


CLACKAMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Study Session Worksheet

Presentation Date: March 1, 2011                      Time: 11:00 a.m.    Length: 30 minutes  
Presentation Title: Metro Urban and Rural Reserves Update  
Department: County Counsel  
Presenters: Dan Chandler 

POLICY QUESTION

What is the appropriate position for Clackamas County to take with respect to proposed changes in the Washington County Urban Reserves? The matter is scheduled for a joint hearing in Hillsboro on March 15.

ISSUE & BACKGROUND

After a long and intensive process, Metro and the three Metro-area counties designated a total of 266,954 acres of rural reserves, along with 28,615 acres of Urban Reserves, under the process specified in Senate Bill 1011. The final designations were approved in May and June of this year. Clackamas County did not concur with a number of the urban reserve designations in Washington County, believing they impacted too much foundation farmland, and would severely impact the region's agricultural industry.

In an oral decision last November, the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) remanded the controversial reserves in Washington County. Metro and Washington County have been conferring in non-public meetings, and have come up with a new map of urban and rural reserves. The new map appears to impact a substantial amount of foundation farmland north of Highway 26, and is likely to be controversial.

Clackamas County would have the opportunity to testify at the March 15 hearing, and will need to adopt joint findings with Metro in order to allow the new map to go to LCDC for review. Given the short timeline to respond, staff believes a study session is appropriate.

QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR CONSIDERATION

What position, if any should the county take with respect to the new map changes for reserves in Washington County?

OPTIONS AVAILABLE

1. Oppose the changes by letter or testimony.
2. Wait to see whether the changes are adopted, and take issue with them at the "joint findings" stage.
3. Do nothing.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

That the BCC provide staff with direction as to which position to advocate.

SUBMITTED BY:

Division Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

Department Director/Head Approval \_\_\_\_\_

2008 Version