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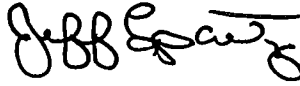
Memorandum

To: Board of County Commissioners

From: Jeff Spartz, County Administrator

Date: 6-16-09

Subject: Status of the Events Center\Fairgrounds (EC\F) Storm Water Issue



I spoke with Peter Ruffier of Eugene Public Works about what could be done to get a year around large animal permit instead of the "dry season" permit we have now at the EC\F. This would allow us to board large animals year around and produce additional revenues for the overall facility operation. He confirmed that The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) has sufficient total capacity to treat storm water runoff that might be generated at the EC\F during the wet season. The problem lies in the lack of local capacity in the sewage interceptors that take storm water from the EC\F to the treatment plant. At maximum winter runoff, the additional volume from the EC\F would overwhelm the local capacity and cause sewage backups in buildings downstream from the EC\F.

The City of Eugene considers the neighborhoods downstream from the EC\F to be fully developed and does not have plans for increasing interceptor capacity *at any foreseeable time in the future*. Owing to these factors, there does not appear to be any likelihood that we could get a permit for wet season runoff.

What alternatives are left to us then? We could either manage runoff on our own or implement a strategy to prevent the runoff. Managing runoff on our own would entail some level of active treatment since animal waste would inevitably work its way into the system. An active system implies both capital and operating costs which likely makes it a more expensive proposition than a passive system such as roofing which prevents the runoff from occurring.

Several years ago, a study was done that evaluated storm water runoff at the EC\F and what mitigation was possible. The first possibility involved building a local storm water management septic system. The second was a proposal to extensively roof the area to avoid generating contaminated storm water. David Suchart has been unable to locate the study but believes that the cost of the roofing option was about \$1.6 million and the cost of the runoff management system was even higher (2006 estimates).

Debt service on a \$1.6 million investment would be on the order of \$120 thousand annually. Estimates of the potential revenue of year around operations are about \$200 thousand. The difference between revenue and expense is modest, there would be some additional operating costs, and the roof would need some level of maintenance to keep it in good condition. My recommendation would be that there are more pressing needs for limited capital resources at the EC\F and that those needs should be addressed first.