



Oregon

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DLCD begins statewide hearings on Goals 11 and 14 Friday

SALEM – The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development will begin statewide goal and rulemaking hearings Friday for amendments regarding residential sewer service in rural areas and urban growth boundary (UGB) changes.

The hearings will be held at the Port of Portland (121 NW Everett St., Portland) on the third and final day of a Land Conservation and Development Commission meeting. These will be the first of 10 statewide public hearings on the proposed amendments.

The public hearing on the sewer service amendments will begin shortly after a 9 a.m. DLCD presentation. After that hearing, DLCD staff will give a presentation to the Commission on the urban growth boundary amendments, to be followed by the public hearing on those amendments.

The 10 public hearings are scheduled to conclude on Wednesday, Nov. 10. Adoption of goal and rule amendments for residential sewer service in rural areas is expected to occur at the LCDC meeting on Dec. 8-10 in Salem. Adoption of the goal and rule amendments for urban growth boundaries could come to the Commission at its meeting Feb. 2-4, 2005 in Salem.

Currently, Statewide Planning Goal 11 (Public Facilities and Services) and the associated administrative rule prohibit most new sewer hookups in rural areas – lands outside urban growth boundaries and unincorporated communities. The goal and rule prevent the connections even when sewer lines are already nearby, unless there is a declared health hazard.

The Special Districts Association of Oregon requested in November of 2003 that LCDC address the problem. The purpose of the amendments is to allow hookups to individual dwellings on lots located near existing sewer lines within a sewer district, without promoting urban sprawl.

In order to amend a Statewide Planning Goal, DLCD must schedule at least 10 hearings around the state – two in each of the five Congressional districts.

The Goal 14 process was initiated with a work group in June to clarify and streamline the UGB amendment process for Oregon's cities and counties. The process to establish or amend a UGB currently does not provide a clear and detailed explanation, and does not include definitions of some key terms. Also, because the goal wording has not been modified since its adoption in 1974, it does not reflect 30 years of interpretations and modifications of the UGB process by the Commission, the legislature, and the courts.

“These Goal amendments reflect practical and needed changes to our land-use planning

system,” said Lane Shetterly, Director of the Department of Land Conservation and Development. “The Goal 11 amendments will promote better environmental policies by making it possible for rural dwellings to connect with sewer systems. The Goal 14 changes will streamline the process for amending urban growth boundaries, making it more efficient and less costly for local governments.”

More information about the Commission meetings and the hearings can be found on the department’s *new* Web site at: <http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/index.shtml>

The next regular LCDC meeting will be Dec. 8-10, 2004 in Salem.

HEARINGS SCHEDULE: <http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/docs/rulemaking/g11g14hrngs.pdf>

LCDC MEETING AGENDA: <http://www.oregon.gov/LCD/docs/meetings/lcdcmtgnot110304.pdf>

Oregon's seven-member Land Conservation and Development Commission, assisted by the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), adopts state land use goals, assures local plan compliance with the goals, coordinates state and local planning, and manages the coastal zone program. The Commissioners are unpaid citizen volunteers appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Commissioners are appointed to four-year terms and may not serve for more than two consecutive terms. The statute establishing the Commission, ORS 197, also directs that they be representative of the state. The Commission meets about every six weeks to direct the work of DLCD.

Current Commission members are:

John H. Van Landingham, Chair (Eugene)
Margaret Kirkpatrick, Vice Chair (Portland)
Dennis Derby (Portland)
Marilyn Worrix (McMinnville)
Ron Henri (Talent)
Hanley Jenkins (Union)
Tim Josi (Tillamook)

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