

October 4, 2023

Jill Rolfe, Coos County Community Planning Commission

Re: Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan, Phase 1

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed revised document regarding digitization and Phase 1 of assembly of the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan

In reviewing the documents, I find it confusing to introduce new information that has not been carefully reviewed into data as existing conditions. These data are from an effort that began a decade ago, and was important, but it was never completed due to other circumstances that took staff away from the process and the death of the chair of the group that was leading this effort.

I strongly support all efforts to begin planning toward Phase 2 that would include a true update of the best available science and careful peer review for that process.

I strongly recommend that the County and our local Jurisdictions commit to establishing a Citizen Advisory Committee as well as a Technical Advisory Committee to ensure a fair and comprehensive process is conducted as we move forward to revising our 40-year-old management plan.

I hereby also request that the role of the International Port of Coos Bay be evaluated before any appointments or list of entities considered as members of the Citizen Advisory Committee and other Advisors be determined. The Port has been provided with legislative authority to request exceptions to Goal 16 of our Land Use regulations and this makes a clear conflict of interest for future designations of zoning.

We encourage all entities work to garner adequate funding to allow the important revisions to move forward, and engage with other Oregon entities that are in the process of revising their estuary management plans, such as the Yaquina Bay with their updates <https://www.yaquina-emp.org/>.

Sincerely,

Christine Moffitt

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