

April 5, 2007

To: Lane Council of Government Board of Directors

From: Steve Dignam

Subject: Bylaw Amendments for Economic Development District

Action Requested: Amendments to the Bylaws of the Cascades West Economic Development District.

Background: The Cascades West Economic Development District is a partnership between Cascades West COG and the Lane Council of Governments. The District receives an annual planning grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration that allows us to convene economic development partners and to work on economic development projects and initiatives. The Cascades West Comprehensive Economic Strategy establishes the framework for our efforts.

Strategy Committee: Changes to the federal rules for development of the regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy require the formation of a “Strategy Committee” with a specified private-sector membership that cannot be met within our current structure. To bring the District current with federal rules, we propose Bylaws be amended to:

- ♦ Eliminate reference to this committee (previously known as the Overall Economic Development Planning Committee) as being the same as the District Board
- ♦ Add language that allows the two COG Boards to appoint the Strategy Committee

Officers: The District has been operating out of sync with Bylaw election of officer requirements. Chairmanship of District meetings has historically rotated between the COG Board Chairs. We propose this practice be formalized through Bylaw amendments that:

- ♦ Eliminate references to election of officers
- ♦ Add language calling for COG Board Chairs to hold the Chair and Vice-Chair offices on an annually rotating basis. In 2007, LCOG would hold the Chair and OCWCOG would hold the Vice-Chair.

Annual Meeting: Historically, the primary/only task of the District Board has been to provide the COG Boards with a recommendation on the approval of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS.) Our efforts to coordinate the development of the CEDS with the Regional Investment Strategy (rules are set during the Legislative Session) typically places the District meeting well off of the “May” meeting required in the Bylaws. Because coordinating these efforts is important, we propose eliminating the specified “May” meeting requirement and instead calling for an “annual” District Board meeting.

Housekeeping: The District Bylaws have not been touched since 1987. Housekeeping-level amendments proposed include:

- ♦ Reflecting the name change of our COG to “Oregon Cascades West”
- ♦ Consistent reference to the “District Board” (Bylaws currently use four different names)
- ♦ Fixing capitalization inconsistencies
- ♦ Use of gender-neutral words