



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

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October 13, 2023

Multnomah County Board of Commissioners
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd, Suite 600
Portland, OR
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Sent via email to mult.chair@multco.us on October 13, 2023

RE: Testimony on the Metro North Tualatin Mountains applications: Case No. T3-2017-9165 / T4-2017-9166 / EP-2017-6780

Dear Chair Pedersen, Board of County Commissioners and Department of Community Services,

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (the department) has reviewed Metro's Burlington Creek Nature Park development proposal (Case No. T3-2017-9165 / T4-2017-9166 / EP-2017-6780) and its potential impacts on wildlife, including migratory birds and northern red-legged frogs. The department appreciates Metro's consideration of our previously submitted comments and recommendations, and subsequent adjustments made to the project to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to fish and wildlife resources.

Since the department's communication to the Planning Commission in March 2023, the department and Metro have collaborated to identify, develop, and agree upon additional actions that would mitigate wildlife impacts from the park development, specifically related to northern red-legged frogs. As a result of those discussions, Metro's additional actions include the following, which are consistent with the department's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy (OAR 635-415) to ensure no net loss of habitat quantity or quality:

- 17 additional acres of restoration being conducted in the powerline corridor of Burlington Creek
- Funding a study of trail impacts on northern red-legged frogs in collaboration with the department and other partners
- Providing funding to an amphibian undercrossing of Highway 30 at Burlington Creek in conjunction with Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, Oregon Department of Transportation, and other partners

The department recognizes the actions Metro has previously implemented and future proposed actions in the Burlington Creek property to reduce habitat fragmentation. The department believes the additional commitments identified above will further a collective understanding of

frogs in the area to inform decisions and management, as well as provide and support substantial habitat improvements. The department accepts that Metro has committed to adequately mitigate any impacts and we do not oppose Metro's Park plans.

In conclusion, the department appreciates the opportunity to provide comments and looks forward to working with Metro on this and future projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Scipioni'.

Ariana Scipioni
Regional Habitat Biologist
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cc: Davia Palmeri, Susan Barnes, Steve Niemela - ODFW