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November 11, 2003

Lane County Parks Division
Attn: Rich Fay
90064 Coburg Road
Eugene, OR 97408-9277

Re: Fern Ridge Dam Repair
Junction City Water Control District
Our File No. 10461.30004

Dear Rich:

We represent Junction City Water Control District ("District"). On behalf of the District, we request that Lane County consider participating with the District in an engineering analysis of the necessity for and the methodology of a repair to Fern Ridge Dam.

The Board of Directors of the District has significant concerns regarding the condition of Fern Ridge Dam and regarding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' plans for future repair of the embankment. Those concerns are primarily focused on the amount of water impounded in the reservoir during the agricultural irrigation season (and during any repair of the embankment). Landowners within the District (approximately 3,500 acres) and throughout the Long Tom Basin (approximately 10,000 total acres) draw water for irrigation from the Long Tom River after it has passed through the reservoir. Those landowners purchase irrigation water from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau, by contract, is only required to sell that water that is available. An interruption in the amount of water impounded in the reservoir and later released during growing season would significantly affect those landowners.

The Corps has speculated that repair of the embankment could take up to nine months to complete and could require the emptying of the reservoir to a "minimum pool" level during that period of time. Such a lengthy drawdown of the impoundment would effectively eliminate irrigation of approximately 10,000 acres within the Long Tom River basin. The District conservatively estimates, pursuant to a "Rapid Assessment" prepared by the OSU Extension Service, that an interruption of irrigation water in the basin would result in nearly \$3 million in losses and damages to those landowners. (Commissioner Morrisison has a copy of the Extension Service report.)

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The District has received a proposal from Branch Engineering, Inc., wherein Branch would provide engineering services to the District. Those services are proposed in two phases. The first phase would provide a review of the Corps' September, 2003, Progress Report and would include potential alternative remedial actions and an opinion regarding the Corps' strategies. The second phase would provide a review of the Corps' final report expected next spring. It would include an opinion on the Corps' proposed repair actions and potential alternative rehabilitation strategies. Both phases would be conducted with a goal of demonstrating that the dam can be repaired without emptying the reservoir and without an interruption of irrigation water. The two phases are estimated to cost \$3,000 and \$4,000 for a total cost of \$7,000.

The District believes that Lane County will be significantly affected by an emptying of the reservoir and that a significant public interest exists in the Corps' repair plans. Based on that belief, the District requests that Lane County consider participating in the engineering study and sharing in the cost of that study.

I have enclosed a copy of the Corps' September 2003 Progress Report and a copy of the Branch proposal for your review. Please provide the Board of Commissioners with that information, any other relevant information and with this request for its consideration of Lane County's participation in the study.

If I can be of other assistance in providing the Board of Commissioners with what it needs for deliberation please contact me.

Best regards,

/s/ Steve Cornacchia

STEVE CORNACCHIA

PSC:pm

Enclosures

cc: ✓ Commissioner Anna Morrision (without enclosures)
Bill VanVactor (without enclosures)
District Manager (without enclosures)