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SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL
SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM

Memorandum Date: September 12, 2007
Public Hearing: September 19, 2007

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Public Works/Land Management Division

PRESENTED BY: Keir Miller, Associate Planner

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **ORDINANCE NO. PA 1242 / IN THE MATTER OF ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO THE SIUSLAW RIVER DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL PLAN (SRDMDP) TO ADD DMDP SITE 10 AND DELETE DMDP SITES 15 AND 16; ADOPTING AN ADDENDUM TO DMDP SITE MAPS; AND ADOPTING SAVINGS AND SEVERABILITY CLAUSE.**

I. ISSUE

Land Management Division has received correspondence from the Port of Siuslaw and the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District that are enclosed as Attachments "A" and "B", respectively.

The Port of Siuslaw has expressed support in favor of deleting DMDP Sites 15 and 16 and adding DMDP Site 10 to the Siuslaw River Dredged Material Disposal Plan (DMDP) inventory. The Port also encourages the Board of Commissioners to direct staff to undertake an extended study of the upriver dredge material disposal sites and estuarine resources as outlined in "Issue 4" in the staff's agenda cover memo (July 23, 2007).

The Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District correspondence discusses the District's current outreach program and restoration projects in the Siuslaw drainage and their outlook on future dredging activities in the river channel. The District has cited limited staff resources as the reason for not accepting the invitation to participate as an active partner in the proposed grant request to DLCD for an extended study and update of the DMDP.

II. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Correspondence: Port of Siuslaw (Mark Freeman, Manager), September 5, 2007.
- B. Correspondence: Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District (Gus Gates, Watershed Conservationist), August 10, 2007.

PORT OF SIUSLAW

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Lane County Board of Commissioners
125 East 8th Avenue
Eugene OR 97401

LANE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Commissioners,

The Port of Siuslaw is a well-established ocean port in Lane County and is planning for the present as well as for the long-term economic future of the area it serves. The purpose of this letter is to address the future as it relates to sites along the Siuslaw River where dredged material has been or might be deposited.

The Port of Siuslaw supports the deactivation of Sites 15 and 16 as they have been developed to serve other public uses and needs, are considered to be "full" of dredge spoils, and will not be considered for future use by the Port of Siuslaw. The Port concurs with the City of Florence and the Lane County Planning Commission in deactivation of these sites.

The Port of Siuslaw seeks reactivation of Site 10 to serve potential future dredging needs. Site 10 is one of two sites downriver of the Hwy. 101 bridge that could be used for dredged materials if ocean relocation of dredge spoils was not an option. This serves a public need as well as those of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Lane County and the State of Oregon. We urge the Lane County Board of Commissioners to support the Lane County Planning Commission recommendations on Sites 10, 15 and 16 as they are positive solutions for the citizens of Oregon.

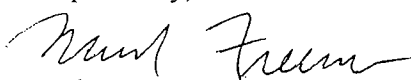
Ongoing dredging of the Siuslaw River is critical to the Port of Siuslaw and the financial health of western Lane County. The Port is an engine of commerce and economic development in this area and it is poised to upgrade facilities to explore additional fiscal opportunities.

Past industry uses of the river may become future economic drivers as variations on former uses, such as barging, are investigated and implemented. Therefore, it is important to maintain dredging options and to accurately assess the inventory of dredged material disposal sites.

To that end, the Port of Siuslaw supports an additional study of upriver dredge material disposal sites and estuarine resources. The 1978 plan was a good one and can be refined utilizing recent surveys and technologies. The more recent inventory of the Siuslaw River and associated dredged material disposal sites, completed by Lane County and other stakeholders, can aid in a new understanding for future uses of the river by the Port and other landowners. The Port looks forward to participating in this new study.

We thank you for your time and consideration in these matters.

Respectfully,



Mark Freeman
Port Manager

Attachment B. Correspondence: Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District (Gus Gates, Watershed Conservationist), August 10, 2007.



Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 2768 - Florence, OR 97439 - Phone (541) 997-1272 - Fax (541) 997-6296

William Sage
Department of Public Works
Land Management Division
Public Service Building
125 E. 8th Ave.
Eugene, OR 97401-2926

Re: Siuslaw SWCD involvement with Siuslaw River DMDP

Dear Mr. Sage,

Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to come down and talk with us about the subject of updating and implementing the Siuslaw River Dredge Material Disposal Plan (DMDP). In response to your request for a list of outreach conducted, and projects being implemented here is what we currently are working on:

Outreach- All sites have been contacted with a direct mailing, many conversations have occurred with landowners on an individual site basis, and many are still on-going.

Projects being implemented- Currently we are working in collaboration with ODOT on a mitigation project for the replacement of the North Fork Bridge, this is happening on site #65 (Brophy prioritization). We are also working with the ODFW on site #49 to mow blackberry and plant native tree species. A very similar project is also occurring on site #48 with private landowners. Many restoration projects have also been implemented in the past by the Siuslaw SWCD and our federal partner the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). These projects can be found on sites numbered 29, 45, and 59 (Brophy prioritization).

The grant that we are currently working under is called the Siuslaw Watershed Restoration Initiative funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Estuary component of this grant has recently been extended until December of 2008. This grant has also been used to leverage other grant money, which is used to complete this important work within the community.

We appreciate your offer to include the Siuslaw SWCD into your technical assistance grant to the DLCD, however we feel at this time we cannot accept this invitation due to our limited staff resources. We recognize that an update of the 1978 DMDP is needed, however we are yet to be convinced that dredging upriver of the North Fork confluence is necessary given the changes in land use, changes in zoning of industrial sites, and the concerns that many have with putting dredged material in tidal wetlands. Our preferred alternative if upriver dredging is implemented would be for the dredged materials to be taken to appropriate upland sites after the soils are analyzed for toxicity, with proper care taken to avoid increased sedimentation into salmon bearing streams and the further spreading of noxious weeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gus Gates".

Gus Gates
Watershed Conservationist
Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District