

**Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
Annual Report to the
Governor and the Environmental Justice Task Force
January 29, 2012**

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) along with the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) oversee Oregon's Statewide Land Use Planning Program. The cornerstone of the program is the Statewide Planning Goals (Goals). The Goals establish a framework for state law and policy implemented by local governments through comprehensive plans for each jurisdiction. The program also applies to special districts and state agencies. Environmental justice issues are specifically addressed in Goal 1 – Citizen Participation, Goal 10 – Housing, Goal 11 – Public Facilities, and Goal 12 – Transportation.

In 2011, Michael Morrissey, policy analyst in the Director's Office, was assigned to serve as DLCD's citizen advocate for the Environmental Justice Task Force (EJTF). Mr. Morrissey is also the department's Measure 49 Ombudsman.

DLCD makes the following report pursuant to ORS 182.550 on its efforts to implement environmental justice principles in carrying out its mission and duties:

1) ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ISSUES

The following items on LCDC's policy agenda for the 2009-2011 biennium, potentially address environment justice issues:

- Adopt state greenhouse gas reduction "goals" for purposes of the Portland Metro Area "scenario planning" land use patterns to meet the reduction goals, as required by House Bill 2001 (rules by June 2011; other work 2011-2014).
- Begin to assist communities in preparing for the effects of climate change, in coordination with state agencies and other stakeholders. This will include work on a statewide *adaptation* plan in coordination with state agencies and may include "pilot communities." Statewide climate change *mitigation* planning described above re HB 2001 and HB 2186.
- Conduct a public "policy forum" (or a series), including stakeholders and legislators, to consider the following topics and determine consensus and future direction:
 - Consider public facility finance and planning issues facing local governments, including those raised by the Big Look Task Force and local governments, and consider land use strategies and policy amendments to address these concerns.

- Explore changes to streamline and update statewide policy regarding urban growth management, including the priority of lands statutes, urban reserve requirements, population forecasting, Goals 9 and 10, governance and related topics (biennium).

2) INCREASE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OF INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES AFFECTED BY AGENCY DECISIONS

LCDC makes a practice of holding its regular meetings in a variety of locations around the state. This allows the public greater access to the commission generally, and when possible, the commission schedules the location based on issues of local concern that it will be addressing. In 2011, three public meetings were held in locations outside of Salem – Grants Pass, The Dalles and Portland.

The Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee (CIAC), established under ORS 197, advises LCDC and local governments on matters pertaining to citizen involvement. It has eight volunteer members, one from each of Oregon's five Congressional Districts and three chosen at-large. The CIAC meets bi-monthly, providing a forum that fosters citizen communication with the department and its public policy decision-making body. The CIAC is supported in this effort by the department's policy coordinator, bob Rindy.

In 2009, the CIAC initiated the STAR Award for Citizen Involvement - a program that recognizes communities, organizations or individuals that are meaningfully involving citizens in local land use decisions, and actively promoting and implementing the values of Oregon's Statewide Planning Goal 1: Citizen Involvement. The first STAR Award was given to the City of Newberg for engaging its community in *Newberg's Future*, a multi-pronged public outreach campaign designed to provide information and obtain feedback from citizens on how Newberg should plan for growth over the next 30 years. In 2011, the STAR award recipients were a Bend area resident for involvement with the Bend urban growth boundary and staff for the City of Eugene in the implementation of the Envision Eugene process.

DLCD has multiple publications available on its website to assist citizens in understanding the planning process and how to get involved. The website also provides information about how citizens of Oregon are actively involved in protecting the citizen involvement process, promoting and challenging the statewide land use program, finding new avenues of expression and involvement in critical land use planning issues, and expanding citizen involvement around the state.

3) DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF THE AGENCY'S DECISIONS ON TRADITIONALLY UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

Given the broad scope of the Statewide Land Use Planning Program, it is not immediately apparent when, where, and how underrepresented populations are impacted by DLCD actions. The department does have a strong working relationship with the

Legislative Commission on Indian Services, and through them the nine federally recognized tribes in the state. Through regular participation in multiple working committees and annual events, the department coordinates with the tribes to understand the impact of state and local land use decisions on tribal interests.

The commission's Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee recently met with the Chair of the EJTF, Benjamin Duncan, and had a productive discussion regarding the contributions each group can make towards accomplishing the objectives of the other. In addition, the chair of LCDC has agreed to meet with the EJTF to continue the discussion in 2012.

4) IMPROVE PLANS TO FURTHER THE PROGRESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN OREGON

DLCD will develop a work plan with its EJTF representatives that will provide actions DLCD may take to increase awareness of environmental justice issues that intersect with its state agency role, and improve the department's response to environmental justice communities.