

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Active Resolutions

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024	Pesticide Use for Insect Pest and Disease Control	02/22/18	2021	Stephanie Page
029	Reservation of Columbia River Water for Irrigation Purposes	02/17/17	2020	Stephanie Page
124	Fair Trade	02/17/17	2020	Isaak Stapleton Casey Prentiss
155	Board of Agriculture exposition on Farm Tax Deferral and Urban Growth Boundaries	02/17/17	2020	Jim Johnson
162	Buildable Lands Inside Urban Growth Boundaries	02/17/17	2020	Jim Johnson
169	Need for Documented Agricultural Work Force	06/07/18	2021	Kathryn Walker
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Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution Procedures

Title: Board of Agriculture Policy and Procedures for Resolutions	Number: 000 Effective Date: 06/07/2018
Sub-Committee: ODA Staff Contact: Karla Valness	Next Review Date: 00/00/2022 Date of Last Review/Revision: Original Resolution Date: 06/07/2018
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

General

- Resolutions are policy statements by the Board of Agriculture.
- All active Board resolutions will be available to the public on ODA's website including an ODA staff point of contact.
- If a Resolution is under review by the subcommittee and/or full Board, the website will simply state "under Board review," with an ODA staff contact listed. Draft language of Resolutions under review will not be posted as a matter of routine but will be available with Board agendas (see below).
- Inactive Board resolutions are kept in an electronic archive but are not listed on the website and are only available to the public by request to ODA staff, or if the Board decides to re-activate a resolution through the subcommittee process.
- Resolutions may be initiated by individual members of the Board, by Board subcommittees, suggested to the Board by ODA staff, or initiated by the Board at the request of an outside party.
- Resolutions will be reviewed by ODA staff and the Board to determine relevancy and changes if needed.
- Board discussion of all resolutions, whether new or old, must begin in the appropriate subcommittee before being brought to the full Board for consideration.

Resolution Development and Review Process

- If it is known prior to a Board meeting that current active Resolutions are to be reviewed by a Board subcommittee, or that new Resolutions are to be proposed in a subcommittee, the subject of the Resolution(s) will be included on the subcommittee agenda(s) and posted on the website for the public when the agenda(s) are provided to the Board prior to the meeting.
- Posting of subcommittee agendas will contain a standard notification that subcommittee meetings are open to the public. Comments on Resolutions being discussed may or may not be accepted and/or requested from the public by subcommittee chairs during subcommittee review of active Resolutions or formulation of new Resolutions.
- Posting of subcommittee agendas will also contain a standard disclaimer that a subcommittee may submit a draft resolution to the full Board for review and discussion at the same meeting the

Resolution is first drafted in subcommittee, but that Board action on the Resolution will not occur until the Resolution is brought to the Board in final form at a future meeting.

- Subcommittees may deliberate on a particular Resolution for more than one Board meeting. Every time a subcommittee will be discussing a Resolution at a Board meeting before it is ready to go the full Board for review and action, notification to the public of that subcommittee discussion will appear on the agenda and be posted with the subcommittee agenda(s).
- When a subcommittee agenda contains notification that a Resolution will be under discussion, the most recent draft of the Resolution will be posted with the agenda.
- Drafts of Resolutions may be worked on by subcommittee members outside of subcommittee and Board meetings without public involvement.
- The first time a draft new or revised Resolution is presented to the full Board by the subcommittee, no Board action is taken. The subcommittee chair will advise the Board of any controversial issues or public comments received during subcommittee deliberations.
- If no revisions are needed to the draft Resolution, or if revisions are accepted by the full Board during discussion, the Resolution is finalized by the subcommittee and brought back to the Board for adoption at the next Board meeting.
- If the Board directs the subcommittee to do more work on a draft Resolution, the subcommittee process is repeated, and a revised draft is brought back to a succeeding Board meeting. If the revised draft is approved by the full Board, it is finalized by the subcommittee and brought back to the Board in final form for adoption at the next Board meeting.
- If written comments are received from the public during development and review of a Resolution, those comments will be provided to the subcommittee for consideration, and the subcommittee will advise the full Board of comments received. There is no formal process for requesting written comments on Resolutions.
- Resolutions will not be active until the full Board votes on the final text of the resolution.

Summary of Public Involvement in Resolutions

- Resolutions are available to the public through the website.
- Notification of Resolutions under development/review is included with subcommittee and Board agendas posted on website.
- Public can attend and may provide input to subcommittee discussions of Resolutions.
- Public can submit written comments on Resolutions under review.
- Public can request the Board to consider creating a Resolution.
- Public can comment to the full Board on a draft Resolution.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Pesticide Use for Insect Pest and Disease Control	Number: 024 Effective Date: 02/22/2018
Sub-Committee: Natural Resources ODA Staff Contact: Stephanie Page	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/22/2018 Original Resolution Date: 05/11/1978
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Resolution

The State Board of Agriculture supports the need of agriculture to control insect pests and diseases using pesticide chemicals until other acceptable methods are developed.

The State Board of Agriculture adopts the position that when pesticides used in agriculture are applied in accordance with pesticide label, then the public and the environment are protected from harmful or adverse effects as required by federal law.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Reservation of Columbia River Water for Irrigation Purposes	Number: 029 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Natural Resources ODA Staff Contact: Stephanie Page	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 12/12/1978
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Board of Agriculture recommends reservation of water in the Columbia River for irrigation and future agricultural needs.

Summary

Recommends reservation of water in the Columbia River for irrigation and future agricultural needs.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Fair Trade	Number: 124 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Food Safety/Market Access ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton/Casey Prentiss	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 02/05/1987
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Resolution

The Board of Agriculture goes on record as supporting a U.S. Trade Policy that rejects protectionism and promotes fair and reciprocal access to all markets.

Summary

Supports a US trade policy that rejects protectionism and promotes fair and reciprocal access to all markets.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Board of Agriculture exposition on Farm Tax Deferral and Urban Growth Boundaries	Number: 155 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 12/09/1994
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Resolution

Be it resolved that Farm Use Tax Deferral remain available within Urban Growth Boundaries.

It is the position of the State Board of Agriculture, that due to the location of important components of Oregon's agricultural industry in and near urban centers, specifically inside Urban Growth Boundaries, that farm use tax deferral should be maintained within Urban Growth Boundaries.

Elimination of farm property tax deferrals within Urban Growth Boundaries would place legitimate farming operations on land not yet needed for development at a competitive disadvantage. This could lead to the dissolution of these operations and result in premature low-density development in conflict with land use planning goals.

Be it further resolved that expansion of urban growth boundaries be considered only after desirable urban destinies have been reached on lands within existing boundaries.

Summary

Asserts the farm-use tax deferral should be maintained within urban growth boundaries. Expansion of urban growth boundaries should only be considered after urban density has been reached on land within existing boundaries.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Buildable Lands Inside Urban Growth Boundaries	Number: 162 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 12/11/1998
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas Oregon agriculture produces a farm gate value in excess of \$4.8 billion dollars annually.

Whereas the Willamette Valley produces approximately one-half of Oregon’s \$4.8 billion-dollar farm gate production.

Whereas Oregon’s population growth is projected to increase by 1.58 million people in the next 35 years, primarily in the Willamette Valley.

Be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture finds that mandating a 20-year supply of buildable lands inside the urban growth boundaries is incompatible with the conservation of farmland for future generations.

Be it further resolved the Board of Agriculture supports the concept of cities and counties regaining local control by making the 20-year supply of buildable lands inside the urban growth boundary optional.

Resolution

Resolved that the State Board of Agriculture supports the above recommendation.

Summary

Supports local control (by cities and counties) to optional development on 20-year land supplies within urban growth boundaries.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Need for Documented Agricultural Work Force

Number: 169

Effective Date: 06/07/2018

Sub-Committee: Government Relations
ODA Staff Contact: Kathryn Walker

Next Review Date: 00/00/2021

Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/07/2018

Original Resolution Date: 05/21/1999

Board Chair: Barbara Boyer

Signature on file

Background

Whereas, Oregon agriculture's farmgate value is \$5.2 billion dollars;

Whereas, Oregon agriculture is the second largest economic sector in the state;

Whereas Oregon farmers, ranchers, fishermen and processors need a reliable, qualified, and legal workforce to raise, harvest, and process over 225 different agricultural commodities produced in Oregon;

Whereas foreign-born workers comprise a significant portion of the Oregon agriculture and food processing workforce;

Whereas finding skilled, qualified agricultural labor is a growing challenge for Oregon's farmers, ranchers, fishermen and food processors, as well as nationwide;

Whereas when domestic workers are not available, agriculturalists should have access to a guest farmworker program to ensure the continued production of locally grown, harvested and processed Oregon agricultural commodities.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture supports the introduction of immigration laws that create a path forward for existing agricultural workers in the United States to obtain legal documentation. Be it further resolved that the Board strongly recommends to Congress that modifications be made to existing laws, particularly the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Program, so all agricultural sectors have the opportunity to secure a qualified workforce.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Funds	Number: 203 Effective Date: 02/22/2018
Sub-Committee: Natural Resources ODA Staff Contact: Stephanie Page	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/22/2018 Original Resolution Date: 12/12/2000
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas the availability of cost-share funds for on-the ground conservation measures to implement ODA's agricultural water quality compliance program is critical, and whereas Soil and Water Conservation Districts acting as Local Management Agencies are essential in playing a lead role in approving funds for cost-shared practices.

Resolution

Be it resolved the Board of Agriculture supports the continued efforts of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to secure adequate funding through OWEB for a cost-share program that will help landowners achieve the goals and objectives embodied in agricultural water quality management plans and address local conservation priorities.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Collective Bargaining for Agricultural Workers and Employers	Number: 266 Effective Date: 09/21/2017
Sub-Committee: Government Relations ODA Staff Contact: Kathryn Walker	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 09/21/2017 Original Resolution Date: 03/17/2005
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

WHEREAS, employees' rights to form or join a union should continue to be protected by federal and state laws;

WHEREAS, neither federal nor state law provide for collective bargaining rules and regulations for Oregon farm workers and Oregon farm employers;

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Board of Agriculture does not believe that this represents a free and fair process to determine whether or not a majority of workers support forming a union;

WHEREAS, Oregon agricultural employers have for many years supported the establishment of Oregon law that would enable equitable rules and regulations to control collective bargaining for Oregon farm workers and their employers;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of Oregon agriculture to ensure a fair process for collective bargaining.

WHEREAS, the bargaining process is free of coercion to ensure a fair process for all parties involved.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture supports extending collective bargaining protections to Oregon agriculture.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Board of Agriculture Supports Development of a Biofuel Industry in Oregon	Number: 269 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Government Relations ODA Staff Contact: Kathryn Walker	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 03/16/2005
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Resolution

Be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture supports tax credits, property tax exemptions, siting assistance and other methods of promotion and use of biofuels, biofuel development, and biofuel processing in Oregon.

Be it further resolved that the Board feels any increase in resource requirements needed for the Oregon Department of Agriculture related to monitoring, evaluating, and testing of biofuels shall be provided by fees related to specific activities or the state general fund to support such activities. Biofuel standards adopted by the Oregon Department of Agriculture shall be enforced by analysis on department equipment according to established screening protocols, unless a funding mechanism to pay for the additional costs of testing in outside laboratories is authorized.

Summary

Supports tax credits, property tax exemptions, siting assistance, and other methods of promoting the use of biofuels in Oregon. ODA will enforce adopted standards and analyze fuel on agency equipment unless additional testing is authorized in outside laboratories.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: 30-year Land Use Review	Number: 271 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 03/17/2005
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Supports the comprehensive 30-year review of land use in Oregon.
2. Urges formal involvement of the State Board of Agriculture in the 30-year review.

Summary

Supports a comprehensive 30-year review of land use in Oregon. Urges formal involvement of the Board of Agriculture in the review process.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Board of Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture Involvement in the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Number: 274 Effective Date: 02/22/2018
Sub-Committee: Natural Resources ODA Staff Contact: Stephanie Page	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/22/2018 Original Resolution Date: 03/02/2006
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Resolution

The Oregon State Board of Agriculture recognizes that the economic viability of agricultural landowners, the social stability of rural communities, and sustainable watersheds are interdependent.

Because the Board of Agriculture supports these values and because the values are consistent with ORS 541.353(1)(a) and .371(1)(c) (2005 OWEB Statutes), the Board strongly encourages OWEB's consideration of economic viability, social stability, and sustainable watersheds in the selection process for awarding funds for projects, particularly those associated with enhancing water quality on Oregon's agricultural lands.

The Board of Agriculture supports the involvement of the Oregon Department of Agriculture in the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's efforts to consider and prioritize selection of projects for OWEB resource enhancement grant funds, as provided in ORS 541.370(1)(a) (2005 OWEB Statutes).

The Board of Agriculture supports membership and active participation in OWEB by a Board of Agriculture representative, as specified in ORS 541.900(2)(a)(A)(iv).

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Cougar Management Plan	Number: 275 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Government Relations ODA Staff Contact: Kathryn Walker	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 03/02/2006
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Resolution

Whereas the Oregon State Board of Agriculture recognizes the threat an overpopulation of cougars poses to the livestock industry in Oregon.

Be it resolved that the Board of Agriculture supports the Cougar Management Plan as proposed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Summary

Supports a cougar management plan proposed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; recognizes that an overpopulation of cougars poses a threat to the livestock industry in Oregon.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Viability of Oregon Agriculture	Number: 295 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 02/13/2009
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture is committed to supporting viable operations of agriculture throughout Oregon;

WHEREAS, the establishment of Exclusive Farm Use Zones (EFU) have supported the viable operation of farming in Oregon;

WHEREAS, waivers and exemptions of the land use laws developed to protect agricultural lands will most likely lead to location of large scale developments, new subdivisions and other nonfarm uses in and amongst ongoing farm and ranch operations; and

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included the consideration of actions that could designate or treat differently many lands currently zoned exclusive farm use based on soil quality without accounting for land important to the state's livestock, dairy and winegrape industries;

WHEREAS, the USDA NRCS agricultural capability classification system (Class I-VII) does not always adequately address the special and unique needs of certain high-value crops such as vineyards and orchards and is not designed to provide analysis on the value of range and pasturelands; and

WHEREAS many provisions currently found in state law provide opportunities to re-evaluate land use designations, and "rezone" lands when determined to be appropriate, and

WHEREAS irrigation is key element in maintaining the viability of the state's agricultural industry.

WHEREAS decisions involving urban growth, the development of transportation and other infrastructure can impact the long-term viability of agriculture, and

WHEREAS the state land use system can be complex and difficult to understand in many areas.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to protect viable farming operations in Oregon as a valuable natural and economic resource for our state.

2. Urges that waivers and exemptions to land use regulations not be granted without giving due consideration to need and reasonable alternatives to impacting agricultural lands and operations.
3. Urges that programs dealing with compensation for land use limitations, such as the use of conservation easements, purchase of development rights and transfer of development rights, be developed to compliment the state land use program.
4. Supports protection of the state's viable grazing and vineyard lands and urges their continued protection as exclusive farm use lands and consideration as high-value farmland;
5. Urges consideration of other factors in addition to soils capability classification, when determining the value of land for high-value and specialty crops and range and pasture forage production.
6. Urges consideration of the impacts of nonresource related development on adjacent agricultural lands, including the sustainability of existing water rights in, any deliberations related to the definition, inventory and designation of agricultural lands.
7. Supports the evaluation, through the periodic review process, of the adequacy of county agricultural lands inventories and agricultural land zoning.
8. Supports the development of a state strategic plan that integrates land use, transportation and economic development priorities.

Summary

Reaffirms commitment to protect viable farming operations in Oregon as a valuable natural and economic resource for the state.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Coexistence of wolves and livestock on Oregon's rural landscape	Number: 298 Effective Date: 11/30/2017
Sub-Committee: Government Relations ODA Staff Contact: Kathryn Walker	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 11/30/2017 Original Resolution Date: 03/10/2011
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas Oregon's livestock producers are major contributors to Oregon's economy and culture;

Whereas most of Oregon's wildlife habitat is privately owned by Oregon's livestock producers and farmers;

Whereas wolf re-colonization is subject to management and control by the State of Oregon and U.S. Fish and Wildlife;

Whereas Oregon's livestock producers endure losses and damage from wildlife, including predation by wolves;

Whereas Oregon's livestock producers have concern for the safety of their families and employees as it relates to the proximity of wolves to the livestock;

Whereas Oregon's livestock producers' goal is to manage the wolf population, not eliminate wolves in Oregon;

Whereas livestock predation and other management costs are caused by wolves and will continue to increase as wolf numbers and distribution increase;

Where the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program provides important financial assistance to livestock producers who experience livestock loss and/or implement nonlethal wolf deterrent techniques;

Whereas wolf management is subject to different management and control standards than other predators, due to their protected status;

Whereas livestock producers have unaddressed and unresolved concerns regarding wolf recovery and management;

Whereas plain, certain, and science-based rules; consistent policy, procedures, and standards are necessary to address livestock predation by wolves in Oregon;

Whereas the relationship between the State of Oregon and its livestock producers is stressed as a result of wolf management;

Whereas the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Agriculture represents Oregon's livestock producers and supports the livestock industry;

Resolution

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture acknowledges the economic importance of the livestock industry in Oregon. The Oregon State Board of Agriculture supports, recommends, and encourages the implementation of plain, certain, and science-based rules; consistent policy, procedures, and standards that are necessary to address livestock predation by wolves in Oregon and, in particular, that authorize Oregon's livestock producers and their agents to use immediate lethal control when necessary to prevent livestock predation by wolves or those in the process of or attempting to kill any livestock according to the Oregon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. The Oregon State Board of Agriculture also supports and encourages full funding for the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Siting of Aggregate Mining Operations in the Willamette Valley	Number: 300 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 03/10/2011
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas 44% of the total value of Oregon’s gross farm and ranch sales is produced in the Willamette Valley;

Whereas 40% of Oregon’s high-value farmland soils and 78% of the state’s prime farmland is located within the Willamette Valley;

Whereas prime farmland soils compose less than three percent of Oregon’s lands;

Whereas aggregate sand and gravel mines are consuming about 350 acres of largely high-value farmland soils a year in the Willamette Valley;

Whereas viable aggregate resources can be and are currently found on lands deemed less valuable to agriculture and other natural resources such as from “hard rock” quarries that are often located on soils less valuable to agriculture and other lands containing poorer quality agricultural soils;

Whereas farming poor soil is not an option for agriculture because agriculture is both land and soil dependent;

Whereas according to Oregon land use law it is only within the Willamette Valley that exceptions are provided to mine Class I and II agricultural lands;

Whereas state law permits reclamation of mining operations on lands zoned for exclusive farm use to either wildlife habitat or agricultural land;

Whereas most typical reclamation of mining operations is to wildlife habitat or “farm use” in the form of open ponds (for irrigation purpose) instead of to useable agricultural ground;

Whereas it is recognized that aggregate resources are important to many aspects of Oregon’s economy.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Does not support, in the Willamette Valley, the use and conversion of Class I, II prime or unique agricultural soils (as defined by the USDA Natural Resources Conversation Service) on lands zoned for exclusive farm use for the mining of aggregate unless it is shown that no reasonable alternative lands exist:

- (a) On land that is identified in an acknowledged comprehensive plans as an exception area or as non-resource land;
 - (b) On resource land that is determine to be irrevocably committed to non-resource uses;
 - (c) In an urban growth boundary; or
 - (d) On resource land or lower capability for agricultural production as classified by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
2. When reasonable alternatives do not exist and Willamette Valley Class I, II prime and unique soils are required for needed aggregate production, the Board supports aggregate mining on agricultural land only upon a determination that the proposed mining and associated operations do not or can be mitigated to not adversely impact other farming operations in the area; and
3. When it is determined that mining operations are appropriate for siting on Willamette Valley Class I, II prime and unique soils, the Board supports requiring the reclamation of the subject lands back to farmland at the same quality as existed prior to mining activities.

Summary

Relates to aggregate mining on Class I & II soils in the Willamette Valley.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Minimizing conflicts of coexistence in agriculture	Number: 301 Effective Date: 06/07/2018
Sub-Committee: Food Safety/Market Access ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton/Casey Prentis	Next Review Date: 00/00/2022 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/07/2018 Original Resolution Date: 06/07/2011
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas a broad spectrum of production systems and technologies exist in agriculture;

Whereas farmers should, of their choosing, be able to pursue and utilize all available legal technologies and agriculture production systems to grow crops and raise livestock;

Whereas those engaged in production of agricultural crops or livestock are entrepreneurs, venturing their own knowledge, capital, resources, and ideals to bring products to market with the intent to make a profit;

Whereas all growers have the responsibility for good stewardship of natural resources, and farmers and ranchers must make management decisions that support such stewardship regardless of production system;

Whereas deliberate communication between neighboring producers about practices and cropping choices is essential to maintain crop integrity, resolve potential conflicts between neighboring operations, and help maintain successful farm operations;

Whereas Oregon farms vary in scale, organizational structure, and length of time in operation – some new, some over a century in the same family farm business – all contributing to the mosaic of agriculture in our state;

Whereas farmers have opportunities and responsibilities to many markets, including those nearby (local), regionally, and internationally, any of which may involve selling direct to consumers or wholesale, via contract or open market pricing;

Whereas those engaged in agricultural pursuits recognize that improvements in production processes require research, technological advances, and infrastructure to support adoption of new methods;

Whereas providing a sustained global food supply will require every available production methodology and technology, adapted to local conditions, that improves output while enhancing natural resources;

Resolution

Therefore, the State Board of Agriculture supports:

- a) Stewardship of all production systems on farmlands and agriculture applications, striving for economic viability, sound natural resource management, good neighbor and employee relations, and community connections;

- b) Ongoing, constructive communication between growers about farm management plans and practices to minimize coexistence conflicts;
- c) Growers retaining the legal and economic opportunity to choose production technologies and resources, size of operation, and business structures necessary to produce products that meet the markets they choose to serve.
- d) Growers using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize conflict between production systems as necessary, such as communication and coordination, use of conflict resolution tools including the Farm Mediation Program; agronomic practices, and buffers and isolation in space/time;
- e) State and Federal programs that encourage a variety of agriculture production systems with appropriate research, data gathering, infrastructure, tax policies and marketing support; facilitate commerce; support efficiencies in inputs, production and yields; sustain natural resources; conduct regulatory work; and provide financial and technical assistance when available and appropriate.
- f) Participation by ODA in efforts to proactively prevent and resolve coexistence conflicts, including participation in broad and inclusive efforts to discuss and identify solutions, and promotion of the Farm Mediation Program as a tool to resolve conflict.

Summary

Supports stewardship of natural resources; ongoing communication; choice of production technologies, practices and business structures; BMPs to minimize conflict, and state and federal programs that support a variety of production systems.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Farmworker Housing	Number: 307 Effective Date: 06/07/2018
Sub-Committee: Government Relations ODA Staff Contact: Kathryn Walker	Next Review Date: 00/00/2022 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/07/2018 Original Resolution Date: 09/07/2011
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas Oregon's agriculture, food and fiber industry is economically linked at 13.8 percent, or 326,617, of full and part-time jobs in Oregon;

Whereas a portion of the agricultural workforce related to production agriculture is seasonal and the housing needs for this population of workers are unique with seasonal employment estimated to be over 100,000 during peak harvest;

Whereas the number of on-farm housing and community-based housing opportunities do not meet the demand of the seasonal agricultural workforce;

Whereas farmers are concerned about the growing number of houses traditionally used for farmworker housing being converted to short-term rentals;

Whereas the Farmworker Housing Tax Credit Program is an important tool to help address the availability and livability of housing for seasonal and year-round farm workers in Oregon.

Resolution

Be it therefore resolved that the State Board of Agriculture supports the Farmworker Tax Credit Program and continues to encourage farmers to help address the need for farmworker housing.

Also, be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture encourages the Oregon legislature to consider additional strategies that would provide further opportunities to address the need for farmworker housing.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality	Number: 309 Effective Date: 06/07/2018
Sub-Committee: Natural Resources ODA Staff Contact: Stephanie Page	Next Review Date: 00/00/2022 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/07/2018 Original Resolution Date: 03/08/2012
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Since 2012, the Department of Agriculture (ODA), as directed by the Board of Agriculture (BOA), has developed and implemented a strategy to more efficiently and effectively prevent and control water pollution from activities on agricultural lands. That strategy has included systematic identification of Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) and Focus Areas in Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to assess land conditions related to water quality and assist landowners in protecting and improving water quality. The approach has included: assessment based on existing public domain data, prioritization of need based on existing conditions, focused outreach, and enforcement action by the Department of Agriculture when warranted.

In November 2017, representatives of ODA and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) presented a concept to the Board of Agriculture to incorporate ODA's SIA and Focus Area activities into a more coordinated approach to streamside management that includes federal, state and local partners and is designed to leverage more resources for incentive-based conservation and monitoring, while sustaining ODA's role in compliance and enforcement of statutes and rules pertaining to agricultural water quality management. ODA and OWEB will jointly lead the coordinated approach.

Streamside areas have a significant influence on water quality and provide a variety of functions, including streambank stability, moderation of solar heating, and filtration of pollutants from overland flows. They are also a very visible sign of agriculture's commitment to protect water quality and implement the Agricultural Water Quality Program. Streamside areas also provide habitat for fish and wildlife.

While landowners have invested time and money to improve and restore their streamside areas, there are still areas in Oregon in need of improvement. Outreach, education, and technical assistance is essential to continue streamside restoration efforts along agricultural lands. Monitoring streamside conditions is also important to be able to show change in streamside conditions over time and evaluate the effectiveness of the Agricultural Water Quality Program. A regulatory backstop is provided by ODA to ensure compliance.

In a Coordinated Streamside Management Approach, improvements to the current SIA and Focus Area process will include: more funding for SWCDs and watershed councils for landowner outreach, technical assistance, and on-the-ground projects in SIAs; a multi-year framework for conservation and restoration work; watershed-scale monitoring of water quality trends; more support from state and federal agencies; and ability for ODA to focus on compliance in SIAs.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture supports integration of ODA's SIA and Focus Area activities into a Coordinated Streamside Management approach that expands multi-agency efforts focused on improvement of streamside areas through outreach and education, technical assistance and monitoring, and compliance enforcement to encourage streamside restoration and improve water quality in the agricultural community.

Summary

Recognizes the importance of streamside areas to water quality. Adopts a multi-agency coordinated approach to improving water quality and habitat for fish and streamside-dependent plants and animals in agriculturally-influenced areas. Directs resources towards outreach, education, technical assistance, monitoring, on-the-ground projects, and compliance enforcement to encourage streamside restoration in the agricultural community.

The Board of Agriculture supports ODA and OWEB jointly leading the coordinated approach, provided that ODA remain responsible for implementing the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Siting of agri-tourism, entertainment activities and associated activities on agricultural lands.	Number: 310 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2020 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 09/19/2012
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas there is increasing interest in the development of rural tourism and entertainment activities, many times in relation to agriculture;

Whereas increasingly there are many cases of such activities presenting compatibility issues with farming practices and presenting implications to rural infrastructure and services

Whereas issues have been raised relating to the uneven application of the laws dealing with the siting of agri-tourism, rural entertainment and commercial facilities related to farm use which may provide unfair competitive advantages to like operations;

Whereas the appropriate siting of commercial activities associated with farm use can be beneficial to operators and help to educate the public about Oregon agriculture;

Whereas the 2011 Legislature established land use laws dealing with some of these issues including SB 960, HB 1055 and HB 3280, issues remain relating to uneven application, definition and context of specific land uses and the continued use of laws that are set to sunset:

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Does not support the use of agricultural lands for activities related to entertainment and tourism and other events except under strictly defined circumstances.
2. When defining circumstances, the Board supports the following considerations:
 - a. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be directly related to commercial farm use or processing activities occurring on the subject farm or ranch operation;
 - b. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be subordinate to the farm use of the subject operation. An activity should be considered to be subordinate if found to be accessory to, supplement or be adjunct to the farm use (as defined in state statute) of the subject farm operation and if it supports farm use. Such a determination should be made on the basis of standards established that are similar to those enacted by the Legislature in SB 960 (2012) and codified in ORS 215.213(4) and 215.283(4);

- c. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be compatible or can be made compatible with other area farming and ranch operations. Compatibility evaluation should include all activities and events, including those that are not considered a "land use" under Oregon law. Such an evaluation needs to recognize the diversity of Oregon agriculture and the associated agricultural practices that are or may become common to area farms and ranches. Compatibility should also be based on an analysis of the cumulative impacts that existing and proposed activities could have on area farm and ranch operations.
3. Supports better definition of what comprises certain land uses established by law in the exclusive farm use zone that are currently being used to authorized agri-tourism related activities. Examples include "winery," "commercial use in conjunction with farm use," "private parks" and "mass gatherings."
4. Supports land use standards that assure that any food service related to bonafide, regular and ongoing agri-tourism events compliment and are accessory to the agri-tourism activity and associated farm use.
5. Urges the department to work with stakeholder groups to better define the circumstances when commercial activities are appropriate on agricultural lands. The board recognizes that the development of criteria that best protects agriculture and the general public involves many complicated issues. The board advises a comprehensive evaluation and analysis, including an analysis of the cumulative impacts to agricultural operation, before any proposed actions are taken.
6. Supports consistent and even application of land use standards relating to agri-tourism to and for all types of agricultural operations, similar to what was enacted by the Legislature in SB 960.
7. This action repeals and replaces Resolution No. 304.

Summary

Siting of agri-tourism, entertainment activities and associated activities on agricultural lands.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Water quality Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) and SWCD Focus Areas	Number: 313 Effective Date: 06/07/2018
Sub-Committee: Natural Resources ODA Staff Contact: Stephanie Page	Next Review Date: 00/00/2022 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/07/2018 Original Resolution Date: 12/03/2014
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Since 1993, the Board of Agriculture has been actively involved with guiding the department's efforts to establish and implement Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Program. Recognizing the need to provide quantitative measures of agricultural efforts to improve land condition, the Board passed a resolution in March of 2013 supporting development of a systematic approach to assess conditions on agricultural lands that may impact water quality. The Board also supported development of a mechanism for the program to strategically focus and prioritize resources to improve water quality associated with agricultural lands and activities. With the help of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), the department has successfully developed a systematic approach using ODA Strategic Implementation Areas and SWCD focus areas to assess land conditions that are related to water quality and assist landowners in protecting and improving water quality.

Resolution

- 1) The Board of Agriculture supports the department's systematic approach to assess critical conditions on agricultural lands that may impact water quality. This includes both the assessments of focus areas by SWCDs and the department's use of Strategic Implementation Areas to focus compliance efforts.
- 2) The Board of Agriculture recommends that ODA in concert with other Natural Resource Agencies through the Coordinated Streamside Management Approach prioritize watersheds and develop an accelerated schedule for full-scale statewide implementation of the department's SIA and SWCD Focus Area approach. The schedule should describe what resources are needed to achieve that schedule, what actions are needed to acquire those resources, and how the Board can be of assistance.
- 3) The Board of Agriculture recommends that ODA remain the lead agency responsible for ensuring that both incentive-based and regulatory actions are taken in accordance with Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act (ORS 568.900 to 568.933) to address landscape conditions that could affect water quality and that could cause water pollution. ODA may utilize data and information from other natural resource agencies as part of the Coordinated Streamside Management Approach.
- 4) The Board of Agriculture recommends ongoing investment of resources by the department in widespread outreach efforts to inform farmers and ranchers of SIA and focus areas assessment results and what actions they can take to protect and enhance water quality on their land.
- 5) The Board of Agriculture recommends that the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between ODA and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) be reviewed every biennium and updated as needed, and that the Board be briefed on changes to the MOA when they occur.

Summary

The Board supports accelerated implementation of ODA's systematic approach to identify and document existing conditions and changes on agricultural lands that could impact water quality over time using outreach, assessment and prioritization of geographic areas to address the most serious water quality problems and achieve agricultural TMDL load allocations.

The Board also supports ODA remaining responsible for documenting and controlling pollution on agricultural lands and using data and information from other natural resource agencies as part of the Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to document conditions on the landscape, including water quality impacts, and using this information to prioritize program activities. The Board recommends that the MOA between ODA and DEQ be reviewed every biennium and updated as needed.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Permitted uses on lands zoned exclusive farm use and on high-value farmland agricultural land	Number: 314 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 12/04/2014
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas over 50 land uses are permitted in the exclusive farm use zone up from 5 land uses that were initially established by state law.

Whereas increasingly there are cases of nonfarm land uses and related activities presenting compatibility issues with farming practices and presenting implications to rural infrastructure and services.

Whereas there is increasing concern being expressed about the cumulative impact of the conversion of agricultural lands by nonfarm land uses such as aggregate mining, wetlands development, public and private parks, other recreation uses, schools, energy generation and transmission facilities and urban services such as landfills.

Whereas many of the nonfarm uses that may be “permitted outright” on lands zoned for exclusive farm use may be approved without any consideration of compatibility with surrounding farming practices.

Whereas high-value agricultural soils compose less than 8% of Oregon’s total lands and less than 6% of the lands located outside of urban growth boundaries that are also designated for agricultural use under Statewide planning Goal 3,

Whereas the total area of irrigated, harvested cropland in the state comprises 16% of the total land in farms yet accounts for 36% of the total market value of agricultural products sold,

Whereas irrigation and the necessary delivery infrastructure is key to maintaining the viability of and to growing the state’s agricultural industry,

Whereas the 2013 Legislature will likely directed the State Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land Conservation and Development to analyze and report on the conflict between farm and nonfarm uses and cumulative impact of permitted uses on land zoned for exclusive farm use.

Resolution

Be it resolved, the Oregon State Board of Agriculture does not support the inclusion of additional non-farm, permitted uses on high-value farmland as defined in ORS 195.300(10).

The Board recommends:

1. A reexamination of land uses currently permitted within the exclusive farm use zone with the goals of reducing those permitted uses and determining which land uses should be permitted outright opposite to those that should be permitted subject to land use review.
2. Establishing review criteria to evaluate the compatibility of nonfarm land uses with farm uses in surrounding areas.
3. An examination of the need to better define what certain nonfarm land uses include.
4. Establishing land use regulations that provide for the recognition of high value agricultural areas and that establish requirements to provide a higher degree of protection for identified areas with a goal of avoidance. When reasonable alternatives do not exist and high-value agricultural land is determined to be needed for the siting of a nonfarm land use, the Board supports siting on high value agricultural land only upon a determination that the proposed nonfarm use does not or can be mitigated to not adversely impact farming operations in the area.

The Board also recommends that any study designed to evaluate the implications of nonfarm land uses include an analysis of the cumulative impact of the approval and location of all nonfarm uses on lands zoned exclusive farm use. Such an evaluation should include analysis related to:

1. the conversion of agricultural lands; and
2. the implications of conflicts created by nonfarm land uses on the short and long-term ability of surrounding farm and ranches to operate efficiently and effectively.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Working Lands Conservation Easements	Number: 315 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 04/30/2015
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas, agricultural land is a finite natural resource that is threatened in Oregon by increasing urban expansion and by the cumulative conversion by nonfarm land uses.

Whereas, Oregon’s Statewide Planning Program has provided substantial protection to agricultural lands from development since its establishment in 1973 yet according to Oregon Department of Forestry data, between 1984 and 2009, approximately 147,000 acres of farm and rangeland was converted to nonfarm development. Continued threats to the conversion of agricultural land include expansion of urban growth areas and the cumulative impacts to agricultural lands from nonfarm uses authorized by exclusive farm use zoning.

Whereas, there is increasing interest from farmers, ranchers, land trusts and soil and water conservation districts in the use of working lands easements to *compliment* the statewide planning program to protect working agricultural lands from conversion.

Whereas, there is increasing concern about the succession of farmland to the next generation of farmers and ranchers and working lands easements can provide a tool that can help facilitate effective land succession.

Whereas, the use of working lands easements is voluntary, keeps land in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

Whereas, working lands easements can provide landowners with various financial incentives such as federal and state tax deductions, estate tax benefits and purchase of easement values.

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a working lands easement program known as the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) that provides funding to states for acquisition for working lands easements. The ACEP program requires matching funds from a local source.

Whereas, there still is concern expressed by many farmers and ranchers as to who would be the best holder of an easement involving working agricultural lands. Entities with a history of working with farmers and ranchers to maintain viable agricultural operations are preferable in many cases. This has led several soil and water conservation districts to become active in promoting the use of easements either by the district itself or by another agency or nonprofit organization with funding support from the subject district. There is increasing interest in examining the ability of the Department of Agriculture to become an active player in the attainment and holding of agricultural lands easements.

Whereas, the Oregon Legislature is considering legislation that would establish a task force that would study and evaluate, amongst other things, potential tools for state government to help private landowners maintain land as active working farms or forests.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Recognizes that the protection and conservation of active agricultural operations and the land base and associated infrastructure needed to support them is a benefit to Oregon's social, ecological and economic health.
2. Supports a focused use of conservation easements that protect working agricultural lands and complement the Oregon Statewide Planning Program. Easements should protect lands that afford the following assets:
 - a) Are or may become highly productive agricultural lands.
 - b) Are significant to a region's agricultural industry
 - c) Have the ability to conduct long-term viable commercial agricultural operations.
 - d) Are under threat of conversion from agricultural use by urban and/or other nonfarm development.
 - e) As a complement to primary protection of working agricultural lands, help facilitate the protection of other natural resources such as water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and other natural areas.
3. Encourages state government, including the Department of Agriculture, to play a more active role in understanding and protecting agricultural lands through the use of working lands conservation easements.
4. Supports the establishment of a fund in state government that could be utilized to help maintain working agricultural lands through the attainment of conservation easements.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Federal Minimum Wage Parity	Number: 316 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Government Relations ODA Staff Contact: Kathryn Walker	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 12/17/2015
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas 75 to 80 percent of the agricultural commodities produced in Oregon are sold outside of the state's borders;

Whereas Oregon agriculture is an important industry for the state's economy, comprising 13.2 percent of Oregon's total sales;

Whereas Oregon agriculture has a \$5.6 billion in farm gate value;

Whereas Oregon agriculture provides 13.8 percent of the full-time and part-time jobs in Oregon;

Whereas an increase in minimum wage makes it difficult to hire and support individuals seeking to gain experience in the agricultural industry when more experienced workers are also seeking employment;

Whereas an increase in minimum wage causes farmers and ranchers to increase the wage for all employees, ultimately increasing the costs of agricultural goods and services;

Whereas Oregon farmers and ranchers are in competition with other agricultural producers from across the country to sell their goods;

Whereas states with a lower minimum wage can produce agricultural goods with a lower cost of labor than Oregon farmers and ranchers thus reducing in-state and out-of-state market opportunities for Oregon's farmers and ranchers.

Resolution

Be it resolved, that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture supports a federal minimum wage parity to enable Oregon's farmers and ranchers to be competitive with their out-of-state counterparts as they grow, process, and harvest agricultural goods for the local, domestic, and international markets.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Oregon Department of Agriculture's role in the Food Safety Modernization Act produce rule implementation	Number: 317 Effective Date: 02/17/2017
Sub-Committee: Food Safety/Market Access ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton/Casey Prentiss	Next Review Date: 00/00/2021 Date of Last Review/Revision: 02/17/2017 Original Resolution Date: 06/08/2016
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

Whereas, the new Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) produce safety rule will have tremendous impacts to Oregon agriculture.

Whereas, Oregon's produce industry has not been previously regulated with respect to food safety.

Whereas, these new rules will require, produce farms to have produce safety measures in place and may be inspected for compliance with the rule.

Whereas, ODA has the opportunity to participate in implementation of the FSMA produce safety rule in several ways.

Whereas, ODA has applied for cooperative agreement funding to support the following implementation activities:

- Capacity building
- Outreach
- Education
- Technical assistance
- Developing an inventory of covered farms (this is a required part of the cooperative agreement)

Whereas, if ODA chooses to participate in on-farm produce safety inspections and develop a produce safety regulatory program in future years, ODA would need either (1) statutory authority to conduct the inspections; or (2) to conduct inspections under FDA authority as commissioned officials.

Whereas, ODA has received a variety of feedback from stakeholders about the department's role in inspections. Many stakeholders prefer for ODA to gain the authority to do produce safety inspections in Oregon, while others prefer to leave this responsibility to the FDA. Those in support of ODA-led inspections have indicated they believe ODA understands agriculture and has a good track record of successfully regulating Oregon farms in other areas.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Supports ODA's participation in produce safety rule implementation only if federal resources are available to support this work.
2. Recommends that ODA focus on capacity building, outreach, education, and technical assistance to help prepare Oregon's produce industry for FSMA.
3. Recommends that ODA develop the farm inventory required as part of the cooperative agreement using voluntary approaches.
4. Recommends that ODA consider applying for inspection funds if and when more information is available.

Summary

Supports ODA's involvement in FSMA produce safety rule implementation as long as federal resources are available to fully cover the cost of the department's work. Recommends initial focus on outreach and education and recommends that ODA wait until more information is available. Recommends a voluntary approach to developing an inventory of covered farms.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agricultural land	Number: 318 Effective Date: 06/07/2018
Sub-Committee: Land Use ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2022 Date of Last Review/Revision: Original Resolution Date: 06/07/2018
Board Chair: Barbara Boyer	Signature on file

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has heard from the agricultural community about concerns related to the location and development of power transmission facilities through agricultural lands, including underground and above ground transmission lines and land intensive generation facilities on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS, energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation.

WHEREAS agriculture is both land and soil dependent, while the siting of energy related facilities does not require soils with a high capability for agricultural production.

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included consideration of actions that designate or treat differently lands zoned exclusive farm use based solely on soil quality without accounting for other factors that are conducive to the production of high-value agricultural products, including livestock.

WHEREAS numerous applications to develop solar energy generation have been or are under review throughout the state, but especially in the Willamette Valley on highly productive agricultural lands. This has led several counties to amend or consider amending their land use codes to limit beyond state law the siting of solar energy generation on agricultural lands.

WHEREAS the existing state "exceptions process" provides for the consideration and location of land uses otherwise not permitted when reasons merit

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has been contacted by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission regarding concerns it has related to the increased development of agricultural lands by solar energy generation facilities. In response to the letter from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission the Board discussed issues related to the siting of solar energy generation facilities on productive farmland and expressed several concerns related to location on productive agricultural lands. The discussion by the Board resulted in a written request to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) asking that LCDC initiate an evaluation of the current administrative rules related the siting of solar facilities on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture is concerned about the conversion of high-value and productive farmland and the implications to ongoing and future agricultural operations by energy facility development on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

The Board:

1. Recognizes that energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation. We support developing renewable energy facilities at appropriate locations.
2. Recommends an evaluation by the Land Conservation and Development Commission of existing administrative rules related to the siting of energy facilities on land zoned exclusive farm use.
3. Supports establishing review criteria to evaluate not only the individual impact of proposed energy development on agricultural lands, but also the cumulative impacts of existing and potential similar nonfarm land use on agricultural operations.
4. Supports the evaluation of the impacts of proposed linear energy transmission facilities on agricultural operations that focuses on individual segments of a linear facility that are comprised of similar agricultural characteristics.
5. Supports better definition of highly productive farmland (instead of "high-value farmland") based on multiple factors such as soils, crop types, operational characteristics, and developed agricultural infrastructure.
6. Supports land use regulations that afford greater protection for highly productive farmland including, land use requirements that preclude the location of energy facilities on highly productive or less valuable farmland when otherwise reasonable alternatives exist.
7. Supports evaluation and reconsideration of existing land use regulation that promotes serial development of energy facilities to skirt other more stringent review standards.