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.
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

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

*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.
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