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HERSHNER, HUNTER, ANDREWS, NEILL & SMITH, LLP  
LAW OFFICES

180 East 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
P.O. Box 1475  
Eugene, Oregon 97440  
Fax (541) 344-2025  
Telephone (541) 686-8511

OCT 1 2003

STEVE CORNACCHIA  
scornacchia@hershnerhunter.com

October 15, 2003

Commissioner Anna Morrison  
Lane County Board of Commissioners  
125 East 8th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97401

RE: Fern Ridge Dam Repair  
Junction City Water Control District  
Our File No. 10461 30004

Dear Commissioner Morrison:

Earlier this month I sent you a copy of our letter to Senator Gordon Smith. That letter detailed an informal OSU Extension Service assessment of the economic impact resulting from a year-long interruption of irrigation from the Long Tom River. The assessment concludes that the impact on agricultural producers and related businesses would be losses in the range of \$2 million and \$3 million.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has stated that it believes it must empty Fern Ridge Reservoir to accomplish repair of the dam. An empty reservoir during the spring and summer means no water will be available for irrigation of nearly 10,000 acres of agricultural land in the Long Tom River basin. It also means no water will be available for recreation in the reservoir.

The Board of Directors of Junction City Water Control District has concluded that representation of the District's constituents requires it to participate in the Corps' decision-making process regarding repair of the dam. The Board believes that it should advocate for a construction methodology that results in the repairs being accomplished without an interruption of irrigation. That belief has led the Board to further conclude that it should engage the services of an engineering firm to review the situation and the Corps' assumptions and conclusions. If that review demonstrated that repair of the dam could occur without emptying the reservoir, the Board intends to provide the review document to our congressional delegation (Smith, Wyden and DeFazio) for its advocacy for such a repair regimen.

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It occurs to the Board that Lane County has similar interests in the issue (emptying the reservoir will impact recreation and recreation fees). Accordingly, the District requests that Lane County consider participating with the District in the cost of the engineering review. The District has requested that Branch Engineering provide it with advice as to the appropriate scope of the review and a range of cost for the review. I can share that information with you if Lane County agrees to consider participating.

Please process this request and contact me as soon as possible regarding Lane County's interest in participating.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Cornacchia", with a stylized, flowing script.

STEVE CORNACCHIA

PSC:pm

cc: District Manager  
Lane County Administrator