



HEATHER BUCH

Lane County Commissioner
East Lane District
Heather.Buch@lanecountyor.gov

June 2, 2022

House Interim Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery
Representative Paul Evans, Chair
Oregon Legislature
900 Court St. NE
Salem OR 97301

Dear Chair Evans and Members of the Special Committee on Wildfire Recovery:

I am providing a longer verbal testimony today as part of your Legislative Days convening, but wanted to provide the following synopsis of that testimony. You asked me for an update on the 2022 Legislative investments directed to the Holiday Farm Fire recovery efforts, and I am straying slightly from that direction with several other updates as well.

2022 Investments

- \$5M GF to Lane County for emergency communication systems upgrades. Currently awaiting contract and funding from DAS for these dollars.
- \$7.5M to Lane County for a multipurpose facility at the Lane Events Center (Fairgrounds). Currently awaiting contract and funding from DAS these dollars. Note we have submitted a \$1.5M federal budget request to ensure this building is built to immediate occupancy standards as it will be key facility for emergency sheltering services for our region.
- \$4.5M GF to University of Oregon (via HECC) for wildfire camera network. Our understanding is those dollars are in hand and agreements for statewide interoperability are being evolved among key stakeholders.

2021 Investments

- \$15.5M ARPA funding to Lane County for water and wastewater infrastructure. Currently awaiting contract and funding from OBDD for these dollars. All other ARPA investments are received and will be summarized in a report back to pertinent state agencies on July 15, 2022 in accordance with contract(s) language.

Federal CDBG-DR Investment

- Congress appropriated \$422M for Oregon Wildfire mitigation, housing, and infrastructure via the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. Governor Brown identified Oregon Housing and Community Services as the point agency to administer these dollars for fire impacted communities. OHCS has developed a Draft Action Plan it will submitting to HUD for approval. Lane County provided comment to OHCS, asking for additional infrastructure investment and a formulaic allocation to fire impacted counties for much needed staffing capacities.

Finally, we hope Legislative Leadership will ensure the Special Wildfire Recovery Committee continues during the 2023 Legislative Assembly.

Sincerely,

PUBLIC SERVICE BUILDING / 125 EAST 8TH AVENUE / EUGENE, OR 97401 / (541) 682-4203 / FAX (541) 682-4616