

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR JOSEPHINE COUNTY, OREGON**

Regarding: Josephine County Comprehensive Plan Text Amendment: County Coordinated Population Forecast Update	} } } } } } } } } } }	FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW and DECISION
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The proposed text amendment to the Josephine County Comprehensive Plan is for the purpose of adopting a new County Coordinated Population Forecast. The updated population forecast is for the County and the two urban areas within the county.

This proposed Plan amendment came before the Josephine County Board of Commissioners on November 12, 2014. The Board received no objection to the jurisdiction of the Board to hear the matter. All Board members decided to hear the matter. The public hearing was opened, testimony was taken, and an oral decision was rendered on November 12, 2014.

I. CRITERIA FOR DECISION:

JOSEPHINE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Comprehensive Plan Goal 3, Policy 8: “Josephine County shall periodically allocate county-wide population forecasts to all of its cities and unincorporated areas in coordination with the cities. Such allocated forecasts shall comply with applicable state statutes and administrative rules. The population forecasts and allocations shall be maintained in a document that is adjunct to the Josephine County Comprehensive Plan Data Base (April 1981), and shall be entitled, *The Josephine County Coordinated Population Forecast – 2014 Update*”.

Comprehensive Plan Goal 11, Policy 1.D[2][c]: “The Board shall have sole authority to implement changes to the county’s comprehensive plan by ordinance.”

II. EVIDENCE AND FACTS:

The Board of Commissioners considered the following evidence and testimony:

- A. Oral testimony of Dennis Lewis, Josephine County Planning Director, who presented the written staff report and the recommendation of the Planning Commission to approve the proposed text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Lewis stated: “Population forecasting is an essential part of the planning process. With probable future population data, planners are able to determine land needed for various uses, and calculate requirements for public services (sewer, water, roads, etc.) needed to support those land uses. It is generally

understood that there is an inverse relationship between the reliability of a population forecast and the time period of the forecast. That is, the further out the forecast goes the less reliable the forecast becomes. For that reason alone it is good planning practice to periodically update population forecasts.

The countywide coordinated population forecast was last updated in 2008. Since then, the Oregon Office of Economic Analysis has prepared a new forecast for Josephine County. That new population forecast for the county has been utilized by City of Grants Pass planners to derive urban area population forecasts for Grants Pass and Cave Junction. The allocation of county wide forecasted population uses the percent shares methodology, which is a recognized standard practice in the planning profession. The work of the Grants Pass staff has been thoroughly coordinated with the staff, advisory bodies, and governing bodies of Cave Junction and the County. All three jurisdictions have passed resolutions in support of the new population forecast for the County and the two urban areas.

The 2014 updated population forecast differs from the 2008 forecast in two significant ways. First, the amount of population growth over comparable periods is less in the 2014 forecast; and second, the time period of the forecast is extended to 2050. This extended time period is necessary so that the City of Grants Pass can adopt urban reserve areas outside of the Grants Pass urban growth boundary. Adopting of the urban reserve areas provides greater predictability to land owners adjacent to the urban growth boundary.”

- B. Oral testimony was provided that questioned the Commissioners ability to make such a decision without having sufficient knowledge, expertise, or information to make the proposed amendment.
- C. Written minutes and favorable recommendation of the Josephine County Planning Commission for adoption of the proposed text amendment to the Josephine County Comprehensive Plan.

III. FINDINGS OF FACT:

The Board of Commissioners made the following Findings to support and provide a basis for the decision:

- A. It has been six years since the last county-wide coordinated population forecast with allocations to the two urban areas. The Oregon Office of Economic Analysis has released new forecasts for Oregon counties. The new forecast for Josephine County is somewhat lower than the previous forecast of county population growth. An additional element of evidence that was cited as contributing to the decision was the information provided by the 2010 census. The city of Grants Pass is engaged in revisions to the urban growth boundary for the city and its urban area and has found it desirable to establish urban reserve areas outside the urban growth boundary. These factors dictate the need for a new county-wide coordinated population forecast with allocations to the urban areas. **The new forecast included in the document “The Josephine County Coordinated Population Forecast – 2014 Update” meets the requirements of Comprehensive Plan Goal 3, Policy 8.**
- B. **By adopting the proposed text amendment to the Comprehensive Plan by passage of Ordinance 2014-005 the Board of Commissioners will meet the requirement of Comprehensive Plan Goal 11, Policy 1.D{2}[c].**

C. The Board finds that no additional matters were raised with sufficient specificity by those in opposition to take those matters into consideration during decision making on the subject proposal.

IV. CONCLUSION:

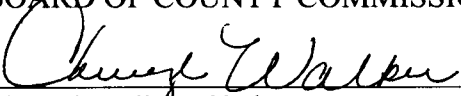
Based upon the above evidence, findings, and applicable criteria for decision, the Board of County Commissioners concludes that the proposal for a text amendment to the Josephine County Comprehensive Plan for the purpose of adopting an updated County-wide Coordinated Population Forecast complies with requirements of Josephine County and State law pertaining to such matters. The decision is based on a conclusion from the evidence and testimony submitted that the proposed amendment is necessary to keep the Josephine County Comprehensive Plan updated and to provide necessary population forecasts to the Grants Pass and Cave Junction urban areas.

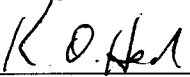
V. DECISION:

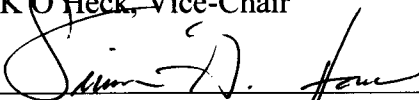
Therefore, based on the staff report, the recommendation of the Rural Area Planning Commission, evidence submitted into the record and testimony of witnesses, the Josephine County Board of Commissioners, upon a motion by Commissioner Hare, seconded by Commissioner Heck, and by a vote of 3/0 approves the text amendment of the Josephine County Comprehensive Plan to include "The Josephine County Coordinated Population Forecast – 2014 Update" as an adjunct to the Josephine County Comprehensive Plan Data Base (April 1981).

Adopted this 3 day of December, 2014, by the Josephine County Board of Commissioners.

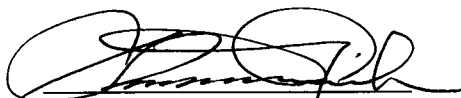
JOSEPHINE COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Cheryl Walker, Chair


K O Heck, Vice-Chair


Simon G Hare, Commissioner

Approved as to form:


Steve Rich, Legal Counsel