

From: [Annie Merrill](#)
To: [Planning Department](#); [Chelsea Schnabel](#); [Derek Payne](#)
Subject: comments on CBEMP for Jan 10th work session
Date: Wednesday, January 3, 2024 4:40:14 PM
Attachments: [CBEMP Extension Request \(1\).pdf](#)
[Oregon Shores CBEMP comments 1.3.24 \(1\).pdf](#)

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Jill, Chelsea, and Derek,

Please see the attached comment letter and extension request joint letter regarding the draft CBEMP, resolution, and staff report for the January 10th work session and hearings.

Please confirm receipt of these comments

Thanks!

Kind regards,
Annie Merrill

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Tuesday, January 3, 2024

TO:

Jill Rolfe, Coos County Community Development Dep., planning@co.coos.or.us
Chelsea Schnabel, Coos Bay Community Development Dep., cschnabel@coosbayor.gov
Derek Payne, North Bend Planning Dept., dpayne@northbendcity.org
Members of the Coos County Board of Commissioners
Members of the Coos Bay City Council
Members of the North Bend City Council

RE: Dec 28th Staff Report for Jan 10th Joint Work Session on the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan

Greetings all,

Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition has been invested in the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan update for the past several years, and we remain highly supportive of the planning process. We commend and thank planning staff for their time and diligent efforts to quickly respond to concerns raised in previous work sessions and develop a new version of the plan to present to the public and decision-makers in advance of the January 10th work session and hearings.

However, we feel the timeline for adoption on January 10th is now too rapid given the degree of text changes that were made in the latest iteration of the plan and the staff report posted on December 28th, 2023—just days before the new year holiday. We regrettably have not had time to review the new version of the plan in depth by the written comment deadline of January 3rd, and are concerned that this tight turnaround over the holidays may also be a barrier to adequate public engagement on the new material.

We kindly ask that the January 10th work session be used as an opportunity to discuss the changes that were made in the latest iteration of the plan, and the individual jurisdictions' public hearings on plan adoption be continued to a later date(s). We further request that the written comment period for the public hearings be extended to reflect a continuance (such a request for an extension was also noted in the attached joint letter with Rogue Climate). It is not necessary to fast-track plan adoption in early January, as DLCD has indicated a timeline delay will not disqualify the county from potential funding. At this juncture, it is more pertinent to slow the adoption to ensure that the final plan is clean, clear, and has widespread community support.

We will be offering more detailed comments verbally and in writing at the work session, when we have had more time to adequately review the new plan. Having reviewed the draft resolution, we are in support of each jurisdiction adopting the resolution with the revised changes offered by the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians. We

thank you for coming to a reasonable compromise on the ideal composition of the various committees and appreciate the commitment to a more comprehensive future update with better public participation.

Thanks for considering these comments. We look forward to seeing the phase 1 plan adopted in the near future.

Respectfully,

Annie Merrill
Ocean and Estuaries Manager
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition



Oregon Shores
Conservation Coalition



**Rogue
Climate**

Friday, December 22, 2023

TO:

Jill Rolfe, Coos County Community Development Dep., planning@co.coos.or.us
Chelsea Schnabel, Coos Bay Community Development Dep. cschnabel@coosbayor.gov
Derek Payne, North Bend Planning Dept., dpayne@northbendcity.org

RE: Staff Report for Jan 10th Joint Work Session on the Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan

Greetings,

Rogue Climate and Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition are two organizations with operations based in Coos Bay. We have been commenting on and supporting community engagement in the phase 1 Coos Bay Estuary Management Plan update process. Our joint organizations appreciate the substantial work that was done to offer a robust staff report since the latest work session on December 7th.

We respect the request that comments on the CBEMP draft be made by January 3, 2024, to allow staff and decision-makers adequate time to address public concerns. However, the timing of the written comment deadline is too quick of a turn-around after the holiday season, and the staff report contains too many new materials for the public to review and comment on meaningfully.

We request a comment deadline extension to allow our organizations and South Coast community members more time to engage with this important comment period. We will make every effort to get comments in by the deadline, but given the quick turn-around, this might result in new information being shared in oral testimony at (or after) the next Joint Work Session. Inadequate time to review materials may also lead to further public confusion about the plan amendments being made at this stage.

We would like to address any concerns while we are still in the Joint Work Session period, so that all parties are in full understanding-and in support of-plan adoption when individual jurisdictions hold their hearings.

We hope you can meet this request, for the benefit of the public and the process as a whole. Thank you again for your efforts to improve the plan and address public concerns.

Sincerely,

Ashley Audycki
South Coast Coordinator
Rogue Climate

Annie Merrill
Ocean and Estuaries Manager
Oregon Shores Conservation Coalition