters, based on water usage of 10 CCF monthly.

The Rockwood Board intends to transfer approximately **56 acres** of the district's service area to Gresham in exchange for a **16 1/2 acre** reservoir site on Grant Butte. This **prime service area**, south of Burnside between 212th and Eastman, will be developed into a commercial/high density residential mix. **Rockwood would lose the revenue from these new customers that could offset any future rate increases.**

The project engineer's feasibility study has raised some **serious concerns about the suitability of Grant Butte for a reservoir.**

- There are three earthquake faults on Grant Butte, identified as potentially active. One has a trace beneath the project area.
- In 1997, an earthflow occurred and seeps issue from the toe of the slide.
- A spring exits the slope above the access road, and there is evidence of slope instability related to erosion and groundwater movement.
- Approximately 12 to 22 feet of silt over very dense, sandy gravel cobbles underlies the project area.
- Cut slopes within the silt and gravel units have experienced slumping which appears to be associated with areas of concentrated spring activity.

**ROCKWOOD HAS PREVIOUSLY LOST ONE RESERVOIR ON GRANT BUTTE DUE TO SLIPPAGE. DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN. IT'S YOUR MONEY! JUST SAY "NO".**

*(This information furnished by Jeanne E. Orcutt -  
Frances V. Hyson, Friends of Rockwood Water)*

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