

OVERALL FINDINGS FOR DESIGNATION OF URBAN AND RURAL RESERVES

APRIL 21, 2011

Note: The attached overall findings have been prepared by Metro staff, and are being adopted by Clackamas County along a separate document containing Clackamas County's specific findings on reserves designations in Clackamas County. The running footer and page numbering in this document are for the convenience of Clackamas County and may be changed upon submission to LCDC. Blank record citations may be added later

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Exhibit B to Ordinance No. 11-1255

REASONS FOR DESIGNATION OF URBAN AND RURAL RESERVES

I. BACKGROUND

The 2007 Oregon Legislature authorized Metro and Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties (“partner governments”) to designate urban reserves and rural reserves following the process set forth in ORS 195.137 – 195.145 (Senate Bill 1011) and implementing rules adopted by the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) (OAR 660 Division 27). The Legislature enacted the new authority in response to a call by local governments in the region to improve the methods available to them for managing growth. After the experience of adding over 20,000 acres to the regional urban growth boundary (UGB) following the soil-capability-based priority of lands in ORS 197.298, cities and the partner governments wanted to place more emphasis on the suitability of lands for sustainable urban development, longer-term security for agriculture and forestry outside the UGB, and respect for the natural landscape features that define the region.

The new statute and rules make agreements among the partner governments a prerequisite for designation of urban and rural reserves. The remarkable cooperation among the local governments of the region that led to passage of Senate Bill 1011 and adoption of LCDC rules continued through the process of designation of urban reserves by Metro and rural reserves by Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties. The partners’ four ordinances are based upon the separate, formal intergovernmental agreements between Metro and each county that are part of our record, developed simultaneously following long study of potential reserves and thorough involvement by the public.

The four governments submitted their ordinances with designated reserves to LCDC in periodic review on June 23, 2010. On October 29, 2010, the Commission gave its oral approval to the reserves designated in Clackamas and Multnomah Counties and to the rural reserves and most of the urban reserves in Washington County. The Commission, however, rejected the designation of Urban Reserve 7I, north of Cornelius, and directed reconsideration of Urban Reserve 7B, north of Forest Grove. The Commission authorized Metro and Washington County to consider designating as urban reserve, or leaving undesignated, land the County had previously designated rural reserve or left undesignated. In order to provide flexibility, the Commission also returned the rural reserves in Washington County for further consideration.

Washington County and Metro responded to LCDC's oral decision by revising the intergovernmental agreement between them and adopting ordinances amending their respective comprehensive plan and regional framework plan maps (Washington County Ordinance No. 740; Metro Ordinance No. 11-1255). The ordinances made the following changes:

- The designation of Area 7I as urban reserve (623 acres) was removed
- 263 acres of Area 7I were designated rural reserves
- 360 acres of Area 7I were left undesignated
- The urban reserve designation of the 28-acre portion of Area 7B that lies east and north of Council Creek was removed; the portion was left undesignated
- 352 acres of undesignated land north of Highway 26, south of West Union Road, east of Groveland Road and west of Helvetia Road were designated urban reserve
- The rural reserve designation of 383 acres of Rural Reserve 6E south of Rosedale Road, west of 209th Avenue and north of Farmington Road was removed; the portion was left undesignated.

Metro Supp Rec. __ (SR 2).

These revisions reduced the acres of urban reserves in Washington County by 299 acres, reduced the acres of rural reserves by 120 acres and increased the acres adjacent to the UGB left undesignated by 391 acres, all compared with the reserves submitted to LCDC in June, 2010. Overall, there are 13,525 acres of urban reserves and 151,209 acres of rural reserves in Washington County, in part reflecting refinements of boundaries as they relate to street rights-of-way, floodplains and improved tax lot alignments. Metro Supp Rec. __ (SR 3).

II. OVERALL CONCLUSIONS

With adoption of Metro Ordinance No. 11-1255, Metro has designated 28,256 gross acres as urban reserves, including urban reserves in each county. Metro Supp Rec. __ (SR 3). These lands are now first priority for addition to the region's UGB when the region needs housing or employment capacity. As indicated in new policy in Metro's Regional Framework Plan in Exhibit A to Ordinance No. 10-1238A, the urban reserves are intended to accommodate population and employment growth for 50 years, to year 2060.

Clackamas County Ordinance No. ZDO-233 designates 68,713 acres as rural reserves in Clackamas County. Multnomah County Ordinance No. 2010-1161 designates 46,706 acres as rural reserves in Multnomah County. Washington County Ordinance No. 740, which revised the county's designation of rural reserves following LCDC's remand of urban and rural reserves in the county, designates 151,209 acres of rural reserves. Metro Supp Rec. __ (SR 2). As indicated in new policies in the Regional Framework Plan and

the counties' Comprehensive Plans, these rural reserves – 266,628 acres in total - are now protected from urbanization for 50 years. Metro Supp. Rec.____(SR 2). The governments of the region have struggled with the urban-farm/forest interface, always searching for a “hard edge” to give farmers and foresters some certainty to encourage investment in their businesses. No road, stream or floodplain under the old way of expanding the UGB offers the long-term certainty of the edge of a rural reserve with at least a 50-year lifespan. This certainty is among the reasons the four governments chose the longer, 50-year, reserves period.

The region's governments have also debated how best to protect important natural landscape features at the edges of the urban area. The partners' agreements and these ordinances now identify the features that will define the extent of outward urban expansion.

The region's urban and rural reserves are fully integrated into Metro's Regional Framework Plan and the Comprehensive Plans of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. Metro's plan includes a map that shows urban and rural reserves in all three counties. Each of the county plans includes a map that shows urban and rural reserves in the county. The reserves shown on each county map are identical to the reserves shown in that county on the Metro map. Each of the four plans contains new policies that ensure accomplishment of the goals for the reserves set by the four local governments and by state law. These new policies are consistent with, and carry out, the intergovernmental agreements between Metro and the three counties signed in February, 2010, and the supplemental agreement between Metro and Washington County signed on March 15, 2011. Metro Supp. Rec.____.

Together, these reserves signal the region's long-term limits of urbanization, its commitment to stewardship of farmland and forests, and its respect for the natural landscape features that give the people of the region their sense of place. Urban reserves, if and when added to the UGB, will take some land from the farm and forest land base. But the partners understood from the beginning that some of the very same characteristics that make an area suitable for agriculture also make it suitable for industrial uses and compact, mixed-use, pedestrian and transit-supportive urban development. The most difficult decisions made by the four governments involved Foundation Agricultural Land¹ near the existing UGB and the circumstances in which this land should be designated as urban reserve to accommodate growth in a compact form and provide opportunities for industrial development, difficult or impossible on steep slopes. Metro designated 15

¹ Those lands mapped as Foundation Agricultural Land in the January, 2007, Oregon Department of Agriculture report to Metro entitled “Identification and Assessment of the Long-Term Commercial Viability of Metro Region Agricultural Lands.

areas composed predominantly of Foundation Land as urban reserve, totaling 11,551 acres.²

Some important numbers help explain why the partners came to agree that the adopted system, in its entirety, best achieves this balance. Of the total 28,256 acres designated urban reserves, approximately 13,624 acres are Foundation (11,551 acres) or Important (2,073 acres) Agricultural Land. This represents only four percent of the Foundation and Important Agricultural Land studied for possible urban or rural reserve designation. If all of this land is added to the UGB over the next 50 years, the region will have lost four percent of the farmland base in the three-county area. Metro Supp.Rec.__(SR 3; Att. 3).

There is a second vantage point from which to assess the significance for agriculture of the designation of urban reserves in the three-county region: the percentage of land zoned for exclusive farm use in the three counties that is designated urban reserve. Land zoned EFU³ has emerged over 35 years of statewide planning as the principal land base for agriculture in the counties, and is protected for that purpose by county zoning. The inventory of Foundation and Important Agricultural Lands includes land that is “exception land”, no longer protected for agriculture for farming. Of the 28,256 acres designated urban reserves, some 13,746 acres are zoned EFU. Even including the 3,532 acres of these EFU lands that are classified by ODA as “conflicted”, these 13,746 acres represent slightly more than five percent of all land zoned EFU (266,372 acres) in the three counties. If the “conflicted” acres are removed from consideration, the percentage drops to less than four percent. Metro Supp.Rec.__(SR 3; Att 3).

A third vantage point adds perspective. During an approximately 30-year period leading to establishment of the statewide planning program and continuing through the acknowledgement and early implementation of county comprehensive plans, the three counties lost more than 150,000 acres of farmland. Metro Supp. Rec. _(SR 3; Att 3). By contrast, if all the zoned farmland that is designated urban reserve is ultimately urbanized, the regional will have lost only 13,746 acres over 50 years.

If the region’s effort to contain urban development within the existing UGB and these urban reserves for the next 50 years is successful, the UGB will have accommodated an estimated 74 percent increase in population on an 11-percent increase in the area within the UGB. No other region in the nation can demonstrate this growth management success. Most of the borders of urban reserves are defined by a 50-year “hard edge” of 266,628 acres designated rural reserves, nearly all of which lies within five miles of the

² 1C (East of Gresham, portion); 1F (Boring); 5A (Sherwood North); 5B (Sherwood West); 6A (Hillsboro South, portion); 6B (Cooper Mt. Southwest); 6C (Roy Rogers West); 6D (Beef Bend South); 7B (Forest Grove North); 7C (Cornelius East); 7D (Cornelius South); 7E (Forest Grove South); 8A (Hillsboro North); 8B (Shute Road Interchange and new Area D); 8C (Bethany West)

³ Includes all farm zones acknowledged to comply with statewide planning Goal 3, including Washington County’s AF-20 zone.

existing UGB. Of these rural reserves, approximately 248,796 acres are Foundation or Important Agricultural Land. Metro Supp. Rec.____ (SR 3; Att 3). .

Why did the region designate *any* Foundation Agricultural Land as urban reserve? The explanation lies in the geography and topography of the region, the growing cost of urban services and the declining sources of revenues to pay for them, and the fundamental relationships among geography and topography and the cost of services. The region aspires to build “great communities.” Great communities are those that offer residents a range of housing types and transportation modes from which to choose. Experience shows that compact, mixed-use communities with fully integrated street, pedestrian, bicycle and transit systems offer the best range of housing and transportation choices. *State of the Centers: Investing in Our Communities*, January, 2009. Metro Rec.181-288. The urban reserves factors in the reserves rules derive from work done by the region to identify the characteristics of great communities. Urban reserve factors (1), (3), (4), and (6)⁴ especially aim at lands that can be developed in a compact, mixed-use, walkable and transit-supportive pattern, supported by efficient and cost-effective services. Cost of services studies tell us that the best landscape, both natural and political, for compact, mixed-use communities is relatively flat, undeveloped land. *Core 4 Technical Team Preliminary Analysis Reports for Water, Sewer and Transportation*, Metro Rec. 1163-1187; *Regional Infrastructure Analysis*, Metro Rec. 440-481.

The region also aspires to provide family-wage jobs to its residents. Urban reserve factor (2) directs attention to capacity for a healthy economy.⁵ Certain industries the region wants to attract prefer large parcels of flat land. Staff Report, June 9, 2010, Metro Rec. 172-178. Water, sewer and transportation costs rise as slope increases. *Core 4 Technical Team Preliminary Analysis Reports for Water, Sewer and Transportation*, Metro Rec. 1163-1187; *Regional Infrastructure Analysis*, Metro Rec. 440-481. Converting existing low-density rural residential development into compact, mixed-use communities through infill and re-development is not only very expensive, it is politically difficult. Metro Rec. 289-300.

Mapping of slopes, parcel sizes, and Foundation Agricultural Land revealed that most flat land in large parcels without a rural settlement pattern at the perimeter of the UGB lies in Washington County, immediately adjacent to Hillsboro, Cornelius, Forest Grove, Beaverton, and Sherwood. These same lands provide the most readily available supply of large lots for industrial development. *Business Coalition Constrained Land for Development and Employment Map*, Metro Rec. 301; 1105-1110. Almost all of it is

⁴ (1) Can be developed at urban densities in a way that makes efficient use of existing and future public and private infrastructure investments;
(3) Can be efficiently and cost-effectively service with public schools and other urban-level public facilities and services by appropriate and financially capable providers;
(4) Can be designed to be walkable and service with a well-connected system of streets, bikeways, recreation trails and public transit by appropriate services providers;
(6) Includes sufficient land suitable for a range of needed housing types.

⁵ (2) Includes sufficient development capacity to support a healthy economy.

Foundation Agricultural Land. Metro Supp. Rec. (SR 3). Had the region been looking only for the best land to build great communities, nearly all the urban reserves would have been around these cities. It is no coincidence that these cities told the reserves partners that they want significant urban reserves available to them, while most other cities told the partners they want little or no urban reserves. *Washington County Cities' Pre-Qualified Concept Plans*, WashCo Rec. 3036-3578. These facts help explain why there is more Foundation Agricultural Land designated urban reserve in Washington County than in Clackamas or Multnomah counties. Had Metro not designated some Foundation Land as urban reserve in Washington County, it would not have been possible for the region to achieve the “livable communities” purpose of reserves in LCDC rules [OAR 660-027-0005(2)].

Several urban reserves factors focus on the efficient, cost-effective installation, operation and maintenance of public services to urban reserves once they are included within the UGB.⁶ Urban reserve factor (6) calls for land suitable for needed housing types. The partners began the analysis by examining lands within five miles of the UGB. Most of these lands initially studied are beyond the affordable reach of urban services. As noted above, water, sewer and transportation costs rise as slope increases. *Core 4 Technical Team Preliminary Analysis Reports for Water, Sewer and Transportation*, Metro Rec. 1163-1187; *Regional Infrastructure Analysis*, Metro Rec. 440-481. Not only does most of the Important Agricultural Land and the Conflicted Agricultural Land within five miles of the UGB exhibit steeper slopes than the Foundation Land close to the UGB; these non-Foundation Lands also exhibit rural residential development patterns on smaller parcels (“exception lands”). Metro Supp. Rec.__(SR 3; Att 5); WashCo Rec. 1891-1894; 2905. With one exception (small portion of Urban Reserve 1F), designated urban reserves lie within two miles of the UGB. Metro Supp. Rec.__(SR, Att 4).

Despite these geopolitical and cost-of-services realities, the reserves partners designated extensive urban reserves that are *not* Foundation Agricultural Lands in order to meet the farm and forest land objectives of reserves, knowing these lands will be more difficult and expensive to urbanize. The following urban reserves are principally Conflicted and Important Agricultural Land:

- Urban Reserve 1D east of Damascus and south of Gresham (2,716 acres), ClackCo Rec. 1723;
- Urban Reserve 2A south of Damascus (1,239 acres), ClackCo Rec. 1722;
- Urban Reserves 3B, C, D, F and G around Oregon City (2,232 acres), ClackCo Rec. 1718-1720;
- Urban reserves 4A, B and C in the Stafford area (4,699 acres), ClackCo Rec. 1716;
- Urban reserves 4D, E, F, G and H southeast of Tualatin and east of Wilsonville (3,589 acres), ClackCo Rec.__;

⁶ Urban Reserve factprs (1) (efficient use of public infrastructure); (3) (efficient and cost-effective public services); (4) (walkable, bikable and transit-supportive).

- Urban Reserve 5F between Tualatin and Sherwood (572 acres); WashCo Rec. 3517; 2998;
- Urban Reserve 5G west of Wilsonville (203 acres) ClackCo Rec. 711-712; and
- Urban Reserve 5D south of Sherwood (447 acres), WashCo Rec. 3481; 2998.

These non-Foundation Lands designated urban reserve, which total approximately 15,700 acres, (55 percent of all lands designated urban reserve), are the most serviceable among the non-Foundation Lands within the initial study area. Metro Supp Rec. __ (SR, Att 3); WashCo Re. 3006-3010; 3015.

Many areas of Important and Conflicted Agricultural Lands were not designated urban reserve in part because the presence of steep slopes, bluffs, floodplains, streams and habitat, limiting their suitability or appropriateness for urbanization:

- Rural Reserve 1B (West of Sandy River): the Sandy River Canyon and the county's scenic river overlay zone. MultCo Rec. 2961-2965; 2973-2985;
- Rural Reserve 2B (East Clackamas County): steep bluffs above the Clackamas River. ClackCo Rec. 560-563; 568-571;
- Rural Reserve 3E (East of Oregon City): steep slopes along Abernethy, Clear and Newell Creeks. ClackCo Rec. 748-755;
- Rural Reserve 3H (South of Oregon City): steep slopes drop to Beaver and Parrot Creeks. ClackCo. Rec. 557; 1718;
- Rural Reserve 4I (Pete's Mtn.): steep slopes. ClackCo Rec. 741-743;
- Rural Reserve 5C (East Chehalem Mtns): steep slopes and floodplain of Tualatin River; WashCo Rec. 2998-3027;
- Rural Reserve 5I (Ladd Hill): steep slopes and creek traverses. ClackCo. Rec. 592-595;
- Rural Reserve 6E (Central Chehalem Mtns.): steep slopes and floodplain of Tualatin River. WashCo Rec. 2998-3027;
- Rural Reserve 7G (West Chehalem Mtns.): steep slopes and floodplain of Tualatin River. WashCo Rec. 2997; 3006-3010; 3027;
- Rural Reserve 7H (West Fork of Dairy Creek); steep slopes on David Hill. WashCo. Rec. 3013; 3029; 3107;
- Rural Reserves 9A-9C (Powerlines/Germantown Road-South): steep slopes, many stream headwaters and courses. MultCo. Rec. 11; 329-330; 3004-3015;
- Rural Reserve 9D (West Hills South): steep slopes, many stream headwaters and courses. MultCo Rec. 2993-3033.

Metro Supp Rec. __ (SR, Att 4).

Urban reserve factors (5), (7) and (8)⁷ seek to direct urban development away from important natural landscape features and other natural resources. Much of the Important

⁷ (5) Can be designed to preserve and enhance natural ecological systems;

(7) Can be developed in a way that preserves important natural landscape features included in urban reserves;

and some Conflicted Agricultural Lands are separated from the UGB by, or include, important natural landscape features or rural reserves on Foundation or Important Agricultural Land:

- Rural Reserve 1B (West of Sandy River): the Sandy River Canyon (Wild and Scenic River). MultCo Rec. 2961-2965; 2973-2985;
- Rural Reserve 2B (East Clackamas County): Clackamas River and canyons of Deep, Clear and Newell Creeks. ClackCo. Rec. 1722;
- Rural Reserve 3E (East of Oregon City): Willamette River and canyons of Abernethy, Clear and Newell Creeks. ClackCo Rec. 560-563;
- Rural Reserve 3H (South of Oregon City): Willamette Narrows, Canemah Bluffs and canyons of Beaver and Parrot Creeks. ClackCo. Rec. 553-554;
- Rural Reserve 4I (Pete’s Mtn.): Willamette Narrows on eastern edge. ClackCo. Rec. 596;
- Rural Reserve 5C (East Chehalem Mtns): Chehalem Mtns., floodplain of Tualatin River and Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. WashCo Rec. 2988-3027; 9677-9679;
- Rural Reserve 5I (Ladd Hill): Parrett Mtn., Willamette River, Tonquin Geological Area. ClackCo. Rec. 592-595;
- Rural Reserve 6E (Central Chehalem Mtns.): Chehalem Mtns., floodplain of Tualatin River. WashCo Rec. 2998-3027;
- Rural Reserve 7G (West Chehalem Mtns.): Chehalem Mtns., floodplain of Tualatin River. WashCo Rec. 3029; 3095; 3103;
- Rural Reserves 9A-9C (Powerlines/Germantown Road-South): steep slopes (Tualatin Mountains), stream headwaters (Abbey Creek and Rock Creek) and courses. MultCo. Rec. 11; 329-330; 3004-3015; 3224-3225; 3250-3253; 9322-9323;
- Rural Reserve 9D (West Hills South): steep slopes, many stream headwaters (Abbey Creek and Rock Creek) and courses. MultCo Rec. 2993-3033.

Metro Supp. Rec. (SR 4-5; Att 10).

Third, much of the Important and Conflicted Agricultural Lands rates lower against the urban reserves factors in comparison to areas designated urban reserve, or remain undesignated for possible designation as urban reserve if the region’s population forecast proves too low:⁸

- Clackamas Heights, ClackCo Rec. 1721;

(8) Can be designed to avoid or minimize adverse effects on farm and forest practices, and adverse effects on important natural landscape features, on nearby land including land designated as rural reserves.

⁸ “Retaining the existing planning and zoning for rural lands (and not applying a rural or an urban reserves designation) is appropriate for lands that are unlikely to be needed over the next 40 years, or (conversely) that are not subject to a threat of urbanization.” Letter from nine state agencies to the Metro Regional Reserves Steering Committee, October 14, 2009, page 15.

- East Wilsonville, ClackCo Rec. 1715;
- West Wilsonville, ClackCo Rec. 1713;
- Southeast of Oregon City, ClackCo Rec. 1719;
- Southwest of Borland Road, ClackCo Rec. ___;
- Between Wilsonville and Sherwood, ClackCo Rec. ___;
- Powerline/Germantown Road-South, MultCo Rec. 2909-2910.

Lastly, some of the Important and Conflicted Agricultural Lands lie adjacent to cities in the region that have their own UGBs and want their own opportunities to expand over time:

- Estacada
- Sandy

The partners also considered the rural reserve factors when considering whether to designate Foundation Agricultural Land as urban reserve. The first set of rural reserve factors focuses on the suitability and capability of land for agriculture and forestry. The factors in this set that address agricultural suitability and capability derive from the January, 2007, Oregon Department of Agriculture report to Metro entitled “Identification and Assessment of the Long-Term Commercial Viability of Metro Region Agricultural Lands.” All of the Foundation Lands designated urban reserve are potentially subject to urbanization [rural factor (2)(a)] due to their proximity to the UGB and suitability for urbanization, as described above. See, e.g., WashCo Rec. 2984-2985; 2971-2972; 3013-3014. All of the Foundation Lands designated urban reserve are also capable of sustaining long-term agricultural or forest operations [factor (2)(b)]. WashCo rec. 2972-2973; 2985; 3015. Similarly, all of the Foundation Lands designated urban reserve have soils and access to water that render them suitable [factor (2)(c)] to sustain agriculture. See, e.g., WashCo Rec. 2972-2975; 2985; 2998; 3016-3018. These lands also lie in large blocks of agricultural land and have parcelization, tenure and ownership patterns and agricultural infrastructure that make them suitable for agriculture. WashCo Rec. 2975; 2985; 3019-3024; 3027. The identification of these lands as Foundation Agricultural Land by the Oregon Department of [Agriculture is a reliable general source of information to support these findings](#) See also WashCo Rec. 2976-2983; 3019-3025.

Notwithstanding these traits that make these lands suitable for agriculture and forestry, some of the urban reserves on Foundation Land rate lower on the rural reserve factors than Foundation Land *not* designated urban reserve. WashCo Rec. 2978; 3025. Urban Reserves 6A (portion), 6B, 6C,6D, 5A, 5B and 1F lie within Oregon Water Resources Department-designated Critical or Limited Groundwater Areas and have less ready access to water [factor (2)(c)]. WashCo Rec. 2294-2302; 2340; 2978-2979; 3019-3023; 3025; 3058-3061; 3288; 3489-3490. Metro Supp. Rec. _(SR 3-4; Att7). Urban Reserves 8A, 8B, 8D, 6A (portion), 6B, 6D (portion), 5A, 5B, 1C and 1D are not within or served by an irrigation district. Metro Supp. Rec. _(SR 3; Att 6). WashCo Rec. 2340; 3019-3023; 3025 Urban Reserve 6A contains the Reserves Vineyards Golf Course. Metro Supp. Rec. _(SR 3).

The second set of rural reserve factors focuses on natural landscape features. All of the Foundation Lands designated urban reserve are potentially subject to urbanization [factor (3)(a)] due to their proximity to the UGB and their suitability for urbanization, as described above. The identification of these lands as Foundation Agricultural Land by the Oregon Department of Agriculture is a reliable general source of information to support this finding. Because urban reserves are intended for long-term urbanization, the partners were careful to exclude from urban reserves large tracts of land constrained by natural disasters or hazards incompatible with urban development. Metro Rec. 301; 1105-1110; WashCo Rec. 2986. Small portions of these urban reserves are vulnerable to hazards, but city land use regulations will limit urban development on steep slopes, in floodplains and areas of landslides once the lands are added to the UGB. Metro Supp. Rec. (SR, Att 10); WashCo Rec. 2986.

Little of these Foundation Lands are mapped as significant fish, plant or wildlife habitat [factor (3)(c)], the mapping of which is largely subsumed on the landscape features map. For the same reasons, little of these lands are riparian areas or wetlands. As with all lands, these lands are important for protection of water quality. But the lands are subject to local, regional, state and federal water quality regulations. See, e.g., WashCo Rec.2986-2987.

There are several inventoried natural landscape features [factor (3)(e)] within the Foundation Lands designated urban reserve. Rock Creek flows through a portion of Urban Reserve 8C (Bethany West). The IGA between Washington County and Metro included a provision to limit development on approximately 115 acres of constrained land within the portion of the watershed in 8C, through application of the county's Rural/Natural Resources Plan Policy 29 and Clean Water Services programs developed to comply with Title 13 (Nature in Neighborhoods) of Metro's Urban Growth Management Functional Plan. Metro Rec.(SR, Att 10). Urban Reserve 6B includes portions of the slopes of Cooper Mountain. Metro's Cooper Mountain Nature Park lies within this area and protects much of the mountain's slopes. Metro Supp. Rec. (SR, Att 10). Urban Reserve 6D includes a segment of Tualatin River floodplain. King City will apply its floodplains ordinance to limit development there. WashCo. Rec. 3462-3463; Metro Supp. Rec. (SR, Att 10). There are such inventoried natural landscape features at the edges of Urban Reserves 6A (South Hillsboro, Tualatin River), 6C (Roy Rogers West, Tualatin River), 6D (Beef Bend, Tualatin River), 7C (Cornelius East, Dairy Creek), 7D (Cornelius South, Tualatin River), 7E (Forest Grove South, Tualatin River and Lower Gales Creek) and 8A (Hillsboro North, McKay Creek); Metro Supp. Rec. (SR, Att 10). These features serve as edges to limit the long-term extent of urbanization and reduce conflicts with rural uses [factor (3)(f)] .

Urban Reserves 1F, 8A and 8D (new Area D) lessen the separation [factor (3)(g)] between the Metro urban area and the cities of Sandy and North Plains, respectively. But significant separation remains (Sandy: approximately 9,000 feet; North Plains: approximately 2,000 feet). Metro Supp. Rec. (SR, Att 2); WashCo Rec. 2987. Finally, because private farms and woodlots comprise most of these Foundation Lands, they do

not provide easy access to recreational opportunities as compared to Important and Conflicted Lands.

As indicated above and in county findings in sections VI through VIII, these 15 urban reserves on Foundation Agricultural Land rate highly for urban reserves and rural reserves. In order to achieve a balance among the objectives of reserves, Metro chose these lands as urban reserves rather than rural reserves. The characteristics described above make them the best lands for industrial use and for compact, mixed-use, pedestrian-friendly and transit-supportive communities. Designation of these areas as urban reserve will have little adverse impact on inventoried natural landscape features. Notwithstanding the loss of these lands over time, urbanization of these lands will leave the agricultural and forest industries vital and viable in the region.

The record of this two and one-half-year effort shows that not every partner agreed with all urban reserves in each county. But each partner agrees that this adopted system of urban and rural reserves, in its entirety, achieves the region's long-range goals and a balance among the objectives of reserves: to accommodate growth in population and employment in sustainable and prosperous communities and neighborhoods, to preserve the vitality of the farms and forests of the region, and to protect defining natural landscape features. The partners are confident that this system of reserves will allow the continuation of vibrant and mutually-reinforcing farm, forest and urban economies for the next 50 years. And the partners agree this system is the best system the region could reach by mutual agreement.

III. OVERALL PROCESS OF ANALYSIS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A. Analysis and Decision-Making

The three counties and Metro began reserves work as soon as LCDC adopted the new rules on reserves (OAR Division 27). The four governments formed committees and began public involvement to raise awareness about reserves and help people learn how to engage in the process. Each of the four governments selected one of its elected officials to serve on the "Core 4", established to guide the designation process and formulate recommendations to the county boards and the Metro Council. The four governments also established a "Reserves Steering Committee" (RSC) to advise the Core 4 on reserves designation. The RSC represented interests across the region - from business, agriculture, social conservation advocacy, cities, service districts and state agencies (52 members and alternates).

The four governments established an overall Project Management Team (PMT) composed of planners and other professions from their planning departments. Each county established an advisory committee to provide guidance and advice to its county board, staffed by the county's planning department.

As part of technical analysis, staff gathered providers of water, sewer, transportation, education and other urban services to consider viability of future service provision to lands within the study area. The parks and open space staff at Metro provided guidance on how best to consider natural features using data that had been deeply researched, broadly vetted and tested for social and political acceptance among Willamette Valley stakeholders (Oregon Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Pacific Northwest Research Consortium, Willamette Valley Futures, The Nature Conservancy's Ecoregional Assessment). Business leaders, farm bureaus and other representative groups were consulted on an ongoing basis.

The first major task of the Core 4 was to recommend a reserves study area to the county boards and the Metro Council. With advice from the RSC, the county advisory committees and public comment gathered open houses across the region, the Core 4 recommended for further analysis some 400,000 acres around the existing urban area, extending generally five miles from the UGB. The four governments endorsed the study area in the fall of 2008. Then the task of applying the urban and rural reserve factors to specific areas began in earnest.

The county advisory committees reviewed information presented by the staff and advised the staff and county boards on how each "candidate area" rated under each reserves factor. The county staffs brought this work to the RSC for discussion. After a year's worth of work at regular meetings, the RSC made its recommendations to the Core 4 in October, 2009.

Later in the fall, each elected body held hearings to hear directly from their constituents on proposed urban and rural reserves. Public involvement included six open houses, three Metro Council hearings around the region and a virtual open house on the Metro web site, all providing the same maps, materials and survey questions.

Following this public involvement, the Core 4 submitted its final recommendations to the four governments on February 8, 2010. The recommendation included a map of proposed urban and rural reserves, showing reserves upon which there was full agreement (the large majority of proposed reserves) and reserves upon which disagreements were not resolved. The Core 4 proposed that these differences be settled in bilateral discussions between each county and Metro, the parties to the intergovernmental agreements (IGAs) required by ORS 195.141. Over the next two weeks, the Metro Council reached agreement on reserves with each county. By February 25, 2010, Metro had signed an IGA with Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington counties. Metro Rec.302; 312; 404.

The IGAs required each government to amend its plan to designate urban (Metro) or rural (counties) reserves and protect them for their intended purposes with plan policies. The IGAs also set times for final public hearings on the IGA recommendations and adoption of ordinances with these plan policies in May and June. The four governments understood that the IGAs and map of urban and rural reserves were not final decisions and, therefore, provided for final adjustments to the map to respond to public comment at the hearings. By June 15, 2010, the four governments had adopted their reserves ordinances, including minor revisions to the reserves map.

B. Public Involvement

From its inception, the reserves designation process was designed to provide stakeholders and the public with a variety of ways to help shape the process and the final outcome. Most significantly, the decision process required 22 elected officials representing two levels of government and 400,000 acres of territory to craft maps and agreements that a majority of them could support. These commissioners and councilors represent constituents who hold a broad range of philosophical perspectives and physical ties to the land. Thus, the structure of the reserves decision process provided motivation for officials to seek a final compromise that met a wide array of public interests.

In the last phase of the reserve process – adoption of ordinances that designate urban and rural reserves - each government followed its established procedure for adoption of ordinances: notice to citizens; public hearings before its planning commission (in Metro’s case, recommendations from the Metro Planning Advisory Committee) and public hearings before its governing body. But in the more-than-two years leading to this final phase, there were additional advisory bodies established.

The RSC began its work in early 2008. RSC members were expected to represent social and economic interests to the committee and officials and to serve as conduits of communication back to their respective communities. In addition, RSC meetings were open to the public and provided an additional avenue for citizens to voice their concerns—either by asking that a steering committee member represent their concern to the committee or by making use of the public testimony period at the beginning of each meeting.

Once the three county advisory committees got underway, they, like the RSC, invited citizens were to bring concerns to committee members or make statements at the beginning of each meeting.

Fulfilling the requirements of DLCD’s administrative rules on reserves and the reserves work program, the three counties and Metro developed a Coordinated Public Involvement Plan in early 2008 that provided guidance on the types of public involvement activities, messages and communications methods that would be used for each phase of the reserves program. The plan incorporated the requirements of Oregon law and administrative rules governing citizen involvement and reflects comments and feedback received from the Metro Council, Core 4 members, each jurisdiction’s citizen involvement committee, other county-level advisory committees and the RSC. The Citizen Involvement Advisory Committee of the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) reviewed and endorsed the Public Involvement Plan.

The four governments formed a public involvement team, composed of public involvement staff from each county and Metro, to implement the Public Involvement

Plan. The team cooperated in all regional efforts: 20 open houses, two “virtual open houses” on the Metro web site, additional online surveys, presentations, printed materials and analysis and summaries of comments. The team members also undertook separate county and Metro-specific public engagement activities and shared methodologies, materials and results.

Elected officials made presentations to community planning organizations, hamlets, villages, city councils, advocacy organizations, civic groups, chambers of commerce, conferences, watershed councils, public affairs forums, art and architecture forums, and many other venues. Staff and elected officials appeared on television, on radio news broadcasts and talk shows, cable video broadcasts and was covered in countless news articles in metro outlets, gaining publicity that encouraged public engagement. Booths at farmers’ markets and other public events, counter displays at retail outlets in rural areas, library displays and articles in organization newsletters further publicized the opportunities for comment. Materials were translated into Spanish and distributed throughout all three counties. Advocacy organizations rallied supporters to engage in letter email campaigns and to attend public meetings. Throughout the reserves planning process the web sites of each county and Metro provided information and avenues for feedback. While there have been formal public comment periods at key points in the decision process, the reserves project team invited the public to provide comment freely throughout the process.

In all, the four governments made extraordinary efforts to engage citizens of the region in the process of designating urban and rural reserves. The public involvement plan provided the public with more than 180 discrete opportunities to inform decision makers of their views urban and rural reserves. A fuller account of the public involvement process the activities associated with each stage may be found at Staff Report, June 9, 2010, Metro Rec.123-155; Metro Supp. Rec.__ (Ray memo, 3/14).

Following remand of Urban Reserves 7B and 7I in Washington County by LCDC on October 29, 2010, Metro and Washington County signed a supplemental IGA to re-designate urban and rural reserves in the county. Metro Supp. Rec. __. Each local government held public hearings prior to adoption of the supplemental IGA and prior to adoption of their respective ordinances amending their maps of urban and rural reserves. Metro Supp. Rec. __.

IV. AMOUNT OF URBAN RESERVES

A. Forecast

Metro developed a 50-year “range” forecast for population and employment that was coordinated with the 20-year forecast done for Metro’s UGB capacity analysis, completed in December, 2009. The forecast is based on national economic and demographic information and is adjusted to account for regional growth factors. The partner governments used the upper and lower ends of the 50-year range forecast as one

parameter for the amount of land needed to accommodate households and employment. Instead of aiming to accommodate a particular number of households or jobs within that range, the partners selected urban reserves from approximately 400,000 acres studied that best achieve the purposes established by the Land Conservation and Development Commission [set forth in OAR 660-027-0005(2)] and the objectives of the partner governments.

B. Demand and Capacity

Estimating land demand over the next 50 years is difficult as a practical matter and involves much uncertainty. The Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) recognizes the challenge of estimating long-term need even for the 20-year UGB planning period. In the section of OAR Division 24 (Urban Growth Boundaries) on “Land Need”, the Commission says:

“The 20-year need determinations are estimates which, although based on the best available information and methodologies, should not be held to an unreasonably high level of precision.”

OAR 660-024-0040(1). The uncertainties loom much larger for a 40 to 50-year estimate. Nonetheless, Metro’s estimate of need for a supply of urban reserves sufficient to accommodate housing and employment to the year 2060 is soundly based in fact, experience and reasonable assumptions about long-range trends.

The urban reserves estimate begins with Metro’s UGB estimate of need for the next 20 years in its *Urban Growth Report 2009-2030*, January, 2010 (adopted December 17, 2009). Metro Rec. 646-648; 715. Metro relied upon the assumptions and trends underlying the 20-year estimate and modified them where appropriate for the longer-term reserves estimate, and reached the determinations described below.

The 50-year forecast makes the same assumption on the number of households and jobs needed to accommodate the population and employment coming to the UGB from the seven-county metropolitan statistical area (MSA) as in the *Urban Growth Report*: approximately 62 percent of the MSA residential growth and 70 percent of the MSA employment growth will come to the metro area UGB. *COO Recommendation, Urban Rural Reserves*, Appendix 3E-C, Metro Rec. 599; Appendix 3E-D, Metro Rec. 606-607.

Metro estimates the demand for new dwelling units within the UGB over the next 50 years to be between 485,000 and 532,000 units. *COO Recommendation, Urban Rural Reserves, Appendix 3E-C*, Metro Rec. 599. Metro estimates between 624,300 and 834,100 jobs will locate within the UGB by 2060. *COO Recommendation, Urban Rural Reserves, Appendix 3E-D, Table D-3*, Metro Rec. 607. Staff Report, June 9, 2010, Metro Rec.121-122.

The region will focus its public investments over the next 50 years in communities inside the existing UGB and, as a result, land within the UGB would develop close to the maximum levels allowed by existing local comprehensive plan and zone designations.

This investment strategy is expected to accommodate 70 to 85 percent of growth forecasted over that period. No increase in zoned capacity within the UGB was assumed because, at the time of adoption of reserves ordinances by the four governments, the Metro Council will not have completed its decision-making about actions to increase the capacity of the existing UGB as part of Metro's 2009 capacity analysis. For those areas added to the UGB between 2002 and 2005 for which comprehensive planning and zoning is not yet complete, Metro assumed the areas would accommodate all the housing and employment anticipated in the ordinances that added the areas to the UGB over the reserves planning period. Fifty years of enhanced and focused investment to accommodate growth will influence the market to use zoned capacity more fully.

Consistent with residential capacity analysis in the *Urban Growth Report*, vacant land in the existing UGB can accommodate 166,600 dwelling units under current zoning over the next 50 years. Infill and re-development over this period, with enhanced levels of investment, will accommodate another 212,600 units. This would leave approximately 152,400 dwelling units to be accommodated on urban reserves through 2060. *COO Recommendation, Urban Rural Reserves, Appendix 3E-C, pp. 5-6, Metro Rec. 602-603.*

Based upon the employment capacity analysis in the *Urban Growth Report*, the existing UGB has sufficient capacity – on vacant land and through re-development over the 50-year reserves period - for overall employment growth in the reserves period. However, this supply of land does not account for the preference of some industrial employers for larger parcels. To accommodate this preference, the analysis of the supply of larger parcels was extrapolated from the *Urban Growth Report*. This leads to the conclusion that urban reserves should include approximately 3,000 acres of net buildable land that is suitable for larger-parcel industrial users. *COO Recommendation, Urban Rural Reserves, Appendix 3E-D, Metro Rec. 609-610; Staff Report, June 9, 2010, Metro Rec.122.*

Metro assumed residential development in urban reserves, when they are added to the UGB over time, would develop at higher densities than has been the experience in the past, for several reasons. First, the region is committed to ensuring new development at the edges of the region contributes to the emergence of “great communities”, either new communities or as additions to existing communities inside the UGB. Second, because many urban reserves are “greenfields”, they can be developed more efficiently than re-developing areas already inside the UGB. Third, demographic trends, noted in the *Urban Growth Report* that is the starting point for Metro's 2010 capacity analysis, indicate increasing demand for smaller housing units. This reasoning leads to the assumption that residential development will occur in reserves, when added to the UGB, at 15 units per net buildable acre overall, recognizing that some areas (centers, for example) would settle at densities higher than 15 units/acre and others (with steep slopes, for example) would settle at densities lower than 15 units/acre. *COO Recommendation, Urban Rural Reserves, Appendix 3E-C, pp. 6-7; Staff Report, June 9, 2010, Metro Rec.121-122.*

Metro also assumed greater efficiencies in use of employment lands over the next 50 years. The emerging shift of industrial activity from production to research and

development will continue, meaning more industrial jobs will be accommodated in high-floor-to-area-ratio (FAR) offices rather than low-FAR general industrial space. This will reduce the need for general industrial and warehouse building types by 10 percent, and increase the need for office space. Office space, however, will be used more efficiently between 2030 and 2060, reducing that need by five percent. Finally, the analysis assumes a 20-percent increase in FARs for new development in centers and corridors, but no such increase in FARs in industrial areas. *COO Recommendation, Urban Rural Reserves, Appendix 3E-C*, Metro Rec. 603-604; Staff Report, June 9, 2010, Metro Rec.121-122.

These assumptions lead to the conclusion that 28,256 acres of urban reserves are needed to accommodate 371,860 people and employment land targets over the 50-year reserves planning period to 2060. *COO Recommendation, Urban Rural Reserves, Appendix 3E-C*, Metro Rec. 601-603; *Appendix 3E-D*, Metro Rec.607-610; Staff Report, June 9, 2010, Metro Rec.121-122. The nine state agencies that served on the Reserves Steering Committee said the following about the amount of urban land the region will need over the long-term:

“The state agencies support the amount of urban reserves recommended by the Metro COO. That recommendation is for a range of between 15,000 and 29,000 acres. We believe that Metro and the counties can develop findings that, with this amount of land, the region can accommodate estimated urban population and employment growth for at least 40 years, and that the amount includes sufficient development capacity to support a healthy economy and to provide a range of needed housing types.” *Letter to Metro Regional Steering Committee, October 14, 2009*, Metro Rec. 1373.

Based upon the assumptions described above about efficient use of land, the four governments believe the region can accommodate 50 years’ worth of growth, not just 40 years’ of growth.

V. IMPLEMENTING URBAN RESERVES

To ensure that urban reserves ultimately urbanize in a manner consistent with the Regional Framework Plan, Ordinance No. 10-1238A amended Title 11 (Planning for New Urban Areas) (Exhibit D) of Metro’s Urban Growth Management Functional Plan to require planning of areas of urban reserve prior to inclusion into the UGB. Title 11 now requires a “concept plan” for an urban reserve area prior to UGB expansion. A concept plan must show how development would achieve specified outcomes. The outcomes derive from the urban reserve factors in OAR 660-027-0050, themselves based in part on the characteristics of “great communities” identified by local governments of the region as part of Metro’s “Making the Greatest Place” initiative. Title 11 sets forth the elements of a concept plan, including:

- the general locations of types of uses
- the general locations of the urban services (including transportation systems) needed to support the uses

- estimates of the cost of the services to determine the feasibility of urbanization and to allow comparisons of urban reserves
- the locations of natural resources that will be subject to Title 3 and 13 of the UGMFP
- agreement among local governments and other service providers on provision of services to the area
- agreement among the local governments on annexation of the area to a city or cities and responsibility for planning and zoning.

Title 11 continues to limit development in areas added to the UGB to protect the opportunity for efficient urbanization during the time needed to adopt new local government plan provisions and land use regulations. Title 11, together with the comprehensive plans of the receiving local governments and Metro's Regional Framework Plan (including the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan), will ensure land use and transportation policies and designations will allow mixed-use and pedestrian, bicycle and transit-supportive development once urban reserve areas are added to the UGB. Staff Report, June 9, 2010, Metro Rec.8-13.