

JRH

March 10, 2006

Mark Buckbee
Acting District Manager
United States Dept of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 10226
Eugene, OR 97440-2226

RE: BLM's March 7, 2006 Letter

Dear Mr. Buckbee:

Thank you for BLM's response to my February 22, 2006, letter that raised issues with BLM. Your response is very encouraging. Nevertheless, two issues remain.

1. The following relates to whether more than just passive non-human intervention wetland plant reestablishment has taken place along the north side of the West Eugene Parkway (WEP) corridor.
 - Is it possible for private individuals, or groups of individuals, without the assistance or knowledge of the BLM to have assisted wetland plants to become reestablished in the 250 foot WEP Corridor?
 - Has the BLM done "invasive weed" plant removal and mitigation work within the 250 foot WEP corridor?
2. The second issue continues the question of whether BLM has really been neutral, not taken sides. My question remains, based upon your use of two terms, "controversy" and "alternatives" in reference to the WEP.
 - Just about every project has some people and community elements in opposition to it. What definition or standard does BLM use to determine if a controversy actually exists? Is a statement by the opposition that a controversy exists enough for BLM to conclude a controversy does exist? I personally do not believe there is a controversy. There is a small vocal group that believes the removal of any wetlands is a "sin", even if the wetland fill/removal area is the least impactful of all routes the community has considered to date. Some discussion by BLM as to what the controversy is would be helpful in order for me and the community to understand BLM's past and future actions.

Letter from Larry E. Reed
RE: BLM's March 7, 2006 Letter
March 10, 2006
Page 2

- The reference in your letter referencing WEP alternatives is of concern. The route has been determined and is on the region's list of projects to be built, pending the Record of Decision. There are no alternatives under consideration; even the pending "collaborative process" by the Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, as structured, will not achieve alternatives within the context of what the WEP is intended to achieve. Over the years, all the alternatives have been examined. I believe that there are no other alternatives that would impact any less wetlands. I agree that the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (FSEIS) will help the BLM reach a decision. I am also pleased that BLM, by your statements, recognizes that, no matter what the results of the FSEIS, under Federal Clean Water Act and Oregon Wetland Removal Statutes allows for jurisdictional wetlands to be filled when the wetland lost is adequately mitigated. Does BLM have an alternative route that will impact less wetlands?

I have enclosed three letters that BLM may not have read. I am looking forward to BLM's further explanation.

Sincerely,



Larry E. Reed
Principal, Land Use Planner

Enclosures

Letter from Larry E. Reed
RE: BLM's March 7, 2006 Letter
March 10, 2006
Page 3

Cc: Senator Gordon Smith
Federal Building, Room 202 – 211 East 7th Avenue – Eugene, OR 97401

Senator Ron Wyden
Eugene Office – 151 West 7th Avenue, Suite 435 – Eugene, OR 97401

Representative Peter DeFazio
Eugene Office – 151 West 7th Avenue, Suite 400 – Eugene, OR 97401

Metro Policy Committee
c/o LCOG – 99 East Broadway, Suite 400 – Eugene, OR 97401

City of Eugene – Mayor and Council
777 Pearl Street, Room 105 – Eugene, OR 97401

City of Springfield – Mayor and Council
225 Fifth Street – Springfield, OR 97477

Lane Transit District Board of Directors
P.O. Box 7070 – Eugene, OR 97401

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125 East 8th Avenue – Eugene, OR 97401

City of Veneta – Mayor and Council
88184 Eighth – Veneta, OR 97487

City of Coburg – Mayor and Council
P.O. Box 8316 – Coburg, OR 97408

Steve Calish
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