

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

***RESOLUTION No. 99-75***

Affirming Decision to Discontinue Efforts to Purchase Radio Towers Site and to Explore Agreement with Port of Portland to Acquire Land for a Jail in Rivergate Industrial Area

***The Board of County Commissioners Finds:***

- a. The Board of County Commissioners (Board) authorized Sheriff Noelle to explore the feasibility of acquiring a site in the Rivergate Industrial Area for a 225-bed jail facility by resolution 98-147 adopted September 24, 1998.
- b. Based on a lawsuit, the Multnomah County Circuit Court found on April 8, 1999 that an issue of fact exists as to whether or not the plaintiffs to this suit received adequate public notice of the September 24, 1998 Board meeting - a possible violation of the County's public notice requirements.
- c. 72 hours public notice has been given to the list of interested parties maintained by the Sheriff's Office for the present resolution.
- d. The Board of County Commissioners (Board) authorized Sheriff Noelle to move forward with the purchase of land and obtaining the necessary permits to construct a new jail at the Radio Towers site by Resolution 97-173 adopted August 28, 1997.
- e. The anticipated costs to acquire and develop the Radio Towers site including the expense of wetland mitigation are significantly higher than other potential sites and may compromise the County's ability to meet all the goals of the 1996 public safety bond measure.
- f. A portion of this region's wetland area will be disturbed if jail construction takes place on the Radio Towers site.
- g. The ability of the County to obtain permits to fill the wetland at the Radio Towers site remains in doubt because of questions regarding the availability of alternative sites, the ultimate size of the facility and potential legal appeals.
- h. The Jail Siting Advisory Committee, a 15 member citizen advisory committee, recommended a site in the Rivergate Industrial area for the new jail as a first alternate to the Radio Towers site.
- i. The Port of Portland is now willing to explore making land available within the Rivergate Industrial area to Multnomah County for the new jail.

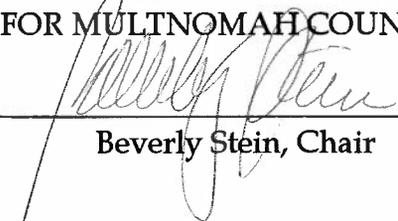
**The Board of County Commissioners Resolves:**

1. The County will immediately discontinue the pursuit of permits and land purchase for the Radio Towers land parcel.
2. The Board authorizes the Sheriff and the Chair to explore the feasibility of acquiring a site in Rivergate from the Port of Portland for a 225-bed jail facility in accordance with the 1996 public safety bond.
3. The size of the land parcel acquired should allow for possible expansion of the jail to offset the costs of development and infrastructure. Use of the site for replacement of existing facilities or new facilities will be determined by the comprehensive public safety plan to be developed by the Board with input from the Sheriff.
4. The Board authorizes the Sheriff to continue working with the team of experts who conducted the analysis of engineering, environmental, land-use and permitting issues at prior sites. This team shall conduct the site assessment incorporating the following elements: total project development costs including infrastructure and construction; environmental impacts (if any) and appropriate mitigation; neighborhood livability impacts (if any) with suggested remedies; and any land use permit criteria imposed by local jurisdictions. The team will issue a report to the Board within 60 days following the identification of the specific land parcel to be acquired.
5. If and when the Rivergate parcel is acquired by the County, the Sheriff, in consultation with the Chair, will nominate and the Board will approve a Citizens Working Group comprised of representatives of local neighborhood, business, environmental organizations and other interested citizens. The Working Group will advise the Sheriff and the Board on design, construction, and operational issues, including the need for a good neighbor agreement, as well as natural resource and transportation plans.

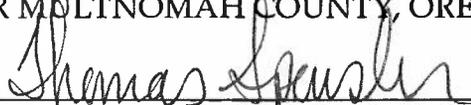
Adopted this 6th day of May, 1999.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

  
Beverly Stein, Chair

REVIEWED:  
THOMAS SPONSLER, COUNTY COUNSEL  
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By   
Thomas Sponsler, County Counsel