


August 27, 2010

TO: Board of Commissioners  
FROM: Duane Cole, County Manager - KF7LRX 

SUBJECT: Update for Week August 27, 2010

LNG – Oregon LNG: Clatsop County Hearings Officer Peter Livingston issued a decision August 23 and it is posted on the County website for review. The deadline for appealing the decision is twelve (12) days or by 5:00 p.m. September 3, 2010. The Board of County Commissioners will consider in the near future whether to hear an appeal or affirm the decision and allow the issue to proceed to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

NorthernStar LNG: The decision by the Court of Appeals could be issued any day. Cases are posted to the Court of Appeals website each week. The County is aggressively pursuing collection of amounts due.

Warren Slough – The breach project should be completed today. We can now check this project off of the list.

State Budget Reductions – As quoted from the AOC Staff – “The September forecast blew a \$377.5 million hole in the state’s budget, triggering another round of across the board cuts, this time amounting to *eight percent*. The deteriorated financial condition is due to lower personal income tax revenues resulting from a lackluster economic forecast and more job losses expected for the remainder of 2010. On the other hand, corporate income tax revenues were up \$22.5 million, possibly returning a \$42.3 million kicker rebate for corporations should the forecast hold up through the end of the biennium. Lottery revenues were up slightly by \$3.4 million, thanks to \$11 million in administrative savings. The Governor, Senate President and Speaker announced a process to address the shortfall of \$377.5 million which will prevent further cuts to school districts. In addition to the \$118 million in federal assistance recently approved by Congress, approximately \$34 million of the state reserve funds will be committed to K-12 when the legislature convenes in February 2011. While schools will not be impacted by this additional round of cuts, the remaining portion of the state’s budget will take a big hit, amounting to another round of cuts. To plug the remaining hole, the following actions will be taken (without calling a special session):

- The Governor will make additional across the board cuts using his statutory allotment authority.
- The Governor will ask state agencies to develop plans to implement the cuts needed to rebalance the budget for the remainder of this biennium, which amounts to 8% reductions with 9 months remaining in the 2009-11 biennium. These cuts are on top of the cuts made in June that amounted to 9% cuts for the 12 month period.
- The Legislative Emergency Board will take action to provide the appropriation authority for schools to spend the \$118 million in federal funds during the current biennium. The Governor, Speaker and President of the Senate also said that during the current biennium and the 2011 session the Legislature will maintain critical services for “seniors and vulnerable Oregonians; protect public safety and prevent prison closures for the remainder of the current biennium.”

County staff will be evaluating the impact this will have on local service delivery as the actual reductions are identified by the agencies.

Joint Fisheries – August 30, 10:00 a.m., Columbia County Courthouse in St. Helens will be location of the next Joint Fisheries meeting. Tribe officials are invited to attend and a discussion of the hatchery study is planned. CREST will offer a brief overview of the projects they have underway to enhance and restore habitat and County and State staff will provide an overview of the hatchery operation in the Lower Columbia. I spoke with the NOAA about sending someone to the meeting to brief the commissioners on the hatchery operations environmental impact statement.

North Coast Business Park Update - Staff finalized a contract with the consultants for the update to the Master Development plan for the North Coast Business Park property. This decision will be made by the Board at the September 8th Board meeting. Staff also met with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the wetland areas and steps needed to terminate the Consent Decree on this property. On the construction of the extension of SE Ensign, staff completed the following:

- Submitted a variance requesting 6 foot bike lanes instead of the 8 foot required bike lanes to City of Warrenton.
- Ecological Land Services (our wetland contractor) was on site to delineate a small wetland area within the ODOT highway 105 right of way.

- Ecological Land Services was on site to make a wetland assessment of the County owned Hammond property as requested by the Division of State Lands.

Community Leaders Forestry Tour – The Community Leaders Annual Forestry Tour hosted by the Forestry and Wood Products Economic Development Committee will be September 9, 2010. If you are interested in attending, please call OSU Extension at (503) 325-8573.