



AGENDA COVER MEMO

Memorandum Date: June 6, 2024

Order Date: June 25, 2024

TO: Board of County Commissioners

DEPARTMENT: Public Works

PRESENTED BY: Dan Hurley, Public Works Director

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: ORDER/ In the Matter of Approving the Housing and Urban Development Environmental Assessment for the Willamalane Park and Recreation District's Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project

I. MOTION:

To authorize Chair Trieger to act on behalf of the Board as the Certifying Officer to approve the Housing and Urban Development Environmental Assessment for the Willamalane Park and Recreation District's Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project.

II. AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

On or about August 15, 2024, Lane County will authorize Willamalane Park and Recreation District (Willamalane) to submit a request to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of congressionally directed spending funds under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, (P.L. 117-328) to undertake a project known as Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project located at 205 Dorris St, Springfield Oregon 97477.

Dorris Ranch is a beloved outdoor recreational destination and a National Historic Preservation site in Oregon. As the state's first commercial filbert orchard, it holds immense cultural and historical significance. Unfortunately, the spread of Eastern Filbert Blight has jeopardized the orchard's sustainability. This project aims to replant approximately 6,000 filbert trees that have been affected by this destructive fungal infection. By replacing the infected trees with blight-resistant varieties, Willamalane intends to protect the historic park, minimize the need for chemical treatment, and positively impact the surrounding ecosystem.

Willamalane received federal funding from HUD for this project which necessitates compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act requirement for an Environmental Assessment (EA).

The Environmental Assessment (EA) is complete and Lane County serves as the Responsible Entity tasked with submitting the EA with HUD. HUD requires completion of Form 7015.15 and signature from a Chief Certifying Officer who is the Chief Elected Official for the jurisdiction. We request the BCC authorize Chair Trieger to be the Chief Certifying Officer.

III. BACKGROUND/IMPLICATIONS OF ACTION

A. Board Action and Other History

No previous board action has been taken.

B. Policy Issues

There are no policy issues.

C. Board Goals

This relates to Strategic Goal #2, Invest in Lane County residents by fostering engaged communities with affordable housing options, equitable opportunities, economic vitality and a healthy environment.

D. Health Implications

There are no health implications.

E. Alternatives/Options

1. Approve of Authorizing Chair Trieger to act on behalf of the Board as the Certifying Officer to approve the Willamalane Park and Recreation District's Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project.
2. Do not approve of authorizing Chair Trieger to be the Certifying Officer.

IV. RECOMMENDATION

County Administration Policy Division recommends Option #1—Authorizing Chair Trieger to act on behalf of the Board as the Certifying Official and sign the Request for Release of Funds and Certification HUD form.

V. ATTACHMENTS

Board Order

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Request for Release of Funds and Certification Form 7015.15.

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LANE COUNTY, OREGON

ORDER NO: 24-06-25-11

In the Matter of Approving the Housing and Urban Development Environmental Assessment for the Willamalane Park and Recreation District's Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project

WHEREAS, Dorris Ranch is a beloved outdoor recreation destination within the Willamalane Park and Recreation District; and

WHEREAS, Dorris Ranch holds immense cultural and historical significance as the state's first commercial filbert orchard and as a National Historic Preservation site; and

WHEREAS, the spread of Eastern Filbert Blight has jeopardized the orchard's sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Willamalane Park and Recreation District intends to protect the historic park, minimize the need for chemical treatment, and positively impact the surrounding ecosystem by removing approximately 6,000 filbert trees that have been affected by this destructive fungal infection and replacing the infected trees with blight-resistant varieties; and

WHEREAS, Willamalane Park and Recreation District has secured federal funding for this project from Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which necessitates compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act requirements; and

WHEREAS, Lane County is supporting Willamalane Park and Recreation District with this project, acting as the Responsible Entity to certify compliance with National Environmental Policy Act requirements; and

WHEREAS, on or about August 15, 2024, Lane County will authorize Willamalane Park and Recreation District to submit a request to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of congressionally directed spending funds under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, (P.L. 117-328) to undertake a project known as Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project located at 205 Dorris Street, Springfield OR 97477; and

WHEREAS, a Certifying Officer must sign on behalf of the Responsible Entity.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of County Commissioners of Lane County **ORDERS** as follows:

Chair Trieger to Act on Behalf of the Board as the Certifying Officer to Approve the Housing and Urban Development Environmental Assessment for the Willamalane Park and Recreation District's Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project.

ADOPTED this 25th day of June, 2024.

Laurie Trieger, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners

This form is to be used by Responsible Entities and Recipients (as defined in 24 CFR 58.2) when requesting the release of funds, and requesting the authority to use such funds, for HUD programs identified by statutes that provide for the assumption of the environmental review responsibility by units of general local government and States. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 36 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. This agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless that collection displays a valid OMB control number.

Part 1. Program Description and Request for Release of Funds (to be completed by Responsible Entity)		
1. Program Title(s) Community Project Funding	2. HUD/State Identification Number B-22-CP-OR-0753	3. Recipient Identification Number (optional)
4. OMB Catalog Number(s) Assistance Listing Number (formerly OMB Catalog Number)	5. Name and address of responsible entity Lane County 125 E 8th Avenue Eugene OR 97401	
6. For information about this request, contact (name & phone number) Robert Woodard 541-682-6971	7. Name and address of recipient (if different than responsible entity) Willamalane Park and Recreation District 250 S 32nd St Springfield OR 97477-6302	
8. HUD or State Agency and office unit to receive request Director, Office of Community Planning & Development Edith Green-Wendell Wyatt Federal Building		

The recipient(s) of assistance under the program(s) listed above requests the release of funds and removal of environmental grant conditions governing the use of the assistance for the following

9. Program Activity(ies)/Project Name(s) Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project	10. Location (Street address, city, county, State) 205 Dorris Street Springfield OR 97477
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11. Program Activity/Project Description

On or about August 15, 2024, Lane County will authorize Willamalane Park and Recreation District (Willamalane) to submit a request to Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of congressionally directed spending funds under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, (P.L. 117-328) to undertake a project known as Dorris Ranch Orchard Replacement Project located at 205 Dorris St, Springfield Oregon 97477. Dorris Ranch is a beloved outdoor recreational destination and a National Historic Preservation site in Oregon. As the state's first commercial filbert orchard, it holds immense cultural and historical significance. Unfortunately, the spread of Eastern Filbert Blight has jeopardized the orchard's sustainability. This project aims to replant approximately 6,000 filbert trees that have been affected by this destructive fungal infection. By replacing the infected trees with blight-resistant varieties, Willamalane intends to protect the historic park, minimize the need for chemical treatment, and positively impact the surrounding ecosystem.

Part 2. Environmental Certification (to be completed by responsible entity)

With reference to the above Program Activity(ies)/Project(s), I, the undersigned officer of the responsible entity, certify that:

1. The responsible entity has fully carried out its responsibilities for environmental review, decision-making and action pertaining to the project(s) named above.
2. The responsible entity has assumed responsibility for and complied with and will continue to comply with, the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the environmental procedures, permit requirements and statutory obligations of the laws cited in 24 CFR 58.5; and also agrees to comply with the authorities in 24 CFR 58.6 and applicable State and local laws.
3. After considering the type and degree of environmental effects identified by the environmental review completed for the proposed project described in Part 1 of this request, I have found that the proposal ☐ did ☒ did not require the preparation and dissemination of an environmental impact statement.
4. The responsible entity has disseminated and/or published in the manner prescribed by 24 CFR 58.43 and 58.55 a notice to the public in accordance with 24 CFR 58.70 and as evidenced by the attached copy (copies) or evidence of posting and mailing procedure.
5. The dates for all statutory and regulatory time periods for review, comment or other action are in compliance with procedures and requirements of 24 CFR Part 58.
6. In accordance with 24 CFR 58.71(b), the responsible entity will advise the recipient (if different from the responsible entity) of any special environmental conditions that must be adhered to in carrying out the project.

As the duly designated certifying official of the responsible entity, I also certify that:

7. I am authorized to and do consent to assume the status of Federal official under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and each provision of law designated in the 24 CFR 58.5 list of NEPA-related authorities insofar as the provisions of these laws apply to the HUD responsibilities for environmental review, decision-making and action that have been assumed by the responsible entity.
8. I am authorized to and do accept, on behalf of the recipient personally, the jurisdiction of the Federal courts for the enforcement of all these responsibilities, in my capacity as certifying officer of the responsible entity.

Signature of Certifying Officer of the Responsible Entity

Title of Certifying Officer

Lane County Board of Commissioners, Chair

Date signed

X

Address of Certifying Officer
125 E 8th Avenue
Eugene OR 97401

Part 3. To be completed when the Recipient is not the Responsible Entity

The recipient requests the release of funds for the programs and activities identified in Part 1 and agrees to abide by the special conditions, procedures and requirements of the environmental review and to advise the responsible entity of any proposed change in the scope of the project or any change in environmental conditions in accordance with 24 CFR 58.71(b).

Signature of Authorized Officer of the Recipient

Title of Authorized Officer

Willamalane Park and Recreation District
Director, Eric Adams

Date signed

X

Warning: HUD will prosecute false claims and statements. Conviction may result in criminal and/or civil penalties. (18 U.S.C. 1001, 1010, 1012; 31 U.S.C. 3729, 3802)