



**REGIONAL SOLUTIONS OFFICE**  
**GOVERNOR KATE BROWN**

DATE: 10.08.2020

TO: The Wildfire Economic Recovery Council

FROM: Jody Christensen, Mid-Valley Coordinator

**SUBJECT: Santiam Canyon Wildfire Economic Recovery Team (SC WERT) Memo**

**Summary:** The SC WERT held their first meeting which included a brief recovery update, roundtable discussion focused on identifying priority issues, and DEQ staff shared an update on the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) EPA process.

**Issues (in no particular order):**

- **Urgent** need to address runoff/erosion/debris mitigation for the Santiam River –drinking water source for downriver communities who gain their water from the Santiam (Turner pop. 2,225, Salem pop. 167,400\*)
- Clarity needed on debris removal (immediate and long term) process to leverage FEMA funds (i.e. FAQs needed for insurance questions, timeline)
- Need to establish coordinated federal/state/local infrastructure plans including utilities
- Opportunity to leverage immediate housing needs to address long-term workforce and affordable housing developments
- Address trauma and social determinants of health for equity in recovery process
- Need to centralize/streamline communication for multiple stakeholders.  
Communication needs to include multiple languages, be culturally appropriate, and deployed by various methods (i.e. radio, print, and in-person) Radio is a key method for the Latinx community.

**Potential Solutions and Opportunities:**

- Public Charge Rule (PCR) - FEMA has confirmed that PCR is not in effect for FEMA.

**Looking Ahead:**

- Marion and Linn Counties public works and planning departments and Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments are coordinating streamlined building permits/land use.
- Need to establish long-term rebuilding plans addressing increased capacity and resiliency. The North Santiam Sewer Authority (an ORS 190) has contracted with an engineering consultant to design/built future sewer for Gates, Idanha, Detroit and Mill City. The contract has been executed – but increased technical assistance funding/support is needed for the Authority and/or cities to move forward.
- Mitigation to reduce future fires addressing climate change, forest management, and weather events

\*Portland State University Annual Population Data (2019)

*Note: This memo is the result of the 10.08.2020 ERT meeting and subsequent conversations with members, attendees, and community stakeholders.*