



# Marion County

## OREGON

### Board of Commissioners

January 29, 2019

(503) 588-5212  
(503) 588-5237-FAX

ATTN: Periodic Review Specialist  
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development  
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150  
Salem, OR 97301

#### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Sam Brentano  
Kevin Cameron  
Colm Willis

#### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

John Lattimer

#### **RE: 2018 UGB Growth Management Decision - Marion County Objection**

Dear Director Rue and LCDC Commissioners:

Marion County objects to the recent Metro 2018 UGB decision. Attached to this objection is a copy of the letter Marion County submitted to Metro and that is part Metro's record of decision.

Marion County is greatly concerned that growth in the Metro region is having a variety of negative impacts on Marion County, its many communities, and the Mid-Valley region as a whole. Those concerns include the protection of farmland and our agriculture and food processing industries (Goal 3); housing impacts due to the lack of adequate housing stock in the Metro region to accommodate its workforce and demographics (Goal 10); transportation impacts (Goal 12); inadequate urban efficiency measures to avoid or reduce negative urbanization impacts (Goal 14); inadequate analysis and coordination of public services (Goal 11); and a lack of factual basis, analysis and findings (Goal 2) related to Metro's growth management.

In particular, Marion County is concerned that Metro's plans for urbanization rely on drawing water from the Willamette River system. The potential for reduced annual water in the Cascade Range is not addressed. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposal to reallocate water storage and free-flow river water resources in the Willamette River system in a manner to supersede the existing system of water rights is not analyzed or addressed. With existing demands on the Willamette River's water supply, it is increasingly unlikely that Metro cities will be able to guarantee a reliable water supply. While the Corps' reallocation, in theory, could provide Metro cities with additional water, it would come at the expense of other cities' water. Metro cities with down-stream water withdrawals are relying on an undetermined re-allocation of water from other jurisdictions (and existing water users) with water rights outside the Metro region. Planning that relies on that theoretical reallocation has not adequately included the affected jurisdictions as required.

January 29, 2019

2018 UGB Growth Management Decision - Marion County Objection

Marion County should be a vitally involved stakeholder since Metro cities' water usage is very likely to partially or fully dry up several small cities in Marion County and cause significant economic damage to the specialty crops and food processing industries that rely on water from the North Santiam River, which is part of the Willamette River system managed by the USACE.

Goal 2 requires: *Inventories and other forms of data are needed as the basis for the policies and other decisions set forth in the plan. This factual base should include data on the following as they relate to the goals and other provisions of the plan: (a) Natural resources, their capabilities and limitations.*

Goal 11 planning guidelines specify: *Plans providing for public facilities and services should consider as a major determinant the carrying capacity of the air, land and water resources of the planning area. The land conservation and development action provided for by such plans should not exceed the carrying capacity of such resources.*

Metro's planning exceeds the carrying capacity of resources within its planning area: the selected UGB expansion areas reference using Willamette River water, not local groundwater or water from the Bull Run watershed.


Consequently, Metro has not adequately addressed UGB boundary location factors (3) *Comparative environmental, energy, economic and social consequences; and (4) Compatibility of the proposed urban uses with nearby agricultural and forest activities occurring on farm and forest land outside the UGB.*


There are several possible remedies available. Metro is required to take appropriate actions within its urban growth boundary and impose requirements on any new additions or urban reserve areas. For example:

- Select urban growth boundary locations that rely on water resources that are not from outside the Metro planning area;
- Rezone large single-family lots in Portland and other Metro cities to increase the close-in land supply for affordable housing, and simultaneously reduce the amount of water used for large lawns associated with inefficient lot coverage;
- Set a cap on the imbalance of the jobs-housing ratio to reduce the pressure to urbanize more land which will require more water; and
- Create a range of means-tested alternative efficiency measures so that the burden of compliance does not fall on the region's less well-to-do cities and neighborhoods.

Marion County's main concern is the North Santiam River and its continued ability to meet our local environmental, community and economic needs. The Oregon land use program makes provision for alternative resolution to UGB amendment disputes. Marion County is interested in exploring the benefits of alternatives to court proceedings.

Sincerely,

  
Kevin Cameron, Chair

  
Samuel A. Brentano, Vice Chair

  
Colm Willis, Commissioner





# Marion County

## OREGON

Board of Commissioners

December 5, 2018

(503) 588-5212  
(503) 588-5237-FAX

Metro Council President Tom Hughes  
Metro Councilors  
Metro Planning  
600 NE Grand Avenue  
Portland, OR 97232

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Janet Carlson  
Kevin Cameron  
Sam Brentano

### CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

John Lattimer

### RE: 2018 UGB Growth Management Decision – Marion County Public Comment

Dear Metro Council President Hughes and Metro Councilors:

Marion County is greatly concerned that growth in the Metro region is having a variety of negative impacts on Marion County, its many communities, and the Mid-Valley region as a whole. Those concerns include the protection of farmland and our agriculture and food processing industries (Goal 3); housing impacts due to the lack of adequate housing stock in the Metro region to accommodate its workforce and demographics (Goal 10); transportation impacts (Goal 12); inadequate urban efficiency measures to avoid or reduce negative urbanization impacts (Goal 14); inadequate analysis and coordination of public services (Goal 11); and a lack of factual basis, analysis and findings (Goal 2) related to Metro's growth management.

In particular, Marion County is concerned that Metro's plans for urbanization rely on drawing from water from the Willamette River system. The potential for reduced annual water in the Cascade Range is not addressed. The current draft proposal moving forward at the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to reallocate water storage and free-flow river water resources in the Willamette River system in a manner to supersede the existing system of water rights is not analyzed or addressed. With existing demands on the Willamette River's water supply, it is increasingly unlikely that Metro cities will be able to guarantee a reliable water supply. While the Corps' reallocation, in theory, could provide Metro cities with additional water, it would come at the expense of other cities' water. Metro cities with down-stream water withdrawals are relying on an undetermined re-allocation of water from other jurisdictions (and existing water users) with water rights outside the Metro region. Planning that relies on that theoretical reallocation has not adequately included the affected jurisdictions as required.

Marion County should be a vitally involved stakeholder since Metro cities' water usage is very likely to partially or fully dry up several small cities in Marion County and cause significant economic damage to the specialty crops and food processing industries that rely on water from the North Santiam River, which is part of the Willamette River system managed by the USACE.

Goal 2 requires: *Inventories and other forms of data are needed as the basis for the policies and other decisions set forth in the plan. This factual base should include data on the following as they relate to the goals and other provisions of the plan: (a) Natural resources, their capabilities and limitations.*

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December 5, 2018

Metro President and Metro Council

2018 UGB Growth Management Decision

Marion County Public Comment

Goal 11 planning guidelines specify: *Plans providing for public facilities and services should consider as a major determinant the carrying capacity of the air, land and water resources of the planning area. The land conservation and development action provided for by such plans should not exceed the carrying capacity of such resources.*

Metro's planning exceeds the carrying capacity of resources within its planning area: several of the UGB expansion proposals reference using Willamette River water, not local groundwater or water from the Bull Run watershed. Consequently, Metro has not adequately addressed UGB boundary location factors (3) *Comparative environmental, energy, economic and social consequences; and (4) Compatibility of the proposed urban uses with nearby agricultural and forest activities occurring on farm and forest land outside the UGB.*

There are several possible remedies available. Metro is required to take appropriate actions within its urban growth boundary and impose requirements on any new additions or urban reserve areas. For example:

- Rezone of large single-family lots in Portland and other Metro cities to increase the close-in land supply for affordable housing, and simultaneously reduce the amount of water used for large lawns associated with inefficient lot coverage;
- Set a cap on the imbalance of the jobs-housing ratio to reduce the pressure to urbanize more land which will require more water;
- Select urban growth boundary locations that rely on water resources that are not appropriated from other cities; and
- Create a range of means-tested alternative efficiency measures so that the burden of compliance does not fall on the region's less well-to-do cities and neighborhoods.

Marion County stretches from the Willamette River to the Cascade Mountains encompassing nearly 1,200 square miles. There are 20 incorporated cities and nine unincorporated communities in Marion County. As reported by the 2010 Census, the total population of Marion County was 315,900. Agriculture and food processing are important to the county's economy, as are lumber, manufacturing, and education. Marion County is the leader in agricultural sales among all other Oregon counties, thus our great concern over the Metro discussions over the UGB expansion. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

  
Janet Carlson, Chair

  
Kevin Cameron, Vice Chair

  
Samuel A. Brentano, Commissioner

**From:** [Barbara Young](#)  
**To:** [DLCD PR-UGB](#)  
**Cc:** [Bruce Armstrong](#); [Brandon Reich](#); [Barbara Young](#); [Thomas Hogue](#)  
**Subject:** Metro UGB Amendment No. 18-1427 - Marion County Objection  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 30, 2019 9:08:14 AM  
**Attachments:** [2018 UGB Growth Management Decision - Marion County Objection 1-29-19.pdf](#)

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Please find the attached letter of objection to the Metro UGB Amendment No. 18-1427 from the Marion County Board of Commissioners. Please confirm receipt of this letter. Let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.  
Barb Young

***Barb Young***  
Government Relations Manager  
Marion County Board of Commissioners  
Phone: 503-589-3263  
[byoung@co.marion.or.us](mailto:byoung@co.marion.or.us)