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Form submission from: North Tualatin Master Plan

Webform via Multnomah County <webmaster@multco.us>

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Reply-To: Webform <webmaster@multco.us>

To: kevin.c.cook@multco.us

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Submitted values are:

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Testimony:

To Multnomah County Representatives:

For nearly eight years, residents of McNamee Road and surrounding areas have been voicing their opposition to Metro's proposed development of public parks on their Burlington and McCarthy Creek land parcels. It is time to listen closely to these concerned voters and local residents.

As a land owner on McNamee Road, I will summarize community concerns:

1. The McCarthy Creek land parcel has a base zone rating of Commercial Forest Use (CFU-1 and CFU-2). It also has multiple overlay zones, including Wildlife Habitat Conservation (SEC-h), Stream Conservation (SEC-s), Hillside Development and Erosion Control (HD), and Slope Hazard. Of most concern to community members is that Metro's land parcels are zoned as protected wildlife habitat. Wildlife actively use both of these land parcels as migration pathways, breeding grounds and foraging areas. Human presence – especially on silent, fast mountain bikes – will damage this protected habitat and alter the natural behavior of local elk, deer, coyote, bear, bobcat, cougar, eagles, owls, hawks and endangered frogs.

2. Voter-approved bond measures that passed in 2006 and 2012 (bond measures 26-80 and 26-152, respectively) clearly state that the approved money will “preserve and protect natural areas, clean water, and fish and wildlife” (pg.1 of measure 26-80) and “Restore wildlife habitat ...”

3. Forest Park, with eleven miles of mountain-biking trail, is in close proximity to both Burlington and McCarthy Creeks. Is it really necessary to take even more Tualatin Hills habitat away from wildlife that has been pushed out of Forest Park to accommodate human recreational activity? Can hikers and mountain-bikers not use the already established, nearby trails in Forest Park?

In addition to the developmental concerns surrounding McCarthy Creek's SEC-h designation, there are a plethora of concerns related to its zoning for SEC-s, HD, Slope Hazard, and Commercial Forest Use.

While Commercial Forest Use includes the use of land for limited forest-related recreation, the overlay zones SEC-h, SEC-s, HD and Slope Hazard restrict any and all development on this land. In particular, mountain biking and/or hiking trails will:

- (1) irreversibly damage conserved wildlife habitat, including well established elk calving, feeding, and sleeping grounds
- (2) adversely affect the very upland tributaries Metro has promised to protect by increasing run-off from manmade trails, as well as herbicide-laden run-off from the spraying you are currently doing to suppress weed growth
- (3) contribute to soil erosion in a hillside area

Metro is not only asking voters to ignore a huge discrepancy between their stated goals and actual goals, but they are asking Multnomah County to allow the development of trails throughout land that is zoned for wildlife and stream habitat conservation.

Furthermore, Metro is proposing to introduce a recreational activity known to contribute to soil erosion to land that has both a slope hazard rating and a hillside development and erosion control overlay zone.

If Multnomah County approves Metro's application to alter the Comprehensive Plan, does this mean that land owners like myself will be permitted to have zoning on our own properties changed? For example, if I would like to subdivide my land

and sell off parcels, will this now be possible, since Metro will have set a precedent of pushing back on Multnomah County's zoning laws?

Perhaps, instead of using their influence to alter existing zoning designations, it is time for Metro to reread the priorities of Measure 26-152 as stated in the Natural Areas and Parks Local Option Levy document on page 7, under the heading "Improving Natural Areas for People," and remind themselves of their own goal setting criteria:

Criteria for priority setting

Projects to be funded are assessed according to the following criteria. Although they reflect a general priority order, all criteria will not apply to every project.

- Habitat protection: The project reduces or eliminates visitors' negative impact on sensitive habitats.
- Safety: The project addresses a safety concern with current or future site access.
- Light touch: The project includes basic improvements such as trails and signage. The project is not capital intensive and avoids a significant increase to ongoing operating costs.
- Enhanced stewardship: The project provides access for volunteer and environmental education groups that will promote learning and stewardship.
- Outdoor experience: The project improves access to a natural area with a high quality outdoor experience. Activities beyond hiking and walking, such as boating and fishing, might be accommodated.
- Equity: The project improves opportunities to connect with nature in areas with a high concentration of low-income people and people of color who currently have poor access.

As a concerned citizen, I want reassurance that Metro will uphold the promises they made to voters in 2006 and 2012. I want to know that Multnomah County will not capitulate and allow Metro to amend voter-approved land use goals.

We voted for our lands to be protected and conserved for the greater good of all Tri-county residents, now and in the future - not turned into recreational parks for the entertainment of a few, and at the expense of land and animals we promised to protect.

Sincerely,

Lindsey Laughlin

Exhibit D.96