



LUP Hearings <lup-hearings@multco.us>

Testimony for Remand from Marjama re: T3-2022-16220

1 message

Carpenter Lane Farm <carpenterlanefarm@gmail.com>
 To: "lup-hearings@multco.us" <lup-hearings@multco.us>

Mon, May 19, 2025 at 8:37 AM



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Please add the attached testimony forwarded from a local farmer to the record in the Remand case of T3-2022-16220

Date: May 19, 2025

RE: Response to S36; Soils and Ag Land as a Natural Resource

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ryan Marjama** <ryan@donmarjamanursery.com>
 Date: Mon, May 19, 2025, 8:19 AM
 Subject: Re: Testimony for LUBA remand period
 To: Lane Farm Carpenter <carpenterlanefarm@gmail.com>

On May 19, 2025, at 8:17 AM, **Ryan Marjama** <ryan@donmarjamanursery.com> wrote:

To: Liz Fancher, Hearings Officer – T3-2022-16220 - Remand

To Hearings Officer Fancher,

As a multi-generational local farmer whose livelihood depends on the health of this land, water, and rural environment, I am writing to express deep concern about the Portland Water Bureau's proposed Filtration Facility and Pipelines project. I have reviewed the recent reports submitted by the PWB and their consultants during this remand period, including the Globalwise analysis and related responses on agricultural and environmental impacts.

From my vantage point, the core issue about this project is the scale, siting, and disregard for rural land functions make this project incompatible with our agricultural landscape. PWB's project directly violates the values enshrined in Multnomah County Code 39.7515(B), which requires that *any* proposed use development not significantly harm identified natural resources.

Farmland IS a Natural Resource.

I find it troubling that the applicant's consultants seem to treat farmland as an afterthought—valuable only if it's in active high-production use. But farmland is not just a land use; it's a natural system tied to groundwater flows, topsoil integrity, pollinator networks, and climate regulation. Once we lose it to industrial encroachment, it's gone. The project threatens these dynamics in ways that should not be ignored and can't possibly be meaningfully mitigated.

Disruption of Agricultural Water Systems:

As a farmer, I depend on shallow wells and surface water for irrigation and livestock. The PWB's dewatering plan and pipeline construction create significant risks to water table levels and drainage patterns, particularly in areas with perched groundwater. The applicant provides extremely weak to no site-specific analysis of how this will impact neighboring wells, soil moisture, or farm viability. That is a glaring problem. Every farmer in the area is on record or represented by active, local industry leadership and experts who are saying this project will cause irreparable harm to the natural water system. The applicant's expert-for-hire has never been involved in farming this land, nor an active part of the local farm and ag community, nor even landowner who has been a part of the natural resource ecosystem in question. Just because he was paid to say this project won't have an impact to natural resources doesn't make that true; in fact, if he had been hired by OAN or one of the other opponents first, his findings would support his client and he would claim the project *would indeed* harmfully impact the natural resources of the area, water systems and farmland included.

This is a *massive*, industrial-scale facility—one that doesn't belong in the heart of rural Multnomah County and some of the most significant natural resources in the State of Oregon, including natural springs and class 2 soils. If the goal is to

protect Portland's water users, then why place the impacts so far from those communities, in a zone meant to protect farmland and the environment?

This project may serve Portland water users, but it asks rural residents to bear the brunt of the impacts while destroying the natural resources of this area. That's not equitable, nor is it consistent with land use goals that aim to protect the most productive, irreplaceable land we have.

I respectfully urge the Hearings Officer to recognize that farmland, soil, groundwater, and rural ecosystems *are* natural resources. They must not be sacrificed for infrastructure that could be more appropriately located and designed. As it stands, the PWB has not demonstrated that this project avoids or sufficiently mitigates its significant adverse impacts—particularly on farmland and the water systems that sustain it.

Please deny the conditional use permit or require major revisions to reduce the scale and relocate the facility to a site that aligns with its urban purpose.

Sincerely,
Ryan Marjama, 503-969-8550 Local Farmer and Land Steward

Don Marjama Nursery