



Community Development Department

Planning Division Building Safety Division Environmental Soils Division

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TO: House Committee on Business and Labor
RE: 2015 Legislation – SB 133
FR: Nick Lelack, AICP, Community Development Director
DT: May 1, 2015

The memorandum addresses CDD's recommended support for SB 133. In effect, SB 133 makes the 4% surcharge on building permits that pays for the State of Oregon's Accela e-permitting software (the "Oregon Standard Model") permanent. Last week, the State Building Codes Division asked Deschutes County to submit a letter, such as the one attached, to the Legislature in support of SB 133.

How the bill will affect Deschutes County's Community Development Department

CDD recommends Board support of SB 133 for the following reasons:

- Within Oregon, there are currently 35 cities and 17 counties using State's Accela e-permitting software. Deschutes County receives considerable cost savings by using the State's e-permitting software for issuing building permits. If SB 133 does not pass, the 4% surcharge will sunset. The consequence is that Deschutes County would need to purchase the Accela Building Module for permit issuance, the Accela GIS Server license, the Accela Mobile Office license, the Accela Citizen Access Module for e-permitting, a Crystal Reports Server license as well as a Selectron IVR license for inspection scheduling. The total cost of a full custom implementation (just to maintain what CDD has now) could reach as much as \$1 million dollars the first year. After the initial implementation, yearly hosting and license maintenance fees could cost around \$150k a year.
- Deschutes County relies heavily on the State for software administration and expert advice for the entire suite of Accela software products (Building/Environmental Soils, Planning, Code Enforcement). CDD would hire consultants or Accela staff to help with software administration at approximately \$200/hr. In addition, CDD staff time to administer the program and contracts with Accela and its vendors would increase significantly. Currently, the State handles the bulk of software-related issues, contracts, etc. on behalf of all local jurisdictions.
- If CDD used Accela staff to address software issues, the amount of time to resolve issues would greatly increase because Deschutes County would be just one smaller client rather than part of the State of Oregon pool.
- By participating in a collective contract for services with 50+ other participating jurisdictions around the state (as well as all jurisdictions that are paying the required 4% surcharge but not using Accela), Deschutes County gains a significantly more comprehensive package of services that would be provided by individual contracts.

- Deschutes County collaborates with, learns from, and shares information with many other jurisdictions (i.e., Sisters, Redmond, other large counties) on how to use and continuously improve Accela. Without the ongoing funding provided by the current surcharge, many jurisdictions might not participate, which would unravel the cooperation on this program and future improvements may stall or not happen at all.
- Deschutes County is currently a leader in implementing Accela and influencing future improvements to better meet the needs of our staff and customers. The lack of funding would almost certainly impact our County's leadership role in this effort due to most jurisdictions that continue to contract with Accela doing so individually and not in a coordinated effort.