

**From:** [Ken Bonetti](#)  
**To:** [Planning Department](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony to the Coos County Planning Commission Regarding the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan (CBEMP)  
**Date:** Monday, October 2, 2023 3:30:06 PM

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**This Message originated outside your organization.**

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Dear Coos County Planning Commissioners:

I have written twice before concerning issues related to the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan (CBEMP) including enumeration of points I would like to see addressed in relation to the Plan updates. Please refer to that earlier testimony. In this communication, I wish to focus on the proposed role of the Coos Bay Port Authority (CBPA) in the ongoing CBEMP update process, proposed CBEMP advisory boards and future decision making in implementation of the CBEMP.

The CBPA has a principal interest in developing Coos Bay for commercial and industrial purposes that may impose significant impacts upon the Bay's environmental integrity. CBPA participation with respect to updating and implementing the CBEMP represents in my view a clear conflict of interest. The CBEMP's function is to manage land uses in the Bay and its estuaries in order to minimize and/or mitigate existing and future impacts from human activities, and where possible, to restore and rehabilitate previously impacted Bay and estuary ecosystems. The Port Authority's principal interest with respect to the Bay moves in precisely the opposite direction, particularly with respect its proposal to expand commercial port activities, including massive dredging and portside development for a deep-water multimodal container port, which will have potentially wide ranging impacts on the Bay and its estuary environments.

Furthermore, my understanding is that state law limits the Port Authority's purview, control and influence to specified port operations and management activities. My understanding of the relevant statutes (ORS 285A.600, and ORS 777) is that the task of upgrading the CBEMP and guiding or influencing its implementation falls outside the allowable scope of CBPA activities. Rather, some specific CBPA activities, particularly those imposing significant impacts on Coos Bay and its estuaries, would be influenced or constrained by the CBEMP, hence the aforementioned conflict of interest in regards to CBPA participation in CBEMP-related activities that the CBPA appears not to be legally authorized to undertake.

My request is that in light of these conflicts and disconnects the CBPA be removed from any influential position with respect to the CBEMP update process, CBEMP modifications and any form or manner of CBEMP implementation.

Sincerely,  
Ken Bonetti  
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