

GRIFFITH PARK'S ABANDONED WATER TANKS

Proposal by Friends of Griffith Park
August 2016



Responsibility: LADWP or Rec & Parks ?

The Griffith Park Master Plan Working Group discussed the problems of abandoned, derelict water tanks found throughout the Park. During those discussions (2005-2008) it became clear that a formal MOU between LADWP and RAP exists:

- LADWP is responsible to operate and maintain water assets which are “in service”
- LADWP may notify RAP when they abandon water assets
- It is the sole responsibility of RAP for proper disposition of these abandoned water assets

This may be HARD TO BELIEVE, but it's true.

Recommendation in the “Vision” ?

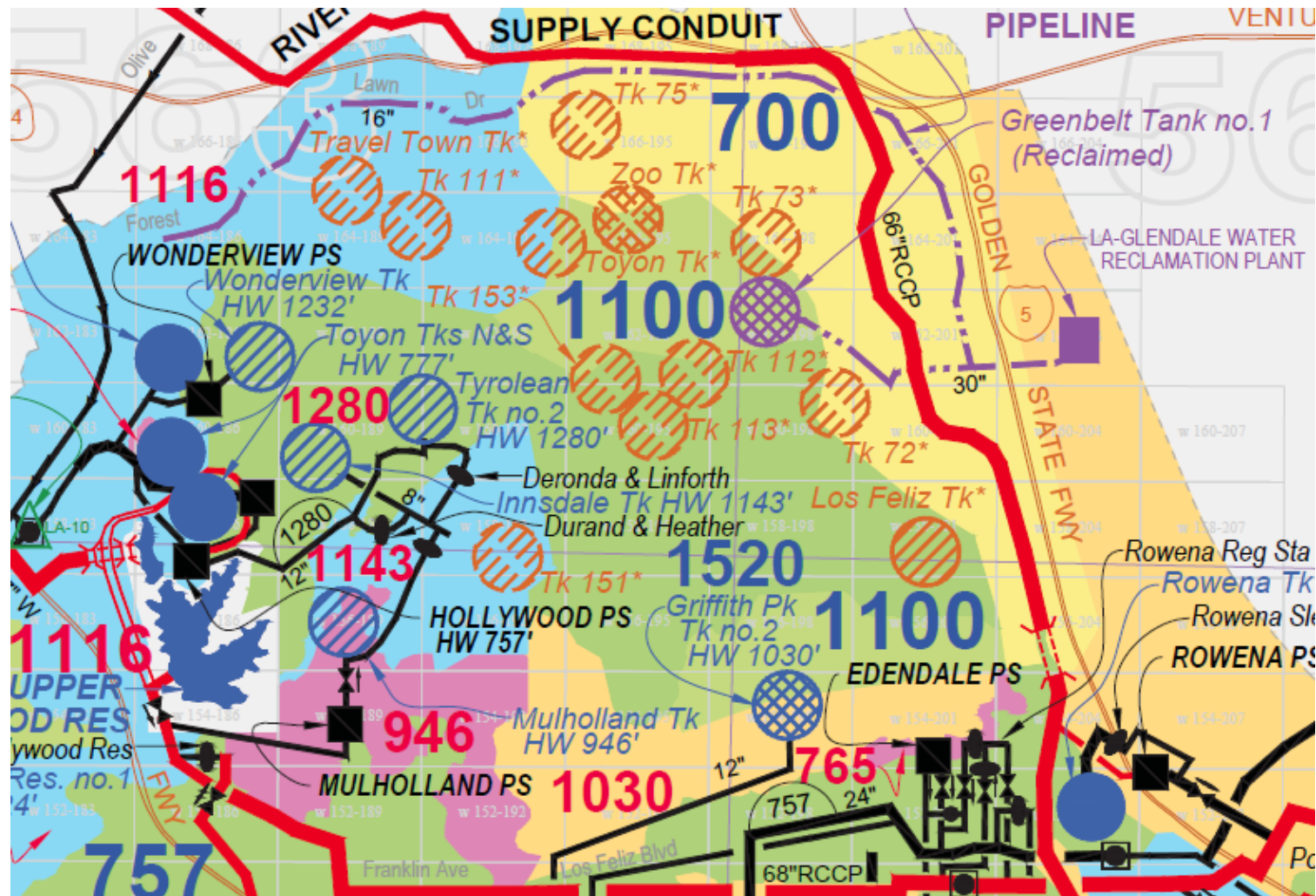
The Master Plan Working Group’s original recommendations were lost in the final revision of the “Vision”, just before its adoption in January 2014:

“As DWP updates it’s infrastructure, RAP will work (in) collaboration as removing abandoned water tanks would restore some areas of the Park in a manner that is consistent with the Urban Wilderness Identity.”

This is the previous (stronger) version which was included in all revisions up until the final version which was circulated in December 2013:

“Removing abandoned water tanks would restore some areas of the Park in a manner that is consistent with the Urban Wilderness Identity. The removal of the tanks could also increase open space and improve views and mobility within the Park.” “A detailed analysis should be undertaken so than an ecologically and environmentally sound policy for the abandoned water tanks, consistent with the preservation of the Park’s natural areas, can be developed. The final policy should address the manner and the timing of the removal of the tanks and the method in which the tanks are to be maintained and utilized pending their removal.”

Griffith Park is loaded with operational tanks!
But abandoned tanks are not even shown here.



Griffith Park Water Tanks

Griffith Park Water Tanks Status				
TANKS	CAPACITY (gallons)	CURRENT STATUS	FUTURE DISPOSITION / OTHER INFORMATION	OWNERSHIP
ABANDONED				
Tank G	300,000	out of service	abandoned (Steamers)	RAP
Tank 74	300,000	out of service	abandoned (Skyline)	RAP
Tank 115	300,000	out of service	abandoned (Observatory, Bird Sanctuary)	RAP
Vista / Commonwealth	small?	out of service	abandoned (on Vista del Valle, above Commonwealth Nursery)	RAP (ASSUMED)
Tank 116	300,000	out of service	abandoned (Western Canyon, Mt Hollywood Drive)	RAP
TO BE ABANDONED				
Tank 73	300,000	in service	to be abandoned (North Trail / Amir's)	RAP
Tank 75	300,000	in service	to be abandoned (Rattlesnake Trail)	RAP
Tank 112	300,000	in service	to be abandoned (TCL south)	RAP
Tank 113	300,000	in service	to be abandoned (Vista / Eckert)	RAP
Tank 153	300,000	in service	to be abandoned (Mt. Chapel)	RAP
RECENTLY REMOVED				
Tank 114	218,000	removed	removed, to make room for 1.0 million gallon tank	---
TO REMAIN				
Los Feliz Tank	750,000	in service	to remain	DWP
Toyon Tank	165,000	in service	to remain (North Trail)	DWP
Zoo Tank	1,000,000	in service	to remain, to be rehabilitated (North Trail)	DWP
Griffith Park Tank 2	1,556,000	in service	to remain (Boy Scout Road?)	DWP
Reclaimed Tank	2,000,000	in service	to remain as reclaimed water storage (Eckert)	DWP(ASSUMED)
Tank 72	300,000	in service	to remain as reclaimed water tank back-up (Eckert)	DWP
Tank 111	100,000	in service	to remain (TCL NW)	DWP(ASSUMED)
Tyrolian Tank	? large	in service	(below Hollywood Sign, near Deronda	DWP(ASSUMED)
Wonderview Tank	? Large	in service	(near Cahuenga Peak trailhead)	DWP
Tank 151	300,000	in service	to remain. To be rehabilitated (Captain's Roost)	DWP
Travel Town Tank	750,000	in service	to remain, online 2008 (on Mt Hollywood Drive)	DWP
TO BE BUILT				
South Tank	1,000,000	in construction	estimated in service 2017, reclaimed (Vista del Valle)	---
1217-foot tank	300,000	to be constructed	will be in service ???	---
* Accuracy is best efforts. This is an ever-evolving spreadsheet prepared by Friends of Griffith Park.				

Summary of Griffith Park Water Tanks

- Abandoned tanks: 5 (likely for more than 3 decades)
- To be abandoned in the future: 5 (per DWP)
- In service: 10 (plus others on adjacent DWP-owned parcels)
- To be constructed: 2 (at least)

To our knowledge, only ONE tank has been removed in Griffith Park in over three decades, Tank #114 (218,000 gallons), only to be replaced by a ONE MILLION gallon tank.

We suggest that it is only fair the LADWP remove another 782,000 “gallons-worth” of derelict tanks (the difference).

Tank #114 is replaced by South Tank



218,000 gallons

Tank #114 (with graffiti) is removed on May 18, 2015, part of DWP's project. (Note: hydraulic shear excavator are used, not torches)



1,000,000 gallons

August, 2016 - The beginnings of a South Tank, 32 feet tall, 84 feet diameter. A reclaimed water tank.

The problems of abandoned tanks are unquestionable.
Public Safety - Aesthetics – Maintenance



January 2016 – Tank #116

Climbing and “hanging out” - literally



January 2016 – Tank #116

RAP staff re-paint tanks regularly



February 2016 – Tank #116

The view hikers have from popular Mt. Hollywood Trail.
This tank has a soft roof and ladder access.



Tank #115 - August 2016

OUR PROPOSAL

1. Policy should be put in place for removal of abandoned water tanks, per the wish of the public which supported the Master Plan Working Group process.
2. Friends of Griffith Park opines that LADWP should bear the burden of removal expenses, especially as that department continues to occupy more space and build larger tanks in the park.
3. Friends of Griffith Park will fund the removal of the first tank, Tank #116, to set a precedent for removals. This is conditional on a commitment toward policy talks between LADWP and RAP regarding abandoned water tanks.

Tank #116 Removal – Why a first priority?

Friends of Griffith Park has received a proposal for the removal of Tank #116 by a qualified vendor. Our Board has approved the full expense as a donation to the City. The tank would be removed by the end of the year.

Tank #116 is a high priority liability because of public safety, nuisance issues, and re-painting costs. It is also an eyesore within a high usage area frequented by locals and tourists.

We consider the next priorities to be: Tank #115, the Vista-Commonwealth Tank, and the Skyline Tank.

Thank you !



Some information and photos courtesy of LADWP and RAP. Prepared by Gerry Hans. gerry@friendsofgriffithpark.org

