



NETWORK of OREGON

WATERSHED COUNCILS

December 11th, 2020

Dear Members of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to share written comments regarding Agenda Item G, the 2021-2023 Spending Plan and H -- 2021-2023 Council Capacity Grant Guidance Updates.

On behalf of Oregon's watershed councils, I want to thank you for recognizing the range and extent to which COVID-19 and the 2020 wildfire season has affected Councils -- it is true that almost every aspect of conservation and restoration work has been affected by social distancing requirements, reduced access to fieldwork sites and outreach venues, slow-downs in permitting and other processes, etc. and the challenges have imposed real impacts on our projects. For these reasons, we appreciate OWEB streamlining the application process for 2021-2023 capacity grants for currently funded councils. It is a thoughtful gesture and will enhance Councils' ability to plan ahead for the next biennium.

We also appreciate the plan to maintain capacity spending for Watershed Councils for the 2021-2023 biennium. We encourage OWEB to consider including cost-of-living increases in their calculation, as supporting Watershed employees contributions and expertise directly relates to our ability to maintain employee retention across our organizations.

Thank you, and warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Green', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval outline.

Vanessa Green, MS
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