



# Oregon

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **LCDC eases restrictions on rural sewer service**

The Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission recently revised limitations that prevented certain sewer hook-ups in rural areas. The changes, which went into effect on Feb. 11, were made during an LCDC hearing on Feb. 3 in Salem.

Prior to the decision, sewer hook-ups to rural residential properties located within existing sewer district boundaries – and within 300 feet of an existing sewer line in a ‘rural area’ – were not allowed. A ‘rural area’ is defined in this context as lands outside urban growth boundaries and unincorporated communities.

In 2004 the LCDC appointed a work group to deal with the problem. In amending Statewide Planning Goal 11 (Public Facilities and Services) and the related administrative rule (OAR 660-011-0060), the LCDC said the changes were not intended to promote sprawl or allow urban uses on rural lands.

Burton Weast, legislative director for the Special Districts Association of Oregon, said the decision fixes the problem with rural residential properties.

“This rule (amendment) will resolve that issue and we sincerely appreciate you doing it,” Weast told the LCDC at the conclusion of the hearing.

Lane Shetterly, Director of DLCD, said the changes were made to address a small but significant issue for residents of rural Oregon.

“These are common sense changes that address the real needs of rural Oregonians,” Shetterly said. “They will ease regulations on landowners and promote a cleaner environment at the same time by allowing residences to connect to available sewer systems.”

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