

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY

In the Matter of Adding the Columbia )  
River Estuary to the U.S. Environmental ) RESOLUTION  
Protection Agency's National Estuary Program ) 92-38

WHEREAS, the Columbia River Estuary is the recipient of 259,000 square miles of drainage from seven states and one Canadian province; and

WHEREAS, the discharge of water from the Columbia River reaches far out along the Northwest Coast and is the largest river along the west coasts of both North and South America; and

WHEREAS, known manifestations of water pollution in the Columbia River estuary include reproductive failure of bald eagles, mink and otter in the estuary from PCBs, DDT, DDE and DDD and possibly dioxin and mercury; and

WHEREAS, the American Fisheries Society has identified 73 stocks of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River basin at risk of extinction; and

WHEREAS, the total estuarine acreage in the Lower Columbia River was 156,190 acres in 1870 and is now less than 119,000 acres; and

WHEREAS, no one body is charged with ensuring that agencies work together to protect and restore Columbia River environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, the Lower Columbia River Bi-State Water Quality Program is limited to looking at water quality only; has no money allocated for public involvement or public education and has no mandate to solve problems; and

WHEREAS, the National Estuary Program is a voluntary program managed by a 'Management Conference' which includes representatives from local government, state, regional and federal agencies, industry, environmental groups and the general public to focus on creating management plans to reduce pollution and to protect and restore wetlands; and

WHEREAS, the National Estuary Program examines environmental impacts on fish, wildlife and people; and

WHEREAS, inclusion of the Columbia River in the NEP would enhance public involvement and public education; would have the staff, the objectivity and the interest in addressing how agencies could better work together, and with citizens, to solve the Columbia River's many environmental problems.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Columbia River Estuary is an estuary of national significance and should be nominated by Governor Barbara Roberts for inclusion in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's National Estuary Program.

ADOPTED this 19th day of March, 1992.

MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By Gladys McCoy  
Gladys McCoy, County Chair



By Laurence Kressel