

Public Testimony for the Joint Work Session on the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan
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I have attempted to follow the process that the cities and the county have suggested for what has been called a partial update of the CBEMP. I have attended several meetings, including those hosted by the UO consultants, and it has become clear to me that we should be very careful in how we proceed.

At the beginning of this process it was my understanding that the consultants were to take the current CBEMP, turn it into a digital document with hyperlinks, update Part 1 Plan Policies as necessary to meet current state laws and regulations, correct scrivener's errors, and bring the three jurisdictions (Coos County, Coos Bay, and North Bend) back into alignment under one guiding document.

In the last three or four meetings details have come up that involve more than these topics – the role of the port and Tribes, the composition and roles of committees, and now considerable changes to the minor and major amendment processes.

I recognize that county and city staff have spent a lot of time and effort to move this process forward but it looks like we have already started the phase 2 update of the CBEMP. This is not how this should be done.

I would caution that adopting this partial update at this time is unwise. We are all familiar with 'Haste Makes Waste' indicating that rushing can lead to costly mistakes. We experienced those costly mistakes during the Jordan Cove permitting process. Let's not go there again. I suggest we slow this process down, we leave the CBEMP as it is for now, another year or two is not going to make a lot of difference to a 40 year old document. I also suggest you convene a working group of those that have had a deeper dive into the work of the UO consultants and the suggested updates of the current plan to ensure that everyone is on the same page as much as possible. And finally that all three jurisdictions task your staff to work with DLCD and potentially other funders - to obtain funding to take the current CBEMP and do what the UO consultants, the partnership for coastal watershed and the broader community, has recommended - a full plan revision with no intermediate steps. Let's not open up cans of worms by doing this piecemeal approach.