



# RS EXCHANGE

## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

### Weekly Report

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

Below are some highlights from the Governor's [Regional Solutions \(RS\) Coordinators](#), on behalf of the eleven interagency teams across Oregon.

## Regional Solutions (RS) Director – Leah Horner

### North Coast Region – Jennifer Purcell

- **North Coast Economic Recovery Team:**  
The North Coast Economic Recovery Team is comprised of state, federal, regional, and local economic and workforce development partners, including Oregon Employment Department, Business Oregon, NW Oregon Works, NW Regional ESD, ports, economic and small business development professionals, chambers of commerce, downtown associations, destination marketing organizations, and industry associations. The team has met twice, sharing information about impacts, needs, resources, and supports. The North Coast Team has expressed concern regarding short-term response and mid- and long-term recovery efforts, particularly for the self-employed, sole proprietors, gig workers, nonprofits (including 501c3 and 501c6 organizations), and special districts. Senator Wyden joined the Thursday ERT meeting with an update on the Federal recovery response.
- **North Coast tourism impacts:** Over the weekend, Clatsop and Tillamook counties were overwhelmed by an influx of tourists. Regional Solutions spoke with local officials and tracked concerns about significant numbers of visitors gathering in parks, marinas and other outdoor recreation facilities. Oswald West State Park and Cape Kiwanda parking areas were overflowing with cars; restaurant customers were taking food and beverages to go and congregating on beach and dune areas; port and marina parking lots were overflowing with cars and boats; and state campgrounds were teeming with recreational users.

Tillamook and Clatsop counties both passed resolutions restricting tourism, closing parks, campgrounds, beach accesses, public rights-of-way, boat launches, and transient lodging. Many cities, including Warrenton, Astoria, and Manzanita followed suit. Chambers of Commerce and destination marketing organizations took bold steps to ask hospitality-related businesses to cease advertising and begin canceling reservations. Many private businesses chose to close to protect their employees and the public from behavior inconsistent with social distancing guidelines and the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" messaging.

## Mid-Valley Region – Jody Christensen

- **The Mid-Valley Regional Economic Recovery Team:**

The Mid-Valley Regional Economic Recovery Team (M-V ERT) is comprised of 30 members from local government, the Small Business Development Center (SBDC), the Oregon Employment Department, Business Oregon, Willamette Workforce Partnership (WWP), Mid-Willamette Valley COG (MWVCOG), the Strategic Economic Development Corporation (SEDCOR), county early learning hubs, local and tribal governments, chambers, utilities, non-profits, local emergency management, and state legislators. The M-V ERT has met twice and has expressed concerns for immediate response resources for businesses and workers, sole proprietors/contract workers, commercial/industrial rent assistance, access to capital in the form of forgivable loans/grants, and childcare for front line workers.

The region also established additional groups to streamline communication and assess needs: 1) *CORE* team (SEDCOR, SBDC, WWP, Business Oregon, and MWVCOG) is managing the daily operations and centralized communication and 2) *Alliance* groups are meeting weekly for Mid-Valley chambers, economic developments organizations, and designation marketing entities and calls with the county commissioners and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

- **Detroit Lake/Kane’s Marina Dredging Project:**

Background: Both the Detroit Lake Marina and the Kane’s Marina have experienced a shorten season due sand build up which affects access the docks. In 2016, they started to develop concepts to remove the sand and build barriers. They completed a piling update project in 2018. In late 2019, two JPAs were filed to move forward on the dredging.

Update: Marion County asked RS to convene a meeting to move the JPA process forward. RS convened a conference call with 29 JPA participants including the US Army Corp of Army Engineers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, US Forest, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, US Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment Quality, Department of State Lands, Marion County, the project consultant team, and the marinas’ owners. RS led the group thru 18 outstanding questions and issues. The meeting went well with several items addressed and a clearer path forward.

## South Valley/Mid Coast Region – Sarah Means

- **The SVMC Economic Recovery Team:**

The team includes representatives from the Employment Department, Business Oregon, local and regional economic development professionals, Workforce Investment Boards, ports, and federal delegation representatives. The Team has met twice to share information, identify immediate needs and understand impacts. The most immediate impacts have been on the region’s retail and hospitality sectors although impacts are starting to be felt in manufacturing as well. Identified needs include Unemployment Insurance coverage during the “waiting” week and benefits for self-employed persons and sole-proprietorships. Additionally, access to flexible capital and/or some kind of debt relief and lease/mortgage moratorium for business has also been a consistent need. The Team recommended that any potential state investment go to leverage existing funds that are already being deployed to assist businesses. Senator Wyden joined the Thursday ERT meeting with an update on the Federal recovery response.

## South Coast Region – Alex Campbell

- **South Coast Umpqua Recovery Team:**

The team includes state, local, and regional economic development and workforce professionals and county and municipal officials. State legislators have also been invited to call in and listen. The Team held its first meeting this week and plans to meet weekly. The priority for collaboration that was identified was creating a cohesive business advising network. A subcommittee formed around that mission met separately this week as well. Other topics of discussion: Business funding to improve infrastructure to handle more remote work would be useful use of any available support funding; the urgency of getting unemployment insurance payments into the hands of minimum wage workers with very low savings.

## Southern Region – Alex Campbell

- **Southern Oregon Recovery Team:**

The team includes state, local, and regional economic development and workforce professionals and county and municipal officials. State legislators have also been invited to call in and listen. The Team held its first meeting this week and plans to meet weekly. Several areas for collaboration and immediate work identified included improving flow of information around changes in childcare and implications of drastically declining TLT revenues.

## Metro Region – Raihana Ansary

- **Metro Economic Response Team:**

The Governor's Metro Regional Solutions Team is partnering with Greater Portland, Inc. (GPI), to co-convene a Metro Economic Response Team. In addition to state agencies (Oregon Employment Department, Business Oregon, Bureau of Labor & Industry, Small Business Advocate, Oregon Housing & Community Services, and Travel Oregon), a number of partners in the Portland-metro region have been invited to participate including business associations, city and county economic development practitioners, community-based organizations, labor, members of the Governor's Metro Regional Solutions Advisory Committee and workforce development organizations. The Team has met once to share information and resources and identify economic impacts. The Team will meet weekly for the foreseeable future. In the Portland-metro region, the most immediate impact has been to the region's leisure and hospitality sector. Many have expressed concerns over the waiting-week period for unemployment insurance and UI benefits for contract workers and sole proprietors and the need for a commercial tenant eviction moratorium. Senator Wyden joined the Thursday ERT meeting with an update on the Federal recovery response.

## North Central Region – Nate Stice

- **North Central Oregon Recovery Team:**

The Mid-Columbia Economic Development District and Region Regional Solutions stood up the bi-state Columbia Gorge/Mid-Columbia Bi-State Economic Resilience Team. The structure for the team was outlined in a 2019 report produced by [MCEDD](#). A smaller Oregon group met twice last week, and the full bi-state resilience team met last Friday to ensure that we are serving employees and employers with operations that cross the river in a seven county area. The Oregon specific and bi-state meeting provided a forum to share information, identify immediate needs and understand impacts. On the Oregon side, in region, there are 3,500 – 4,000 jobs "susceptible to layoff", this means that \$19.2M of payroll will be pulled out of the region's economy. The most immediate impact will be to the region's leisure and hospitality employees. The team is compiling bi-state resources at [MCEDD.org/ready](https://mcedd.org/ready).

## Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **Central Oregon Recovery Team:**

The Central Oregon Economic Recovery Team is comprised of the Employment Department, Business Oregon, local elected officials as well as, business outreach and economic development professionals. The Team has met twice to share information, identify immediate needs and understand impacts. In Central Oregon there are 8,000 – 10,000 jobs “susceptible to layoff” this means that \$60M of payroll will be pulled out of the region’s economy. The most immediate impact will be to the region’s leisure and hospitality employees. The Bend Chamber has launched a regional website (Central Oregon SOS) that aggregates information and resources; all chambers in Central Oregon are linking to the site. Unemployment Insurance coverage during the “waiting” week and benefits for self-employed persons and sole-proprietorships remain a priority. The Team recommended that any state investment go to traded sector employers to address supply chain disruptions and to provide tools/training for remote work.

## South Central Region – Annette Liebe

- **South Central Oregon Recovery Team:**

The South Central Oregon Economic Recovery Team is comprised of the Employment Department, Business Oregon, local elected officials as well as, business outreach and economic development professionals; the south Central Team has met twice. In South Central Oregon there are 2,500 jobs “susceptible to layoff” this means that \$10M - \$15M of payroll will be pulled out of the region’s economy. The most immediate impact will be to small businesses. Priorities for South Central Oregon include: paying unemployed individuals during the one week “waiting” period even if that means doubling up for the first check and UI benefits for self-employed and sole-proprietorships. The South Central Team also believes the state investment is most needed to support small businesses since they are the largest share of the workforce in rural Oregon.

## Greater Eastern & Northeast Regions – Courtney Warner Crowell

- **Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team:** The Eastern Oregon Regional Economic Recovery Team met this week and shared information about what is happening across the region in response to the COVID-19 economic impacts and what resources are most in need across Eastern Oregon. The team is comprised of county and city representatives, local and regional economic development leaders, chambers of commerce, ports, tourism organizations, and small business advocates. This group will be meeting weekly to streamline information to partners and share the regional impacts with the Governor’s Coronavirus Economic Recovery Advisory Committee. We have started a sub-group to try and put together an emergency small business fund that is similar to other regions across the state.
- **Umatilla Flooding Disaster Housing Taskforce:** The taskforce that RS has stood up to deal with the housing situation in the wake of the February flooding in Umatilla county has met twice this week and is finalizing plans for the funding that the emergency board awarded. We will be taking these plans to the larger housing taskforce for approval before it moves to LFO for approval.