

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 06-077

Authorizing Election to Receive **O&C Land** Related Safety-Net Payments Under P.L. 106-393

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. Congress enacted in 1937 and subsequently amended a law that requires that 75 percent of the revenues derived from revested Oregon and California Railroad grant lands (“O&C Lands”) be paid to counties in which the lands are situated, of which 50 percent has been available for use as general county funds.
- b. The sharing of revenues from the O&C Lands is, in part, a recognition that these lands are not subject to local taxation, and also that counties provide services that directly benefit the lands and the people who use the lands.
- c. The principal source of revenues from O&C Lands is from the sale and removal of timber, which has been sharply curtailed in recent years.
- d. The volume of timber sold annually from O&C Lands has declined precipitously, with a corresponding precipitous decline in revenues shared with counties.
- e. The United States Congress recognized a need to stabilize communities through predictable payments to the affected counties, job creation in those counties, and other opportunities associated with restoration, maintenance and stewardship of federal lands, and to achieve those goals enacted P.L. 106-393 in 2000.
- f. P.L. 106-393 provides for guaranteed minimum payments for the benefit of affected counties, as well as an opportunity to invest a portion of the guaranteed minimum payments in projects or activities on federal lands, or in county projects or activities.
- g. Title I, Section 103 of P.L. 106-393 gives each eligible county the right to elect to receive either its traditional share of revenues from the O&C Lands, or instead to receive the guaranteed minimum amount, also known as the “full payment amount.”
- h. The election to receive either the full payment amount, or instead, the traditional share of revenues, must be communicated to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.
- i. An election to receive the full payment amount is effective for all federal fiscal years through fiscal year 2006.

- j. Multnomah County is an eligible, affected county with the right to make an election pursuant to Title I, Section 103 of P.L. 106-393.
- k. Any county electing to receive the full payment amount must further elect to expend not less than 15 percent nor more than 20 percent of its full payment amount as project funds in accordance with Title I, Section 103(c)(1)(B) of P.L. 106-393.
- l. Title I, Section 103(c)(1)(B) of P.L. 106-393 requires that counties electing to receive the full payment amount must allocate its project funds for expenditure between projects in accordance with Title II of P.L. 106-393, projects in accordance with Title III of P.L. 106-393, and a return of the balance unspent under Title II and Title III to the General Treasury of the United States, and communicate such allocation to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.
- m. Title II of P.L. 106-393 provides for special projects on federal lands or that benefit resources on federal lands, which projects are nominated by local resource advisory committees ("RACs").
- n. RACs recommend projects for consideration by the Secretary of the Interior, with project funding supplied in whole or in part out of monies allocated for such purposes by participating counties.
- o. Counties that allocate funding to projects under Title II of P.L. 106-393, and are participants in more than one RAC, may further direct that their Title II project funds be divided between different RACs according to an allocation decided by each participating county, with such funds held in the General Treasury of the United States under the name of the county with the amount allocated to each RAC.
- p. Title III of P.L. 106-393 provides for county projects or services, some of which are associated with federal lands, with Title III authorizing expenditures for search, rescue and emergency services, staffing of community service work camps, the purchase of easements, forest related educational opportunities, fire prevention and planning, and community forestry pursuant to the Cooperative Forest Assistance Act of 1978.
- q. In 2001, Multnomah County elected to receive its full payment amount rather than electing to receive its traditional share of O&C Lands revenues, and that election is binding through federal fiscal year 2006:

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. Multnomah County hereby allocates 15 percent of its full payment amount for expenditure on projects under Title II and Title III of P.L. 106-393. Multnomah County will return none (zero percent) of its full payment amount to the General Treasury of the United States pursuant to Title I, Section 103(c)(1)(B)(iii).

2. Of the total amount allocated to Title II and Title III projects above in paragraph 1, hereinafter referred to as the "Project Funds," Multnomah County further allocates between such Titles for federal fiscal year 2006 (for expenditure after federal fiscal year 2006) on the following basis: \$17,000 of Project Funds for expenditure on Title II projects and the balance of the Project Funds for expenditure on Title III projects.
3. The original or a certified copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the Association of Oregon Counties, Mr. Rocky McVay, with instructions to reconvey the Resolution to the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior.

Adopted this 18th day of May, 2006.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By

Christopher Crean, Assistant County Attorney