



# RS EXCHANGE

## REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

### Weekly Report

Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Below are some highlights from the Governor's [Regional Solutions Coordinators](#), on behalf of the eleven interagency teams across Oregon.

### Regional Solutions (RS) Director – Nate Stice

As a reminder, there is no wrong door to engage with Regional Solutions. Any agency team member or Regional Coordinator can help you navigate to the right resources. Please never hesitate to reach out to me at [nate.stice@oregon.gov](mailto:nate.stice@oregon.gov) or 971-283-8817.

### North Coast Region

- North Coast Regional Solutions Team:  
Metro RS had the pleasure of meeting the North Coast RS Team and learning about their priority projects. Metro RS will fill-in for outgoing North Coast RS Coordinator, Jennifer Purcell.
- Columbia Economic Team:  
Metro RS met with Paul Vogel, Executive Director of the Columbia Economic Team and Columbia County planning and development leadership to learn about their priority community and economic development priority projects including but not limited to Project Alfred, Next Renewables, housing challenges, Scappoose Drainage District / levy system, and wastewater challenges facing the city of Prescott. Metro RS looks forward to assisting the North Coast RS Team with these and other priority projects for Columbia County. Many thanks to RS DLCD liaisons, Laura Kelly and Brett Estes, for looking into hydroponics as an allowable agriculture land use and the potential annexation of a 40-acre waterfront site located outside the urban growth boundary in Rainer for a potential business recruitment opportunity.

## South Central Region

- Project Eco:  
Project Eco is a manufacturer who has developed a process to make cement while emitting a very low amount of carbon. The company is seeking a west coast site near a key input ingredient. The company made a site visit to both Lake and Klamath counties recently and noted the amount of natural gas that will be needed to fulfill the project. Lake County officials are now working to see if that supply could be developed in the area to serve the project. Business Oregon continues to be the lead on this project as it moves forward but the RS team is following the project closely.
- Klamath Water Concerns:  
The Klamath Basin continues to struggle with water concerns and this week the Bureau of Reclamation ordered irrigation water to be shut down. Additionally, the ongoing drought has caused over 460 domestic wells to go dry in Klamath County over the past 16 or so months. Klamath County is asking the E Board for an additional \$5 million to assist with drought relief efforts related to the domestic wells. The South Central RS team continues to engage with OEM and Klamath County on water distribution for homes with dry wells. [https://www.heraldandnews.com/news/klamath-irrigation-district-complies-with-water-shutoff-after-feds-threaten-funding/article\\_9be1cc50-2317-11ed-bba5-13ad63b9d783.html](https://www.heraldandnews.com/news/klamath-irrigation-district-complies-with-water-shutoff-after-feds-threaten-funding/article_9be1cc50-2317-11ed-bba5-13ad63b9d783.html)

## Southern Region

- Business Oregon Regional Broadband Efforts:  
On Friday August 26<sup>th</sup>, RS team members participated in a regional call hosted by Business Oregon regarding broadband efforts and work in Southern Oregon. The discussion included both Jackson and Josephine Counties, SOESD, providers, library districts, and several community group representatives, as well as Oregon Broadband Office team members. Jackson and Josephine Counties shared the outcome of a two-county study and A Greater Applegate shared insights on community outreach best practices for providers. Representative Pam Marsh provided an overview of legislation impacting broadband funding and policy in Oregon and OBO discussed grant funding streams and progress in securing federal funding for Oregon. The next step will be for interested participants of this call to connect in person with partners and funders for possible projects around the October 6-7 Oregon Connections Conference, an annual event that will take place in Ashland this year.
- Rum Creek Fire Impacts:  
Early in the week, [the Rum Creek Fire \(burning near Galice\) forced the closure of the Lower Rogue River and the Rogue River Trail from Grave Creek to Russian Creek](#). The fire and this closure had the potential for enormous economic impacts to the region's guide and outfitter community during the busy summer season. RS reached out to leaders in the guide/outfitter community to open lines of communication and offer support in accessing potential post-fire recovery resources. Thankfully, BLM has reopened the river to recreational traffic as of Wednesday the 24<sup>th</sup> (subject to ongoing daily reassessments). Unfortunately, the Rogue River Trail and Rainie Falls

Trail remain closed. RS will continue to monitor the situation and coordinate with contacts in the guide/outfitter community

## Metro Region –

- Oregon Economic Development District (OEDD) Meeting:  
Metro RS attended the OEDD meeting and shared an update on behalf of the Governor's Regional Solutions Team. Specifically, that there is no wrong door for accessing Regional Solutions during the Gubernatorial transition. Nate Stice is the Governor's new Director of Regional Solutions and Jobs and Economy Policy Advisor.
- Portland Harbor Community Coalition:  
Metro RS met with the Portland Harbor Community Coalition together with Jim McKenna on the Governor's Natural Resources Team and David Kim of the Oregon Department of Transportation to discuss the gubernatorial transition and the types of benefits that the state may be able to offer the community as it relates to the cleanup of the Portland Harbor Superfund. Workforce/procurement and contracting benefits were discussed in addition to other benefits such as improved access to the river and those related to tourism and recreation. Metro RS is working to compile a list of benefits that state agencies may be able to provide in addition to workforce/procurement/contracting. Metro RS looks forward to joining jurisdictional partners (city of Portland, Metro Regional Government, and the Port of Portland) for a listening session sometime this Fall with members of the Portland Harbor Community Coalition.

## Greater Eastern & Northeast Region –

- Wallowa Hailstorm Damage:  
RS has been working with the Office of Emergency Management to see if there are resources that the state would be able to provide to the community of Wallowa to help community members recover. Additionally, Wallowa County and the city of Wallowa are working on compiling damage assessments and have been working with the Pendleton UAS test range to fly over the community to map the damage.
- Malheur County Economic Development Tour:  
RS participated in a legislative tour that Sen. Findley set up to showcase the economic development challenges and opportunities in Malheur County. The Eastern Oregon Border Board presented on the work that they have been doing over the past few years and highlighted the challenges that the border region has with competing with Idaho. RS went on a tour of the Treasure Valley Reload Facility that is still under construction. The legislators heard about the importance of the project and the challenges that it has had getting underway. The project is moving along nicely, however, due to cost increases it is short a significant amount of funding. RS is assisting in helping identify funding sources for the gap needed to finish the project.



Legislators and local leaders on site of the development of the Treasure Valley Reload Facility

- Timber Ridge Opening and Head Start Co-location Project:

The Timber Ridge affordable housing development broke ground this week and OHCS director Andrea Bell was on hand to help celebrate the event. OHCS funding is instrumental in making this project a reality. This project will provide an additional 82 units of affordable housing to the LaGrande community and help address the significant housing needs in the region. Additionally, RS met with Head Start and the Timber Ridge developers to talk about the gap funding that is needed to make a Head Start classroom a part of this development. The idea is to co-locate a Head Start classroom with this affordable housing development. RS is meeting with state and federal funding partners to see what resources might be available for this project.



OHCS Director Bell speaking at the Timber Ridge groundbreaking event in LaGrande this week.

## [Mid-Valley Region/Southern & South Coast Regions](#)

- Mid-Valley Regional Solutions Team:

Metro RS had the pleasure of meeting the Mid-Valley RS Team and learning about their priority projects. Metro RS will fill-in for outgoing Mid-Valley RS Coordinator, Jody Christensen. Many thanks to Trevor Sleeman who is on temporary assignment / rotation

from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for helping the Mid-Valley RS Team with wildfire recovery projects in the Santiam Canyon.

