



# MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: Oct. 2017)

## Board Clerk Use Only

**Meeting Date:** 12/21/17  
**Agenda Item #:** R.1  
**Est. Start Time:** 9:40 a.m.  
**Date Submitted:** 12/14/17

**Agenda Title:** Resolution Authorizing the Office of Sustainability to Submit Written Comments on Behalf of the Multnomah County Board Regarding the Department of Environmental Quality's Cleaner Air Oregon Draft Air-Quality Rules and Affirming the County's Commitment to Taking Local Action to Protect Air Quality.

**Requested Date:** 21 December 2017

**Time Needed:** 15 min

**Department/Division:** Office of Sustainability

**Contacts:** John Wasiutynski

**Phone:** 503-988-3193

**Email:** john.wasiutynski@multco.us

**Presenters:** John Wasiutynski (Director, Office of Sustainability), Jae Douglas (Environmental Health Director, Health Department)

## General Information:

### 1. What are you requesting from the Board?

The Board is asked to adopt a resolution authorizing the Office of Sustainability to submit written comments to the Department of Environmental Quality regarding draft rules that the agency has promulgated that would regulate the emission of air toxics from industrial stationary sources. The Board is asked to endorse those comments and give the comments the full weight of the Board's support, as well as to affirm the County's commitment to exploring regulation at the local level.

### 2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer(s) this action affects and how it impacts the results.

On April 6, 2016, Governor Brown directed the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to develop a health risk-based air toxics permitting program, known as Cleaner Air Oregon. This action was triggered by regulatory

gaps in current rules that allowed for significant localized health risks from industrial and commercial emissions, and the need for a systematic way to understand and reduce the risk that industrial and commercial air toxics pose to people who live, work or learn nearby in a practical, predictable and implementable manner.

DEQ has promulgated draft rules and has asked the public to provide comments on these rules no later than December 22, 2017. This resolution will authorize the Office of Sustainability to submit comments to DEQ regarding these rules, and will endorse those comments which have been included as part of this agenda placement request.

**3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).**

N/A

**4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.**

The Department of Environmental Quality and the agency's policy and rulemaking body, the Environmental Quality Commission, have the authority to regulate air quality. Air quality concerns, however, are important to Multnomah County residents and impact their health and wellbeing.

**5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.**

Multnomah County has conducted extensive public outreach and coordinate extensively with local government partners on the issue of air pollution from stationary industrial sources.

Notably, during the first half of the 2016 calendar year in coordination with the Oregon Health Authority, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Portland Public Schools, Multnomah County held three public forums focused on industrial air pollution. Hundreds of people who asked questions and gathered information from state and local officials attended each forum. These forums were critical in helping to draw attention to the need for regulatory reform that would prioritize public health in the State's air quality rules.

Multnomah County staff have also cultivated relationships with local government partners on the issues related to air quality. Throughout 2016 and 2017, Multnomah County has convened staff from the City of Portland, the City of Milwaukee, the City of Hillsboro, Washington County, Clackamas County and Metro to discuss industrial air toxic emissions and other sources of air quality impairment. These local government partners have continued to collaborate on a Multnomah County and City of Portland funded project to investigate the feasibility of various local air quality control strategies.

**Required Signature:**

**Elected Official/  
Department Director:**

**/s/ John Wasiutynski**

**Date:**

**12/14/17**