

# LANGLOIS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 97 Langlois, Oregon. 97450

541-348-2304

Federal tax ID # 93-0590647



Oregon Department of Aviation  
3040 25<sup>th</sup> Street SE  
Salem, Oregon 97302-1125

June 13, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

We are writing this letter to you today to request that you do NOT transfer any responsibility or oversight of the Cape Blanco Airport to Curry County. We are the northern most Fire Agency in Curry County, and are responsible for provision of fire and rescue services in the north part of Curry County. We recognize the valuable asset that the airport provides. That airport is the only one in Curry County that can support large transport aircraft. It is a 5,100 foot strip, 150 feet wide, and is designed for large, heavy aircraft. It was built during the World War 2 era as an emergency landing strip for B-29 aircraft flying from Boeing Aircraft in Seattle to Alameda Air Station in California, where they were outfitted and sent across the Pacific Ocean to fight in that theater. In the event of a natural disaster, that airport will prove to be a godsend. This is the only airport capable of handling transport category aircraft in Coos and Curry Counties. It is centrally located for both.

There are two other airports in Curry County. One is the Gold Beach Municipal airport, which is at risk from even a distant tsunami; let alone the "big one" that WILL hit us, possibly sooner rather than later. That airport will be absolutely of no use whatsoever in the event of a local earthquake and tsunami, being only 20 feet above sea level. This airport is operated by the Port of Gold Beach, and has basic aircraft services available.

The second airport will also be of limited value in a disaster scenario. The Brookings airport is quite small, only 2900 foot runway, is surrounded by residential neighborhoods, and will prove problematic for any large scale activity. That airport is not suitable for larger, heavier aircraft, nor are the approaches acceptable for that use. Runway load capacity won't support heavy aircraft. This airport is operated by Curry County and has NO basic aircraft services or fuel available. It is fine as a general aviation airport, suitable for smaller aircraft, which is its present function.

Bandon Airport is also a small strip, about half the length of Cape Blanco, and is a narrow strip surrounded by built infrastructure. It is not suitable for large aircraft, but is fine for general aviation aircraft, and has services available. It is operated in Bandon, and has enjoyed local support. Bandon airport has fuel, aircraft rentals, mechanics, etc. They do a much better job with their airport than Brookings ever has under county ownership. North Bend airport is the only other airport locally that is suitable for larger aircraft, but it is also near sea level and will be inundated WHEN the local earthquake and tsunami hit the coast, not to mention the liquefaction that will likely destroy the runways due to the alluvial nature of the underlying soils.

It is an interesting point that, in all cases, basic services are available in the local municipal airports, but not at the one airport controlled by Curry County even though it is located in the most populous city in the county.

Curry County, at present, is unable to provide the services it is required to provide. They have not enhanced the Brookings airport that they DO operate to any major extent. There is no fuel, nor are there any basic aircraft services there, except for tie downs, and some limited hangar leases to private parties. They have no business taking on another project when their funding is so nebulous that the county has threatened to dissolve into neighboring counties and thereby cease to exist as a county. Either that, or the County leadership has some other ideas, which have not been made public, to convert the Cape Blanco airport to some other use, or compromise its airfield use in some

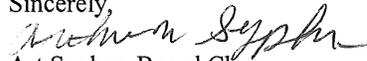
fashion for some other type of project.

We believe the County has no intention of spending their limited funds on airport enhancements. There is a reason they are negotiating with Oregon State Parks for additional land around the airport area. There are several real estate negotiations ongoing, ALL of which have been concealed from the public. Reference attached County meeting agenda. If all is above board, why hasn't any of this been discussed publicly? How can the county support expenditures in this fashion when basic services are being cut to the bone, or being spun off altogether? Their record of maintenance and enhancement of airports speaks for itself. The only "real airport" in Curry County (not counting back country strips) that does not have basic services is run by the county. The Port of Gold Beach does a better job with its airport than the county ever has. Their record speaks volumes.

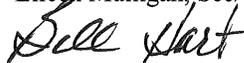
The State of Oregon, through its Department of Aviation, has the responsibility to maintain that airport as an airport and to enhance its use when possible as an airport. We are vitally concerned about keeping that facility as an airport that can be used in good times AND bad. We know that an airport, once lost, is gone forever. We have no trust that the County wishes to keep this functioning as an airport, despite assurances to the contrary. Please keep the airport in State hands, and under exclusive State control.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and information.

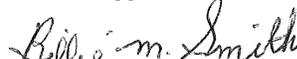
Sincerely,

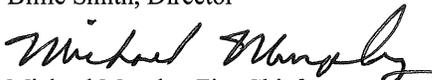
  
Art Sypher, Board Chair

  
Eileen Mulligan, Sec/Treasurer

  
Bill Hart, Director

  
Carrie Eggert, Director

  
Billie Smith, Director

  
Michael Murphy, Fire Chief



**CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Wednesday, June 15, 2011 – 10:00 a.m.  
Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex  
94235 Moore Street, Gold Beach, Oregon  
[www.co.curry.or.us](http://www.co.curry.or.us)

**AGENDA**

*Items may be taken out of sequence to accommodate staff availability and the public*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

**2. ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

- 3. PUBLIC COMMENT** *\*Members of the public may address the Board on matters which are within its jurisdiction. If you are addressing the Board regarding a matter on the agenda, you may be asked to hold your comments until the Board takes up the matter. Please limit comments to five minutes or less. A completed speaker's slip must be submitted prior to the start of the meeting.\**

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**5. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS**

- a. Adopt position description for Developmental Disabilities Adult Abuse Investigator – Health and Human Services
- b. Hire Merna Peterson as MH Associate II – Health and Human Services
- c. Approval and Signature to Agreement for Notification and Communication Services between Curry County Sheriff's Office and NIXLE, LLC – Sheriff's Office
- d. Agreements for Transfer of Entitlements Regarding Airport Improvements, Signature Authority to George Rhodes – County Legal Counsel
- e. Intergovernmental Agreement with the State of Oregon re the Fellowship Program – County Legal Counsel
- f. Memorandum of Understanding to Establish the Southern Oregon Clean Energy Alliance (SOCEA) – County Legal Counsel
- g. Memorandum of Understanding between Curry County and Teamsters Local Union No. 223 – County Legal Counsel
- h. ODOT Agreement Number 27755 – County Legal Counsel
- i. ODOT Agreement Number 27400 – County Legal Counsel
- j. ODOT Agreement Number 27677 – County Legal Counsel

- 6. APPOINTMENTS** *\* Info and applications available at [www.co.curry.or.us](http://www.co.curry.or.us) \**

*See page  
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**All Commissioners' meetings are held in accessible locations. Auxiliary aids will be provided upon request with 48 hours advance notification. Please call 541-247-3296 if you have questions regarding this notice.**

**7. ANNOUNCEMENTS** *\*Meetings are held in the Commissioners' Hearing Room unless otherwise noted. Work Sessions are tentative and subject to change or cancellation.\**

<u>Wednesday, June 15</u>	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	Commissioners' Work Session
<u>Thursday, June 16</u>	<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Land Use Proceeding - Applicant Byrtus – CP/ZC-1101 (for deliberation and oral decision)
<u>Tuesday, June 21</u>	<b>2:00 p.m.</b>	Public Transit Services/STF Advisory Committee Meeting
<u>Wednesday, June 22</u>	<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	Commissioners' Regular Meeting
	<b>1:30 p.m.</b>	Commissioner's Work Session
	<b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Coos Curry Housing Authority

**8. MISCELLANEOUS**

Executive Session per ORS 192.660(2)(e) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to negotiate real property transactions for the following purposes:

- a. Discuss the possible conveyance of a County-owned parcel located at 230 King Street, Brookings, Oregon, to the City of Brookings
- b. Discuss the possible acquisition of the Cape Blanco Airport from the State of Oregon
- c. To discuss the possible transfer of properties in the North County

**9. ADJOURN**

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