

CBEMP Testimony October 5, 2023 to the Coos County Planning Commission

I commend the County on its work so far in the endeavor to revise this vital plan as it deserves special consideration. I strongly endorse a full plan revision of the Coos Estuary Management Plan. The cost of doing so will be returned in many ways to our community. This community has already invested time and effort into a citizen and stakeholder-based report with the 2019 [Coos Estuary Land Use Analysis](#). From this report's executive summary, "Based on the information products and feedback from the broader community described below, the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds firmly recommends a full plan revision."

I was a participant in this process and can confirm the broad consensus from my fellow citizens for this recommendation. It was clear that a huge amount of information has come to light since the original CBEMP came out that would warrant a review and re-evaluation of the plans many pieces, including:

- Management Units
- Plan for Dredge Materials Disposal
- Mitigation and Restoration Plan

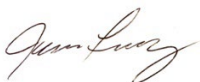
In addition to existing parts of the plan, citizens involved with The Coos Estuary Land Use Analysis pointed out the imperative to include climate-related planning in the revision, and creating a document that was more readily adaptive to change such as sea-level, ocean acidification, coastal erosion, fire, etc. In a following draft analysis, Coos Bay Coastal Hazard Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan, 2022, this urgency was noted, "Locally, some municipal and private organizations are already taking steps to reduce their exposure to climate-related hazards, but nothing is being coordinated at the community or watershed scale."

I urge the County, along with the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, to commit to a full revision of the CBEMP by establishing a citizen advisory and technical committee to guide the comprehensive Phase 2 update with the input of a robust array of citizens to include:

- The fishing industry, both recreational and commercial
- The seafood industry, including aquaculture and seafood processing
- Local businesses
- Tourism industry or commercial recreation businesses
- Recreational interests
- The scientific community
- The conservation/environmental community
- At least 2 tribal members, one from of each of the tribes whose territory includes the Coos Bay watershed—not as official representatives of the tribal government
- Individual citizens from the cities of Coos Bay and North Bend, and the unincorporated county—these would not be government employees or representatives of the governing bodies, but citizens at large

We can do this collaboratively and ease some of the costs involved, which again are necessary to protect what we have left of a natural legacy we can't afford to spend unwisely.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,



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