

September 3, 2003

Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County Courthouse
1021 SW 4th Ave
Portland OR 97204

Re: **Multnomah County Drainage District**
Reassessment of Benefits
Our File No. 45727/27791

EILEEN G. EAKINS

Dear Commissioners:

This office represents Multnomah County Drainage District. Pursuant to ORS 547.245, the District submits the enclosed petition, requesting the Multnomah County Commissioners to initiate proceedings to conduct a reassessment of benefits within the District. The reassessment report provides the methodology for determining how properties within the District should be assessed for the cost of providing drainage works and services. The District consists of 7,558 assessable acres. As required by statute, the petition is signed by the owners of at least one-tenth of the total acreage (756 acres) within the District.

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After conducting an independent review of its current assessment process, the District's Board of Supervisors has determined that the existing methodology—which was adopted in 1989—is not workable, and that there have been errors in its implementation that need to be addressed to ensure that assessments for drainage services are fair and equitable for landowners within the District.

The process for reassessment is described in ORS 547.245. This statute requires the County Commissioners to appoint a board of three commissioners to assess benefits and damages, and estimate the cost of improvements within the District. (The secretary of the District's Board of Supervisors serves as an *ex officio* member of this board, and provides the information needed to make these determinations.) The process for selecting and notifying these commissioners is provided in ORS 547.215 and 547.220. The commissioners may not be landowners within the District,

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nor related to anyone owning land in the District. One commissioner must be a civil engineer and two must be "freeholders" residing in the state of Oregon. Selection of the commissioners is within the County Commissioners' discretion. In the event the County desires assistance in selecting qualified commissioners for this board, attached to this letter is a list of individuals recognized by the District to meet the required qualifications and to be knowledgeable about drainage district operations and/or rate-setting.

The commissioners must file their written report with the county clerk, who then provides notice of a hearing, as provided in ORS 547.245. Any interested person may file an exception to the commissioners' report, and the County Commissioners then adopt the report as presented or modified, and confirm it. Once confirmed, the report replaces the existing methodology.

A proposed resolution appointing a commission is attached for your convenience. If you have questions about this process, please contact me at (503) 598-7070. Otherwise, the reassessment process may be coordinated with Doug Ross or Bob Eaton at the District, (503) 281-5675.

Very truly yours,

JORDAN SCHRADER PC



Eileen G. Eakins

Enclosure

cc: Multnomah County Drainage District No. 1