Proclamation

Whereas, water is vital to the sustainability of life and has no existing substitute; and

Whereas, the world's population of 6.3 billion is projected to increase to nearly 9 billion before leveling off; and

Whereas, the population of the United States exceeds 291 million and it is estimated to increase to 600 million by the year 2100; and

Whereas, a recent study revealed that 58 areas of the United States -- from Florida and Georgia to western Texas to northern California and southern Oregon, as well as most of heartland U.S.A. -- are water stressed; and

Whereas, 1.2 billion people worldwide already lack an adequate safe water supply; and

Whereas, 5-7 million people die annually from water-related diseases, including 2.2 million children under the age five; and

Whereas, 20 percent of the world's population in 30 countries face water shortages today, a figure expected to rise to 30 percent of the world's population in 50 countries by 2025; and

Whereas, many water shortages stem from inefficient use, or unsustainable use of underground water in aquifers, which can take thousands of years to replace; and

Whereas, the theme of **World Population Awareness Week 2003** is "Water: The 21st Century Crisis."

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor David Dodds of the City of West Linn, Oregon, do hereby proclaim October 20-25, 2003, as:

World Population Awareness Week

and urge all of our citizens to conserve water whenever and wherever they can and, further, reflect on ways to ensure adequate safe water supplies for future generations.

Mayor David Dodds