



American Planning Association
Oregon Chapter

Creating Great Communities for All

September 22, 2021

Robin McArthur, Chair
Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission
635 Capitol Street NE, Suite 150
Salem, OR 97301-2540
esther.johnson@dlcd.oregon.gov

RE: Commission Meeting September 23-24, 2021, Agenda Item 2, Director's Report Attachment C, Environmental Justice Task Force; and Agenda Item 5, DLCD 2021-23 Policy Agenda – Tribal Cultural Resources

Dear Chair McArthur and Members of the Commission:

The Oregon Chapter of the American Planning Association (OAPA) is an independent, statewide, not-for-profit educational organization of more than 800 planners from across the state who work for cities, counties, special districts, state agencies, tribes, community-based organizations, universities, and private firms. We provide leadership in the development of vital communities by advocating excellence in community planning, promoting education and resident empowerment, and providing the tools and support necessary to meet the challenges of growth and change. OAPA supports sustainable communities and works to enhance the quality of life for current and future generations by helping to create and stabilize places that are equitable, healthy, and resilient and provide ongoing economic, environmental, and social benefits.

Agenda Item 2

OAPA is pleased to support the Department of Land Conservation and Development's (DLCD) recommendation in the report to the Environmental Justice Task Force for "a goal update process to modernize Goal 1 with both a title change and a goal rewrite." We believe that the goal amendment process - which includes robust public engagement process with DLCD hearings, analyses, and findings to inform the Commission - is the correct process for such an important effort.

We are also pleased to note a reference to HB 2488 in DLCD's report. During the last legislative session, OAPA aligned with the Beyond Toxics Coalition to support the bill and participated with the coalition's work with DLCD staff to draft HB 2488-2. Although that bill did not ultimately advance, we feel that it had important elements ensuring adequate public participation in planning and decision-making that could be included in a revised Goal 1.

Specifically, HB 2488-A, which was voted out of committee with a do-pass recommendation, addressed both equity and environmental justice in Oregon's land use planning system and included the following expected outcomes that we believe are the minimum that should be expected of land use planning and decision-making in our state:



- (a) *Ensuring that the opportunity to participate in land use planning and decision-making is accessible to disadvantaged groups;*
- (b) *Incorporating practices to engage the community, including disadvantaged groups, on climate justice, environmental justice and equity in land use planning and decision-making; and*
- (c) *Utilizing current technologies and mediums to:*
 - (A) *Improve and expand communication between the local government and general public, including disadvantaged groups; and*
 - (B) *Enhance the access to and accessibility of information used in land use planning and decision-making to the general public including disadvantaged groups.*

In addition, OAPA continues to suggest that any Goal updates intending to address environmental justice must also address climate change. OAPA specifically suggests adding a new climate planning goal. We all know the impacts that climate change is having in Oregon and understand that the impacts will continue and increase. We also know that disadvantaged groups are disproportionately and inequitably affected by climate change. OAPA believes that environmental justice cannot be achieved unless all planning and land use decisions are decided with both an equity lens and climate lens.

Agenda Item 5

OAPA supports a key project that the Department has proposed in the 2021-2023 Policy Agenda. One of the proposed Long Term Policy Projects in the September 2021 Staff Report (See C on pages 9 and 10) identifies outstanding work for Goal 5. This project is identified as "Goal 5 Rule Update for Cultural Resources."

OAPA concurs with the Department's case for this project and supports the rulemaking efforts for Cultural Areas under Goal 5. Completion of this project will further the Department's and the Commission's agenda on environmental justice to ensure the cultural resources of one or more of the nine federal recognized tribes in Oregon can be identified and protected as Goal 5 resources under Comprehensive Plans.

OAPA thanks the Commission for its time and consideration.

Sincerely,

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Aaron Ray, AICP, President
Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eunice Kim', is positioned to the right of the signature block.

Eunice Kim, AICP, Chair
Legislative and Policy Affairs Committee